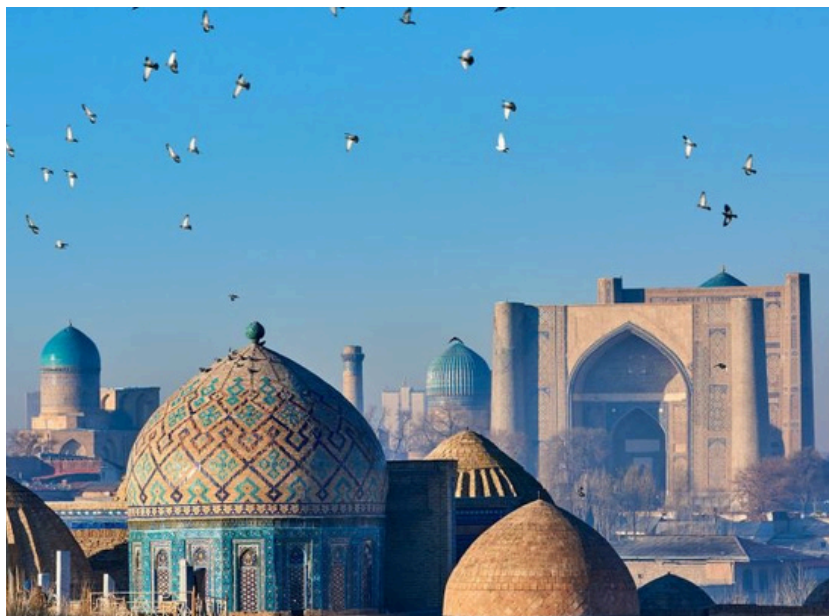




RAMADAN

PRAYER GUIDE FOR MUSLIMS



why pray for muslims during ramadan?



“Every year billions of Muslims observe a month-long fast from sunrise to sundown called Ramadan, one of the pillars of Islam. For many, it’s tradition and an anticipated time to share with families and communities. For other Muslims, Ramadan is about self-denial or overcoming evil desires and appetites, renewing vows to live a moral life, reading the Qur’an again, extra times of prayer, and performing acts of charity. But religious duties like Ramadan cannot solve our greatest problem: humanity’s sinful rebellion against a holy God. The good news of Jesus is largely unknown among Muslims.

As Muslims observe Ramadan, may we, the Church, pray to the one, true God for their salvation. Their greatest problem, even in their season of prayer, remains spiritual lostness. Like us, they need the only solution—the gospel. Pray this month for Muslims’ response to the gospel and for those who daily serve among them. Our God is listening!”*

This prayer guide is broken down into sections that correspond with the major refugee people groups we work with: Afghans, Africans, Iranians, Syrians, and Iraqis.



*taken from <https://www.imb.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/RamadanPrayerGuide.pdf>

AFGHANS



DAY 1: FEBRUARY 17

The Afghan Moms and Kids Program: Many moms and their children will come to Afghan Moms and Kids during Ramadan. Please pray that they would come with a hunger for truth, that they would hear and understand the stories shared in the program throughout the year, and that they would build good community. Pray that the team would connect with the women from program well on home visits, and that the team would have wisdom about whom to visit, how often, and how to come alongside them in the best way.



DAY 2: FEBRUARY 18

Please pray for our Afghan Fellowship as we search for a new apartment to rent where the church can meet and serve the community. Pray that God would protect this space from the schemes of the enemy and surround it with peaceful neighbors. May it be a place where the peace and love of Jesus Christ are felt by both believers and non-believers.

Pray for unity among the leadership and for continued trust in God's provision. As they labor alongside the Afghan community, ask God to grant them strength and endurance.

Finally, pray that the hearts of non-believers would be softened to receive and that believers would boldly share their faith so the Gospel may spread among the Afghan people.



DAY 3: FEBRUARY 19

Most Afghans have a difficult time gaining official refugee status. Many cannot pursue resettlement in European or American nations. As a result, they live in a state of limbo, unwelcomed in any country. Even if they receive refugee status and are eventually approved for resettlement, the process often takes years. Many believe their only chance at a better life lies in taking a dangerous and illegal journey to Europe, where smugglers transport them in flimsy boats from this country to the coast of Greece. Pray for wisdom for the many who are considering crossing the border or being smuggled into Europe, for safety for those who choose this path, and for favor when they arrive. Ask God to place a hedge of protection especially around women and young children.

