

30

DAYS OF PRAYER
FOR
THE MUSLIM
WORLD

WORLDVENTURE

2017

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings in the name of Jesus the Savior! You are holding in your hands an invitation to change the realities of our day and to impact eternity through prayer. WorldVenture has compiled current prayer needs from our field colleagues living among and working with Muslims.

As followers of Jesus, we are all called to be on mission with him in our world.

As followers of Jesus, we enter in to the work of prayer for the advancement of the gospel among all peoples.

As followers of Jesus, we align our lives with what Jesus is all about: he is still seeking and saving the lost, and he is building his church.

Samuel Zwemer (1867-1952), whose nickname was 'the Apostle to Islam' for his nearly forty years of missionary

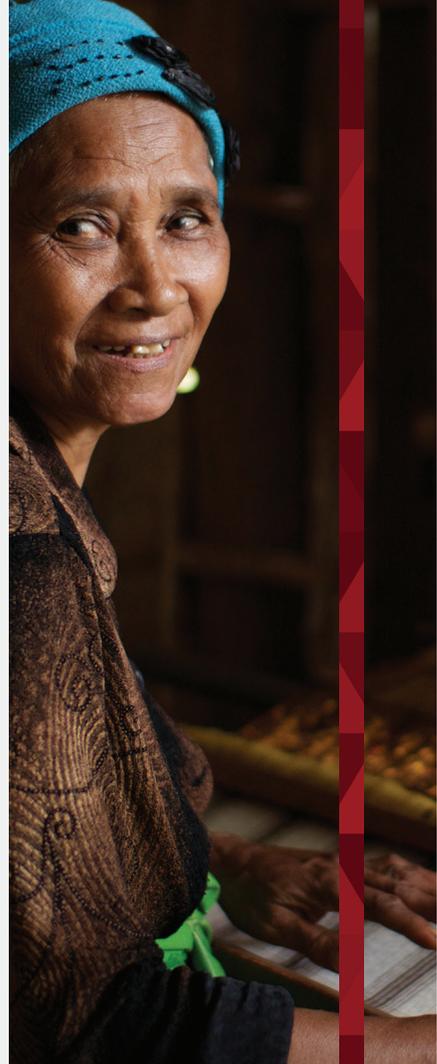
work among Muslim people, reminds us still, *"The history of missions is the history of answered prayer."*

May this 30-day prayer guide give you the tools needed to enter into this work of praying for those who are loved by God and in desperate need of knowing Jesus.

For the renown of Jesus among all people,



Jeff Denlinger, DMiss
President
WorldVenture



WHY PRAY FOR MUSLIMS?

While Christians and Muslims share some common beliefs, there are many major theological divides and relational barriers which can make Muslim ministry an incredibly difficult task.

For example, both groups believe in one all-powerful God who created everything in the heavens and the earth, but Muslims argue that the Christian doctrine of the Trinity is a belief in three separate gods and therefore reject it as polytheism. Along similar lines Muslims believe that Jesus was a real man, a holy prophet who never sinned and spoke only truth. But they reject him as the Son of God, arguing that it is not possible for God to take human form and die a criminal's death.

The concept of sin, and therefore the need for salvation, is also foreign to Muslims. In Islam, a follower's eternal destiny is determined by doing enough

good works to outweigh their bad deeds. However, many Muslims live in fear that their good deeds will not be enough to get them into paradise because on judgment day Allah may change his mind and still send 'good' people to eternal punishment if he so chooses.

Finally, there are significant repercussions of leaving Islam. Muslims who decide to follow Jesus are often excommunicated from their family and relational network, ostracized and hated for their abandonment of the faith, and frequently lose their jobs and livelihood. The path of following Jesus in countries where Islam is the official religion is even more dangerous.

These are not easy barriers to overcome.

There is good news though! God is on the move, breaking down these

barriers through his power to change hearts and open the eyes of the blind. Thousands upon thousands of Muslims each year are experiencing dreams and visions of the risen Messiah and Savior, Jesus. Countless numbers of these men and women are seeking the truth earnestly and finally finding the One who can give them peace, purpose, and hope for the future.

We believe that God's desire is for all people, regardless of ethnic heritage or religious worldview, to embrace Jesus Christ as Savior and King. For this reason, we invite you to join us for the next 30 days of prayer for the Muslim world.

WHERE WE ARE PRAYING

The numbered pins on the map indicate the corresponding day's location.







DAY 1

May 27—Saturday

We start our 30-day prayer journey by asking God to continue calling His followers from all corners of the earth to boldly engage the rapidly growing Muslim population with the gospel. Pray that fear would not prevent Christians from reaching out and sharing God's love in humble and respectful ways.

