

May: Praying for the Unreached in Sub-Saharan Africa

Week One:

The Fulani of Nigeria are a semi-nomadic people that stretches from the Atlantic to the Red Sea, with their greatest concentration of people in West Africa. They have a population of over 15 million, with only 0.26% being evangelical Christian. Some challenges in reaching the Fulani with the hope of the gospel are that they are mostly illiterate and reject any form of Western education, and there is a strong allegiance to Islam in their culture.

Pray that God would strengthen and embolden Christians in this area of Africa. They often face persecution as they seek to share the hope of Christ in their communities. Pray that God would raise up churches to reach these people with the Gospel.

“The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone. You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy, they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil. –Isaiah 9:2-3

Week Two:

The Somali people have a population of just over 12 million and live mostly in Somalia, Ethiopia and Kenya, although there are large numbers of refugees who have fled to Europe. The country is in desperate need of prayer as the civil war that started in 1991 rages on as the four major clans of the country fight for power.

Along with internal unrest and rampant violence, widespread illiteracy and malnutrition, and the strong presence of Islam casts a dark shadow on the Somali people. With 99% of the population practicing some type of Islam the Somali people desperately need the hope of redemption that comes from Christ alone.

Pray through Ephesians 2:14-18 and John 14:27. Pray that God would open the Somali people's eyes to the finished work of Christ and that they would know peace through Christ.

Week Three:

Sudan is the third largest country in Africa with a population of almost 45 million. Of the 162 people groups in Sudan, 131 or 80% are unreached, and 90% of the population practices some type of Islam. Sudan has faced turmoil in its government for a long time. In 2018 there were massive protests that ended a 30 year rule which left a legacy of oppressive, militaristic rule. While progress is being made there is still much uncertainty for the social and political future of Sudan.

The turmoil in the country has led to growth of the Christian church but believers, especially in the south, face great persecution. Because of the Islamic influence on the government they continue to face challenges. Pray for stability and peace in the government and for continued boldness for believers as they seek to share the hope of Christ with their people.

First of all then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. -1 Timothy 2:1-4

Week Four:

Morocco is on the northwestern edge of Africa and has a population of about 38 million. Morocco is almost 100% unreached and 99% of the population practices some type of Islam. Ever since the introduction of Islam in the 7th century, most Moroccans take pride in being a centre of Islamic civilization and learning and therefore, they oppose Christianity.

It is believed that there are about 2,000 Christians who belong to about 30-50 home churches. Pray that God would be working through these believers and that He would give them strength and boldness to proclaim the truth, despite the persecution and suffering that they face. Pray that God would do a mighty work to open the eyes of millions to the hope that can only be found in Christ and that He would tear down the stronghold of Islam that has led many astray. Pray through Colossians 2:8.

Bonus Prayer Material: Praying for the Kingdom of God

We are instructed in Scripture, by Jesus, to pray for God's kingdom to come and His will to be done on earth as it is in Heaven. As we have seen this month and will see in June, much of the world is under the influence of Islam. This is a rival to God's kingdom and it has led many astray. It is appropriate for us to pray in accord with Jesus' instructions. Below are ways to pray for God's kingdom.

How to pray for God's kingdom:

1. For His kingdom come and His will be done on earth as it is in heaven (Matthew 6:7-13)

- Daily, without heaping up empty, repetitive phrases or seeking recognition from others.
- Recognizing that God's kingdom means His perfect rule and reign over all things
- Praying that His rule and reign would be fully realized, meaning that the end times come

2. For the gospel to be spread to the ends of the earth (Matthew 28:19-20)

- Praying for the fulfillment of the Great Commission and your involvement in it
- Pray for God to help you be a bold witness to your family, friends, coworkers and community.
- Pray for unbelievers, both in your life and across the globe. Pray for evangelism to be powerful and effective, including your own personal evangelism

3. For the church to be growing in unity and holiness (Psalm 133; 1 Cor. 12:12-27)

- Pray that the church would show the unity and love of the Trinity
- Pray that every Christian would continue to grow in submission and passionate obedience to God

4. For the fulfillment of Jesus' rule over all nations (Philippians 2:1-11)

- Pray with longing for the coming of our King
- Pray that every nation, tribe and tongue would see and worship the glory of God

Why do we pray for the Kingdom?

Everything is related to the Kingdom:

- We live in a time where the Kingdom is already here, but not fully recognized
- God already rules and reigns over all things, yet many reject His rule. Someday He will no longer tolerate their rejection and will judge them (Phil. 1:3-11)
- Jesus inaugurated the realized Kingdom of God by bringing the Gospel and calling people to repent and believe (Mark 1:15-16; Matt. 4:12-17)
- He spoke of a day when He would come again to finish judging His enemies and usher in the New Heavens and Earth (Psalm 96:13; 2 Corinthians 5:9-10; Acts 17:31; Matthew 12:36; John 12:48; Romans 2:16; Revelation 20:11-15)
- We are currently in the "in-between" stage of the Kingdom, therefore we ought to do our best to speak and pray for the fully realized coming of the Kingdom