

9. Central Asia—Uzbekistan

After the fall of the USSR, tokens of ethnic and Islamic culture were adopted as a cover for a policy of no change—the President is as firmly in control as in Communist times. There is no freedom of speech or press, and the secular state promotes a moderate form of Islam. Evangelizing Muslims is illegal, and switching religions is strongly discouraged. As a result, Uzbek Christians have received harsh treatment. The Muslim population numbers more than 20 million, and the country's capital, Tashkent, is the Islamic capital of Central Asia.



Pray:

- Believers will be faithful in spite of persecution
- For the strategies of our partners in Central Asia to be effective in reaching the peoples of Uzbekistan

10. Central Asia—Kyrgyzstan

The Kyrgyz are culturally Muslim, with adherents making up 78% of the population. But practice and understanding of Islam is low. Spiritism, more than Islam, is the religion of the Kyrgyz. Pakistani, Turkish, and Saudi Arabian missionaries seek to strengthen Islamic institutions and commitment. The government, secular state with a high degree of religious freedom, perceives Islam as a threat. Because being Muslim is more cultural than religious for the Kyrgyz, becoming a Christian is seen as betrayal of ethnic identity and family cohesion.



Pray:

- For believers to be faithful in spite of persecution from family and friends
- For ministry projects that will open doors to share the Good News
- For the strategies of our partners in Central Asia to be effective in reaching the peoples of Kyrgyzstan

11. Central Asia—Turkmenistan

Nearly 92% of the population claims to be Muslim. Repressed under Communism, Islam has never been strong, but is gradually gaining influence and strength. Although the constitu-

tion guarantees freedom of religion, in practice this is limited to a Turkish form of Sunni Islam or Russian Orthodox. All other forms of Islam or minority religions are subject to severe repression and harassment. Hostility and persecution of any evangelical Christian presence has increased in recent years.



Pray:

- For believers to be faithful in spite of persecution from family and friends
- For the constitutional religious freedom to be upheld in policies and practices
- For open doors to share the gospel
- For the strategies of our partners in Central Asia to be effective in reaching the peoples of Turkmenistan

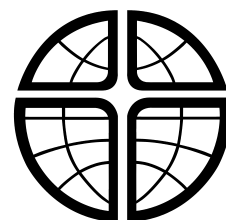
12. Central Asia—Tajikistan

Although 90% profess to be Muslim, only a fraction of the population regularly practice Islamic. Most are more influenced by superstition and Zoroastrian beliefs. Religious freedom is guaranteed, but fear of radical Islam provides the government an excuse to watch all religious activity closely. Any activity causing religious tension is quashed. Tajikistan's proximity to Iran and Afghanistan makes it all the more vulnerable to Islam. Six unreached Muslim people groups reside in Tajikistan.



Pray:

- Believers will be faithful in spite of persecution from family and friends
- Unbelievers will seek truth that will lead them to Christ
- For opportunities to share the gospel with the unreached people groups
- Strategies of our partners in Central Asia will be effective in reaching the peoples of Tajikistan



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PRAYING FOR CREATIVE ACCESS COUNTRIES

Suggestions for the leader:

This guide provides information for an hour of prayer broken into five-minute segments. Read each item and pray for the specific requests mentioned. Include names of workers assigned to reach the creative access region. Remember our Lord's command to ask the Lord of the harvest to send forth laborers into His harvest (Matthew 9:38). Your prayers can pave the way for workers yet to be appointed—people God is preparing to hear and answer the call to missionary service. Apply these requests to those future workers as well.

Using this guide will enhance group prayer as well as individual intercession. Read each item, but avoid taking too much time to explain. The evil one is pleased when believers spend more time talking about prayer than actually praying. The power of God flows in response to the united prayer of the body of Christ. Involve everyone in prayer.

Make as many copies of this guide as needed for your group.

Begin by asking the Holy Spirit to guide the hour you spend in prayer. Don't be too concerned about the allocation of five minutes per item. Be flexible in response to the moving of the Spirit.

1. West Africa—Côte d'Ivoire

Over five million people—nearly 40% of the population—are Muslim, many of them immigrants. Urban concentrations of Muslims are high, as are conversion rates among immigrants. Sunni Islam is strongest in the northwest and Abidjan. Three people groups are strongly Muslim: the Malinke, Fulbe, and Jula-speaking peoples. Both Islam and Christianity are thoroughly mixed with African traditional beliefs, making ministry in the area quite challenging. The country is divided by civil unrest and political instability, prompted by differences in the religious and social philosophies of Islam and Christianity.