DAY 2

May 28—Sunday

Pray for WorldVenture workers on one island in Indonesia using creative access platforms to make disciples among ten unreached people groups. Hundreds of house churches have already begun over the past five years, but recent government pressure and threats are making the work even more difficult than before. Pray for God's favor, protection, and that His Spirit would continue awakening Indonesians to the Truth.

DAY 3

May 29—Monday

Pray for a Christian medical facility in Pakistan that provides physical relief from suffering to thousands of Muslim people. This is also the only facility in the region that serves women. WorldVenture is currently in desperate need of female medical professionals to use their skills and be the hands and feet of Jesus.



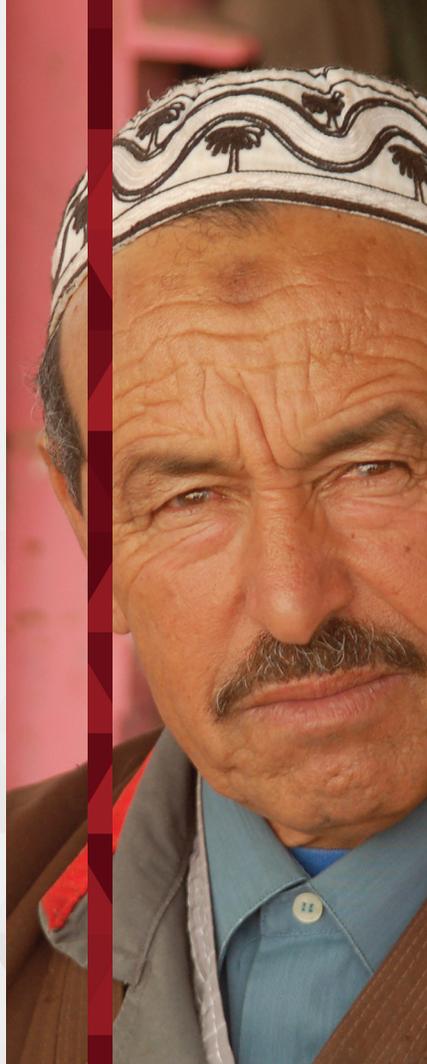
DAY 4

May 30—Tuesday

A WorldVenture worker requests prayer for the local church and their work among five specific unreached Muslim people groups in the Philippines. Pray for a full-blown gospel movement to come out of these groups, as some small amounts of progress have been seen already. Pray for Filipino Christians to confess and turn away from their prejudice and fear, and willingly reach out to those God has placed directly around them.

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

—Acts 1:8 (NIV)



DAY 5

May 31—Wednesday

There are around 21.5 million Muslims in China today, a number that is growing as the church also continues to multiply. Pray for Chinese Christians as they face intense persecution every day. Pray they would persevere and develop a burden for their Muslim neighbors.



DAY 6

June 1—Thursday

“We are interacting with new seekers on a weekly basis in Indonesia, but the back door of the church is wide; the culture, opposition and work schedules seem to chew up new believers. Pray with us that new believers will find genuine fellowship and stay connected. Pray they will stay the course and follow Christ for the rest of their lives.”

—WorldVenture Missionary in SE Asia

DAY 7

June 2—Friday

A WorldVenture worker asks that we pray for new believers in one restricted-access Central Asian country to move beyond their initial profession of faith into a deep and genuine Christian walk that will then influence others.



DAY 8

June 3—Saturday

Pray for WorldVenture missionaries in Central Asia — where the population is at least 75% Muslim—who are making disciples among unreached people groups by reaching out to university students, women enslaved by sex trafficking, and neighbors they see every day. Pray for God's favor and protection, and that His Spirit would continue awakening the people of this country to the Truth!



DAY 9

June 4—Sunday

Take time today to thank and praise God for how He is calling thousands of Muslims to Himself through dreams and visions.

“For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”

—Luke 19:10 (NIV)

DAY 10

June 5—Monday

Pray for a missionary family who arrived in a strategic city in Panama last year, with a long-term vision of making disciples among unreached Muslims. Many of them are from India and are part of a sect of Islam that seeks to purify the faith and imitate the life of Mohamed in strict and literal ways. Pray that God will open doors for these missionaries to develop deep, trusting relationships with Muslims who are open to hearing the gospel. Pray also for the family as they face spiritual attacks and regular discouragement. Pray that God would continue building his church in Panama.