AFGHANS



DAY 4: FEBRUARY 20

Pray for favor and protection from the officials of other countries as Afghans apply for resettlement in third or fourth countries, and for the systems to work smoothly as they're supposed to; for their applications to get into the right hands; and for Afghans not to be overlooked or marginalized in the process.



DAY 5: FEBRUARY 21

During Ramadan especially, pray that Afghans here would have dreams and visions of Jesus, and for the Holy Spirit to work in and speak to their hearts, leading them to seek Jesus and salvation. Pray these dreams would drive them to learn more about Jesus.



DAY 6: FEBRUARY 22

Pray that Ramadan would not lead Afghans to falsely grasp at religious self-righteousness, but that they would instead have openness to the gospel and soft hearts. For many, the country where we live is the first place Afghan refugees will be able to hear the good news. Pray for the team to know whom to share with, what to share, and how to communicate in a culturally impactful way.

AFGHANS



DAY 7: FEBRUARY 23

Pray for Afghan believers to be bold and have spiritually deep and meaningful conversations during Ramadan. “In the Asian context, family ties are very close knit. Many believers who leave the country have left with their close families who don’t know Jesus yet. Pray that they would have the courage to share the truth of Christ within their families. However, when they do so, they must be prepared for the consequences. There is no guarantee as to how their loved ones would respond.”* Pray that Afghan believers would have a deep hunger to see their own countrymen and women come to faith. Pray they would not shrink back in fear. Pray that the Lord would lead them to the right people to share the gospel with. Pray that Afghan believers would be equipped and have a right motive to share their faith and that their own walks with Christ would be spiritually rich as they seek His face both privately and corporately.



DAY 8: FEBRUARY 24

Recently, our team has been working to address the lack of access to education among Afghan children here. Please pray for those serving with the Afghan People Education initiative. Pray that God would provide a shuttle for a handful of children we plan to enroll in a more traditional, English-speaking education program run by like-minded people. Pray for the students as they attend school for the first time—that they would feel welcomed and supported. Most importantly, pray that the children would learn well and that this opportunity would be a genuine blessing to them.



DAY 9: FEBRUARY 25

Pray for the women and children who face domestic abuse. Many families live under constant medical and financial stress. Without legal status, they lack access to hospitals, schools, and government assistance and often live in the shadows. These pressures increase abuse within an already vulnerable community.

AFGHANS



DAY 10: FEBRUARY 26

There are four predominant ethnic groups in Afghanistan: Pashtun, Tajik, Hazara, and Uzbek. While Uzbek Afghans make up only 10% of the population in Afghanistan, they account for a greater percentage of the total Afghan population in this country. Many of them live in apartments lined with black mold and lacking heat during the winter. With little to no government support, they make bits of income by collecting cardboard boxes from the streets, sewing clothes, and cleaning houses. In addition to barely making financial ends meet, many are struggling with drug addiction, various kinds of trauma, and the threat of deportation. But their poverty is not simply material, it's also spiritual. Uzbek Afghans are a particularly unreached people group, meaning they have essentially no access to the good news. No known accurate translation of the Bible is available in the Afghan Uzbek language. It has been estimated that there has never been more than around 10 workers serving the 3.6 million Uzbeks in Afghanistan.

Pray the eyes of Afghan Uzbeks to be unveiled so they can grow in knowledge of Jesus and his word. Pray that God would continue to reveal himself to Afghan Uzbeks through visions, healings, and miracles. May they have life through repentance and forgiveness! Pray that Afghan Uzbek translations of Bible stories would be shared through the community, spreading encouragement and belief. Pray for the start of an Afghan Uzbek fellowship.



AFRICANS



DAY 11: FEBRUARY 27

Pray that the Africans who believe in Jesus will have renewed courage to share their faith during Ramadan. Pray 1 Peter 3:15-16 over them: “But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.”



DAY 12: FEBRUARY 28

Recently, Sierra Leoneans have been emigrating to the Middle East to find better employment opportunities. Pray for the families and children who are separated from their mother or father who has come here to provide for their families. In the country where we live, many do not find better jobs and end up working as cleaners, sex workers, or clothing factory workers who earn extremely low wages and are often misused or exploited for profit.



DAY 13: MARCH 1

Pray for Nigerians to prioritize their relationship with the Father over money, wealth, and other material things. Although 51 percent of Nigerians profess Christianity, and Christianity remains the largest religion in the country, many people embrace the prosperity gospel. This distorted teaching claims that God grants full blessings—such as wealth, health, and power---now to those who obey Him.