Pray:

- For civil peace and political stability so more missionaries can be sent
- For Ivorian pastors to be bold in proclaiming the Word of God
- For unity and spiritual fire throughout Free Will Baptist churches
- For FWB church-planting projects in Abidjan to prosper and spread
- For the Community Health Evangelism (CHE) outreach program to thrive
- For open doors to take the gospel to tribes yet unreached

2. Western Europe—Spain

The province of Madrid houses Europe's largest mosque. As many as 10,000 people, many of them from Morocco, enter Spain every year. The total Muslim population is over a half-million. Southern Spain holds the greatest concentration of North African immigrants, but numbers are growing throughout the country. The government struggles to cope with illegal immigration, so ministry opportunities through aid and education are prevalent.



Pray:

- For the shaping of FWB strategies to

- reach Muslims in southern Spain
- For the formation of a team of FWB workers to be placed in southern Spain
- For the efforts of FWB churches in Madrid to reach Muslims and partner in the development of ministry in southern Spain

3. Western Europe—France

Nearly six million Muslims make up 10% of France's population—a number that increases every year. Most North African immigrants, primarily from Algeria, live in urban areas, from the southern port cities to Paris. Islam is now the second religion of France. Growing hostility and the racism of the nominally Christian French have provoked a strong, well-organized Muslim movement that complicates evangelical outreach to them.



Pray:

- For the shaping of Free Will Baptist strategies to reach Muslims in southern France
- For opportunities for the Mediterranean Team to reach people for Christ
- For the efforts of FWB churches in northwest France to reach Muslims and partner in the development of ministry in the Mediterranean region

4. North Africa—Morocco

Sunni Islam is the state religion. Since the government is committed to the preservation of Islam as the religion of all Moroccans, 99.85% of the population is Muslim. Under the present constitution, a Moroccan church of former Muslims cannot be recognized. Many Christians meet in small groups underground. Many more are isolated from fellowship. Probably no more than 5% of the population has had personal contact with the gospel.



Pray:

- For believers to be faithful in spite of persecution
- For preliminary contacts to provide opportunities for ministry projects

- For restrictions against the gospel to be removed
- For workers to hear the call to go from Free Will Baptist churches in the United States and Spain

5. North Africa—Algeria

Over 96% of the population is Muslim, and the government has actively encouraged the development of an Islamic Arab socialist state. Evangelizing is not allowed, and Muslim fundamentalists are strongly pushing for the institution of Islamic shari'a law (based on the Qu'ran), which will further hinder the spread of the gospel. Believers in the cities are few in number and keep a low profile, though in many Kabyle villages Christian meetings are held openly.



Pray:

- For believers to be faithful in spite of persecution
- For preliminary contacts to provide opportunities for ministry projects
- For restrictions against the gospel to be removed
- For workers to hear the call to go from Free Will Baptist churches in the United States and France

6. North Africa

North Africa is collectively known as the Maghreb, and includes the countries of Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Mauritania, and Libya. These countries are almost entirely Muslim, and the governments not strictly run by Islamic law are ravaged by political turmoil. Many obstacles to the gospel exist in this region, but doors are opening for creative ministries.



Pray:

- For opportunities for ministry projects
- For restrictions against the gospel to be removed
- For God's protection and anointing on believers and workers

7. Middle East

Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Bahrain, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Yemen, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, and the Gaza Strip, known worldwide as the seat of Islamic power and wealth, make up the Middle East. Over 90% of the combined populations are Muslim. They fund Islamic missionary efforts worldwide. Warring Islamic sects plague many of these countries with political turmoil and upheaval. A mere 5.8% of people in the entire region are Christian.



Pray:

- For believers to be faithful in spite of persecution
- For preliminary contacts to provide opportunities for ministry projects
- For restrictions against the gospel to be removed
- For creative opportunities for personnel to go and share the gospel

8. Central Asia—Kazakhstan

Under the Communism of the USSR all religion in Kazakhstan was suppressed. Even now, with religious freedom constitutionally guaranteed, non-traditional religions suffer some opposition and restrictions. Nominally Sunni Muslims for nearly a thousand years, Kazakhs practice of Islam has been strongly influenced by animism. A recent Islamic movement (fueled by Muslim missionaries and money from Iran, Turkey, and Arab countries) has led to the presence of over 5,000 mosques in the country. More than 60% of the population is Muslim.



Pray:

- For the effectiveness of our team in Kazakhstan
- For the effectiveness of the church-planting efforts of our national partners
- For financial support to be raised and remain stable for FWB workers