DAY 11

June 6—Tuesday

Pray for a WorldVenture business-as-mission coffee endeavor in Costa Rica. This business is poised to grow and to create opportunities for Latino believers to go to the Middle and Far East with a business of their own to transform lives of unreached Muslims. Please pray specifically for God to call many Latino workers to his harvest in the unreached world. Pray that God would open doors around the world for these businesses to grow, to develop relationships, and to make an eternal impact.



DAY 12

June 7—Wednesday

Pray for the nation of Brazil as it continues to emerge as one of the largest missionary sending nations of the early 21st century. Pray for Brazilian missionaries to be sent out to the 1.8 billion followers of Islam around the world, and for a God-given spirit of collaboration to empower the Church to work together as more missionaries begin to come from the global south.



DAY 13

June 8—Thursday

Pray for new Muslim-background believers. Often, choosing to follow Jesus means losing everything—family, job, friends, reputation, and possessions—after being excommunicated from their relational circles. Truly these men and women must rest in the assurance from Jesus found in the book of Matthew:

“And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or fields for my sake will receive a hundred times as much and will inherit eternal life.”

—Matthew 19:29 (NIV)



DAY 14

June 9—Friday

Pray for one WorldVenture couple who have been faithfully serving in rural Mali for decades. Each week they hold a kids' club at their house where local believers teach Bible stories and talk about Jesus to over 50 Muslim children. Many parents whose children come to the house regularly say their kids are changing— they behave better, study harder, and have more joy. Pray that God would burden the parents to seek and find out for themselves what is causing this inner change in their children.

DAY 15

June 10—Saturday

“Please pray for our church planting efforts in a predominantly Muslim neighborhood in a large Kenyan city. God has been opening many doors including key relationships, allowing us to purchase a building for a community center and reading room, as well as starting two businesses (a coffee house and a printing/publishing business). Pray that the community would continue to be receptive to our presence and that our relationships would deepen with key Muslim leaders.”

—WorldVenture Missionary in Kenya

DAY 16

June 11—Sunday

Pray for the transformation of Upper Guinea. The region is almost completely Muslim, with a sky-high attrition rate of western missionaries. Pray that the five-story ministry center currently being built in a strategic area will enable the equipping and sustaining of both long-term missionaries and local believers. Pray that more workers would be called to Guinea and West Africa, and that local believers will also reach out to their own people with the gospel.

DAY 17

June 12—Monday

Pray for the nation of Senegal and especially the Wolof people. WorldVenture workers have been ministering to these people for over 50 years, and have yet to see a strong gospel movement take hold. Much work has been done in the areas of Bible translation, theological education, and vocational training. The work is slow going, and the country remains around 94% Muslim. Pray that God would move in the hearts of the Senegalese people.



DAY 18

June 13—Tuesday

Pray for missionaries who are actively discipling new Muslim background believers. One of the biggest challenges they face is helping new Christians live out the gospel in the midst of different cultural contexts, many of which are hostile to followers of Jesus. Pray for encouragement, especially for those missionaries who have seen very little progress even after years and years of faithfully ministering to seekers.

DAY 19

June 14—Wednesday

Pray for one new Muslim background believer in Ivory Coast:

“After 12 years, he placed his faith in Christ and now wants to be baptized, the first believer ever in his extended family. He requests prayer that he will remain faithful to Christ, that his family will come to faith also, and that he will establish a Christian home in this completely Muslim land.”

—WorldVenture Missionary in West Africa



DAY 20

June 15—Thursday

Pray for **Ali**, a Muslim man in Ivory Coast who has decided to follow Jesus and now wants to tell his father, a revered Muslim leader in the community. Pray that the father would receive a vision from God so that his heart may be softened and his son could share Jesus with him. Pray for all Muslims who choose Jesus and then must confront parents and family, that God would work through those relationships to bring even more people to Himself.





DAY 21

June 16—Friday

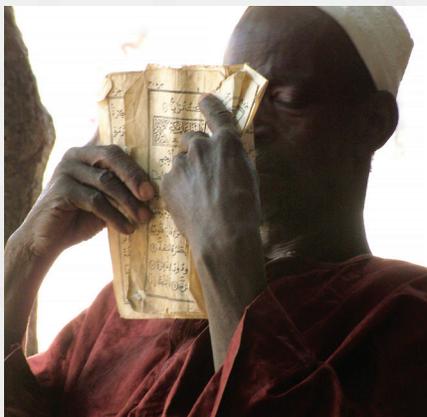
One worker in northern Africa shares:

“God is at work in the hearts of the Muslim people here, and Jesus is revealing Himself to them in personal, loving ways! Please pray that He will continue to change hearts, open eyes, and reveal himself to people. Pray that He will bring us into contact with more of those who are seeking Him.”

