

June: Praying for the Unreached in the Middle East and North Africa

Week One:

The Middle East and North Africa are home to 572 people groups and 67% (~260 million) are unreached. Almost all of these unreached groups have a Muslim majority population. Throughout this month we will be praying that God would break the stronghold of Islam and that the hope of the gospel would bring freedom to millions.

Continue praying for God's kingdom to come and His will to be done. Focus on praying that God would be opening doors for the gospel to be spread to people who have never heard of Christ and that these verses from **Colossians 1:21-23** would be true of them:

“And you, who were once alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him, if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, became a minister.”

Week Two:

The Berber people are a group of non-Arab people with a population of around 36 million. Its largest population is in Algeria with significant groups in 16 other countries across North Africa and Europe. Mass immigrations of Arabs in the 11th century caused many to flee or become “Arabized” and the majority of Berbers today practice Islam, modified to fit their local traditions.

Pray that God would be at work among these people to bring many to the saving knowledge of Christ. Pray that they would be a part of transforming this area with the hope of the gospel.

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.” – 2 Corinthians 5:17-21

Week Three:

Saudi Arabia is the birthplace and stronghold of Islam. Billions of oil dollars go towards the promotion of Islam each year and a spiritual breakthrough for Christ would greatly confront Islam and all who follow it. Saudi Arabia's record on religious freedom and human rights is one of the world's worst. People of faiths other than Islam can live in Saudi Arabia, but they cannot practice their religion openly or even gather privately.

Christians expatriates are always being monitored and those who are caught meeting, even in homes, can face beatings, prison, expulsion or even execution. Pray for strength, wisdom and courage for these believers as they seek to share the hope of Christ.

“For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God.” – Romans 8:18-21

Week Four:

Israel is largely considered the birthplace of Christianity, but today only about 2% of the population is Christian and only 0.4% would be considered evangelical. The majority of the population is Jewish and while there has been growth of Jews who recognize Jesus as their Messiah (around 12,000 today), growth brings persecution in many cases. There are many outreach challenges for the spread of the gospel including the ultra-Orthodox Haredi, who are like modern Pharisees. While they are only 10% of the population, they have great influence and push strict adherence to religious laws and identity.

Pray that God would bring revival to Israel and that people would see past religious traditions to their need for Jesus as their Messiah. Pray that Christians, especially those of Arab descent, who often face the greatest persecution, would be bold in sharing the hope that they have in Christ.

Pray through **John 3:1-36**. Pray that God would give them the understanding of new life through Christ. And that they would rejoice in the freedom that comes through faith in Jesus.