AFRICANS



DAY 14: MARCH 2

Senegal is located in northwestern Africa and has a population of 16.5 million. 92% of Senegalese people are unreached Muslims. Witchcraft is practiced in many areas and among many people groups in Senegal. Pray that Ramadan would not lead the Senegalese people to falsely grasp religious self-righteousness but that they would instead be open to the gospel and have soft hearts. For many, the country where we live is the first place Senegalese people will hear the good news. Pray for the team to know whom to share with, what to share, and how to communicate in a culturally impactful way.



DAY 15: MARCH 3

Pray for growth of an indigenous church among the Wolof people of Senegal. The Wolof people make up the largest people group in the nation, and they believe to be Wolof is to be Muslim. Because so much of their cultural identity is tied up in Islam, very few Wolof people have been open to the gospel. Only 0.01% of Wolof people are professing Christians. Of those who have come to know the Lord, a majority had visions or dreams that lead them to Christ. Pray Muslim Wolof people would encounter wonders and miracles, and have dreams that point toward Jesus's authority.



DAY 16: MARCH 4

Pray for the African Moms and Kids Program. Pray that the mothers and children would come to know God personally. Most of the women in the program come from Nigeria, Senegal, Ghana, and Sierra Leone, though over the years women from 16 different countries have participated. Many of the women are spiritually open or professing Christians, and some Muslim women also attend. As the women engage in Bible stories, educational topics, and meaningful life lessons, pray that God would open their hearts.

AFRICANS



DAY 17: MARCH 5

Hebrews 10:24-25

“And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.”

Pray for the women of African Moms and Kids Program. Pray their community would grow in depth and accountability. Pray they would care for each other, grow in vulnerability, and engage with each other spiritually.



DAY 18: MARCH 6

During Ramadan especially, pray for the Muslims we work with from Sierra Leone to encounter Jehovah Jireh—the Lord our Provider. Many people from Sierra Leone come to the city in search of work and ways to provide for their families, both locally and back home. Limited food security and educational opportunities in Sierra Leone perpetuate cycles of poverty and drive more people to seek opportunities abroad.



DAY 19: MARCH 7

Pray for Peace between Muslims and Christians in Africa, specifically in Nigeria. Recently, the Boko Haram militants have been rounding up the farmers and fishermen and executing them and abducting women and girls and extensively looting property. Amnesty International shared, “The armed conflict in northeast Nigeria has been ongoing since at least 2011 and it has created a humanitarian crisis, with more than 2,000,000 people displaced, according to the UN.” * Pray for the authorities in Nigeria to rise to bring order and protection to their country's people.

IRANIANS



DAY 20:MARCH 8

Pray for our brothers and sisters in Iran who risk so much to follow Jesus. Pray for those in prison for their faith; may they know the nearness of God. Pray God will fill them with his grace and mercy as they suffer and are persecuted for proclaiming the name of Jesus.

Pray 2 Corinthians 12:9-10 over them:

But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

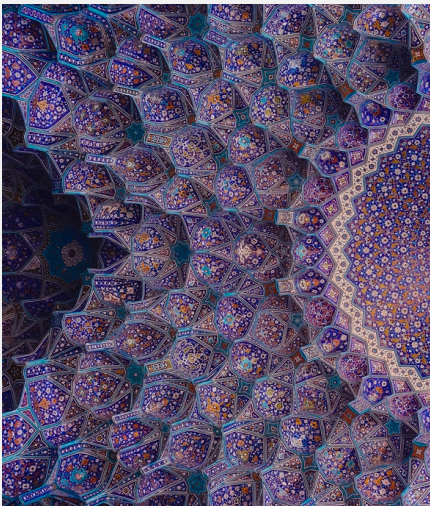


IRANIANS



DAY 21:MARCH 9

On the 21st day of Ramadan (Called the Night of Power), Muslims believe the Quran came down from heaven. Pray that God's true Word & Power will be revealed in Jesus.



DAY 22:MARCH 10

Psalm 86:9: "All the nations you have made will come and worship before you, O Lord; they will bring glory to your name." Iranians are taught to curse Israel & Jews, but pray they will come to see the Greatest Gift & Blessing is found in Jesus!