DAY 22

June 17—Saturday

Just as in the United States, many people groups around the world hold strong prejudices against those who are different from them. Pray for Christians within these groups to confront ethnic and religious tensions with boldness, wisdom, and humility, in order to proclaim the gospel and preach the message of reconciliation which Jesus brings.



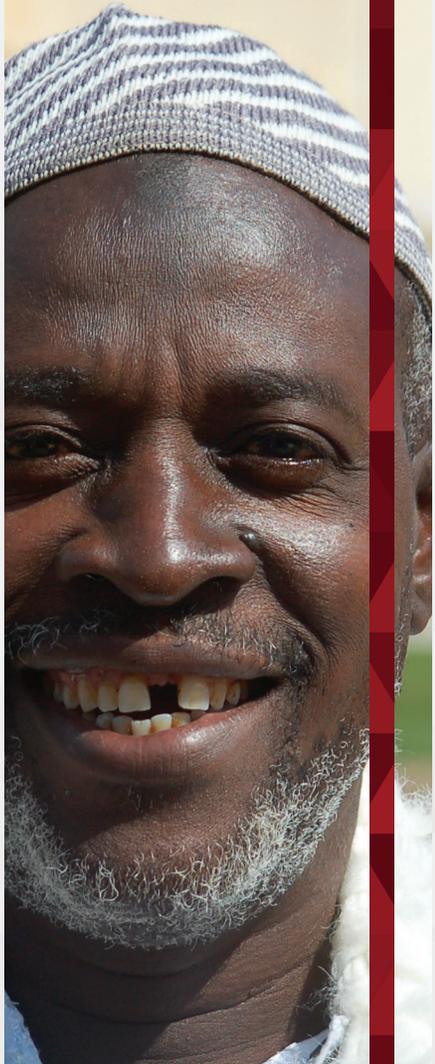
DAY 23

June 18—Sunday

Take time today to praise God for the progress we are seeing around the world. More Muslims have come to faith in the past few decades than ever before! Pray that God would continue calling men and women to joyfully take up the great commission:

“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

—Matthew 28:19-20 (NIV)



DAY 24

June 19—Monday

Pray for the Makua-Nahara people group in the northeastern region of Mozambique. Several WorldVenture families are working in this area using a business-as-mission platform to reach out to a people entrenched in a combination of Islam and witchcraft. Several young men have already professed faith and were baptized! Pray for more to see Jesus through the lives of our workers, that they would decide to follow Him no matter what the cost.

DAY 25

June 20—Tuesday

“Pray for Muslim university students in France who are from unreached people groups. Many are committing to follow Jesus, even though they will be killed if they return to their home country and their families find out they have converted.”

—WorldVenture Missionary in France



DAY 26

June 21—Wednesday

“Please pray for the ISIS members who are returning to Albania, Kosovo, and Macedonia after fighting in Syria. Pray that God would work in their hearts to draw them to himself”

—WorldVenture Missionary in Europe



DAY 27

June 22—Thursday

Pray for a community outreach ministry in a strategic city in Spain. Located in a low-income neighborhood, the center provides a safe place for immigrant families from northern Africa to come and socialize, learn new skills, and hear of the love and message of Christ through the staff. Pray for each person who comes to the center and meets a follower of Jesus, that they would want to know more about the hope found in him. Pray also for the local Spanish church as they challenge local Christians to reach out and love their North African neighbors.



DAY 28

June 23—Friday

Pray for WorldVenture workers who are moving into completely closed-access and dangerous regions, where few or no bearers of the gospel have gone before. Pray for boldness, God's hand of protection, and for spiritual doors to open as God goes before them.

DAY 29

June 24—Saturday

“Pray for my friend Lilah in Turkey who has finally decided to follow Jesus after many, many years. Pray for God’s protection as she grows in her faith, and also because she lives with her mother, who doesn’t know that she has made this decision. Pray that eventually her mother would also come to know Jesus through her daughter.”

—WorldVenture Missionary in Europe

DAY 30

June 25—Sunday

Pray for the American church to live up to the call of Scripture found in James 2:14-16. Pray especially for those immigrants and refugees coming to America looking for safety and a better life, that God would put faithful believers in their path who will care for them and show them God's love in tangible ways.

“What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,” but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it?

—James 2:14-16 (NIV)

NOTES

A series of horizontal dotted lines for writing notes, set against a background of a repeating geometric pattern of light gray triangles.





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