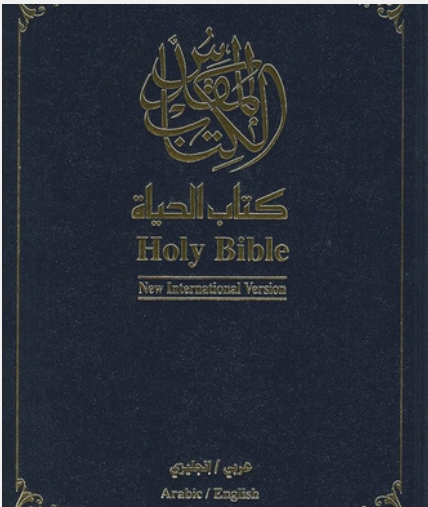


DAY 23: MARCH 11

As many celebrate Ramadan and fast, pray against religious pride that keeps people from truly seeing their need for God to save. Pray for dreams and visions of Jesus. Pray for discontent and questioning as they read and recite their holy book.

During the fasting and at night when they feast, pray they will come to see Jesus as the true Bread of Life.

SYRIANS & IRAQIS



DAY 24: MARCH 12

Pray for “Life Church”, the Arabic speaking fellowship. Pray for the believers attending the church to experience the goodness of Christian fellowship, biblical teaching, and corporate worship. Pray that the church would grow in its outreach to nonbelievers. Pray for the current leadership of Life Church, as well as the process of raising up more Arabic-speaking believers to leadership.



DAY 25: MARCH 13

Pray for Syria. Almost every Syrian refugee still has loved ones, family, or friends who remain in Syria. It is often impossible to live in Syria without a source of income outside the country. Essentials like food and water, as well as things like heat and electricity, are limited and expensive. Conflict continues in certain areas of the country. Many areas are also still recovering from the recent shift in power in the Syrian government. Despite all of this, we have heard encouraging reports of growing Christian communities. Pray for this country to resolve issues in a way that allows for rebuilding and restoration.

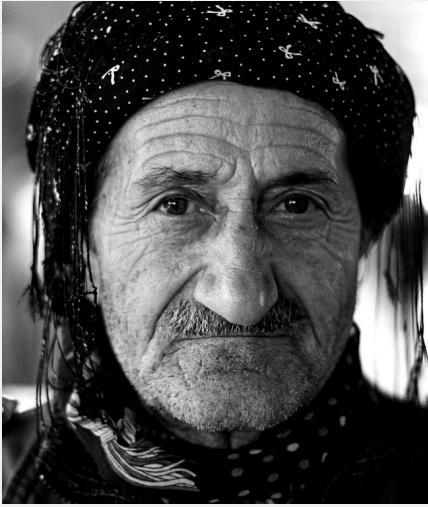


DAY 26: MARCH 14

As many Syrians are uncertain of their future regarding going back to Syria at this time, would you please pray that those who have been reading the Word will continue to seek His Word wherever they end up even if that is Syria?

Ask the Lord to provide a path forward for them. Pray against the fear and anxiety that can be debilitating for some. Pray against depression that sets in when options are exhausted. Pray against mistreatment at the hands of employers, neighbors, landlords, or even government officials.

SYRIANS & IRAQIS



DAY 27: MARCH 15

Pray for Syrian & Iraqi believers to experience boldness in sharing their faith with family. Many are fearful of the response from loved ones about their new faith in Jesus. In some cases, there will be significant loss of relationship or threat of danger and even physical harm. Pray for boldness. Pray for God to move in such a way that entire families will come to faith. Pray for believers to take ownership of their identity in Christ and to experience peace knowing their identity cannot be taken away.



DAY 28: MARCH 16

Pray for the Orthodox and Catholic communities from Syria & Iraq. Although the great majority of Syrians are Muslim, there are still communities of Orthodox and Catholic Christians. Like it is for some Muslims, many are only religious by name and do not practice. Often they have no biblical literacy. In cases when people do attend church, the language used in the church is often not understandable. Pray for these communities to have genuine Christ-centered faith. Pray for those who are genuine believers to be received by their families, who often reject anything to do with Evangelical Christianity. Pray for transformation and revival and commitment to the Word of God.



DAY 29: MARCH 17

Pray for the Syrian Moms and Kids program. This year, we are sharing stories centered on why God's Word matters, allowing us to make personal applications such as "the God who sees" and "Jesus lifts our shame." Many Syrians hold negative stereotypes about Christians, often associating Christianity with the West and its broader culture. Through this program, we can remove some of these stumbling blocks and speak directly to real spiritual truths. Pray for open discussions, bold sharing, and our ability to follow up well with those who show interest in learning and discussing more.

REFUGEE INTERNS



DAY 30:MARCH 18

Pray for our refugee interns, that they would be growing in humility, love, character, and ministry ability. Pray that they would become godly pillars in their communities.

