

Monday 12th April

Why pray during Ramadan?

There are five reasons why it's a critical time to pray for Muslim men, women and children:

1. *Ramadan is a spiritually significant month.*

Some Muslims might treat the fast as attempt to earn merit with God through their works and view it as a religious obligation. But for others, it's a chance to seek God and cleanse their hearts.



Source: Pixabay

Regardless of their approach to fasting, all Muslims have the same desperate need to know Jesus Christ as Saviour.

2. *Ramadan is a cultural event.*

With its traditions and special foods, Ramadan feels festive—much like Christmas for Christians.

Perhaps take a moment to think about your own traditions surrounding Christmas. How might your feelings about these traditions be similar to how Muslims feel about Ramadan?

3. *Ramadan is physically taxing.*

Tempers ignite much more quickly during Ramadan - particularly as the day wears on. This isn't surprising since people haven't had anything to eat or drink since before dawn. During the first few days, people experience the most discomfort as their bodies adjust to being deprived of food and drink during the day.

4. *Ramadan disrupts normal routines.*

Those who fast find it difficult to focus, study or work. One way to cope with the rigours of the fast is by shifting daytime activities to night-time. Many will try to sleep the day away until break of fast and businesses may stay closed until after sunset.

You may want to consider disrupting your routine by spending a day, or part of a day, in prayer and fasting for Muslims to discover Jesus Christ.

5. *Ramadan is full of gospel opportunity.*

Field workers report that the heightened spirituality of Ramadan gives them special opportunities to share Jesus with Muslims.

As we think about the start of Ramadan for 1.8 billion Muslims and pray for strategic cities, listen to the song 'You're the God of this City' by Chris Tomlin <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d61LamkXfwk> and pray:

- As the lyrics of the song say: "That greater things have yet to come and greater things have yet to be done" in the cities we are praying for during Ramadan.
- For Muslims to encounter the truth of the gospel in the intensified spiritual atmosphere of Ramadan.
- For God to reveal Himself to Muslim men and women as they face their own physical limitations.
- Pray for Muslims' hearts to be stirred to seek Christ—the way, the truth, and the life (John 14:6).

Source of some content: <https://frontiersusa.org/blog/5-things-you-should-know-about-ramadan/>

Tuesday 13th April

DAY 1 MUMBAI, The city of dreams in India Pop: Approx. 20 million

Mumbai is India's most populous city and one of the most densely populated in the world. An economic powerhouse and home to prolific fashion and film industries, Mumbai seems to move at a furious pace. People from around the region are drawn to Mumbai and nearly every single unreached Muslim people group in India is represented in the city. Many come in search of their dream job and an opportunity for success. The reality, however, is that more than half the city's population lives in slums.



Hope from God's Word:

"When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream. Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy; then they said among the nations, 'The Lord has done great things for them.' The Lord has done great things for us; we are glad." Psalm 126:1–3

- Pray for migrants who come to Mumbai in pursuit of their dreams; ask the Lord to open their hearts to the gospel so they will rejoice in Him who does great things.
- Pray for Indian Christians in the city to hear God's call to make disciples among Muslims.
- Ask God for movements of faith in Christ to spread throughout Mumbai's slums.
- Pray for healing between Hindus and Muslims, who share a history of violence and mistrust. Ask the Lord to raise up workers who will proclaim Christ's message of reconciliation.

Learn More

In a city of one million Muslims, four future workers discover open doors to be a part of God's incredible plan: <https://frontiersusa.org/blog/finding-the-kingdom-in-strategic-cities/>

Wednesday 14th April

DAY 2 SANA'A, the fortified palace in Yemen

Pop: Approx. 2.8 million

At a height of more than 7,000 feet, the ancient city of Sana'a is one of the highest capitals in the world. Among its architectural treasures are thousands of 'tower houses,' centuries-old multi-storey houses decorated with stained glass and intricate geometric patterns.

According to local legend, the city was founded by Shem, Noah's son, and once belonged to the Queen of Sheba.

Since 2014, Yemen has been devastated by civil war. The ramifications of ongoing violence, disease, starvation, and pandemic have pushed many to the brink of despair.



Hope from God's Word:

"And your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to dwell in." Isaiah 58:12

- Pray for an end to the civil war that has destroyed parts of the city and devastated the population. Pray for peace between rival factions.
- Ask God to restore the city of Sana'a and bring desperately needed relief to millions of Yemenis who face bombs, bullets, starvation and disease.
- Ask God to raise up courageous labourers who will go and serve the people of Sana'a and bring them the hope of the gospel.

Learn More

In a Muslim country where security risks are increasing, a Frontiers family is offering the lasting hope of the Kingdom. Read their story, Fearless Hope in the Face of Death: <https://frontiersusa.org/blog/fearless-hope-in-the-face-of-death/>

Thursday 15th April

DAY 3 NOUAKCHOTT, the place of the winds in Mauritania Pop: Approx. 1.2 million

Nouakchott was a small, wind-swept fishing village on the Atlantic coast until it was chosen as the capital of the newly independent country of Mauritania. It was originally designed for a population of 15,000. But decades of droughts led hundreds of thousands of nomads and pastoralists to abandon their desert ways of life and move to the city. Today most residents live in overcrowded slum conditions. Much of Nouakchott lies at or below sea level, and the city's high water table makes it prone to devastating urban floods.



Hope from God's Word:

“Some wandered in desert wastes, finding no way to a city to dwell in; hungry and thirsty, their soul fainted within them. Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress. He led them by a straight way till they reached a city to dwell in.” Psalm 107:4–7

- Ask God to raise up courageous workers who will adopt a simple lifestyle to bring the gospel to slum communities and point people to the path that leads to Christ.
- Pray for robust solutions to seasonal flooding, which has displaced entire neighbourhoods in recent years as rainfall increases and sea levels rise.
- Pray for an end to slavery in Mauritania, which has the highest rate of slavery in the world. Ask God to heal racial divisions and bring justice to the large population of enslaved people.

Learn More

Stretching across a continent of varied landscapes, Sub-Saharan Africa is made up of expressive, tenacious, and friendly people who have survived eras of conflict and famine.

Discover more about the region of Sub-Saharan Africa: <https://frontiersusa.org/regions/sub-saharan-africa>

Friday 16th April

DAY 4 BUKHARA, The city of merchants in Uzbekistan

Pop: Approx. 274,000

Bukhara has welcomed traders and travellers throughout its 2,000-year history and served as a vital oasis on the Silk Road. With a historical urban centre that has changed little in recent generations, Bukhara's skyline is punctuated with medieval minarets, madrassas and fortresses.

The city was once a key intellectual centre for the Muslim world, and scientific discovery and religious scholarship drove its institutions. Today it remains an important economic and cultural centre in the region of central Asia.



Hope from God's Word:

"All the nations you have made shall come and worship before you, O Lord, and shall glorify your name."
Psalm 86:9

- Ask the Lord to transform the city of Bukhara into a place where people come to study the Word, worship Jesus Christ, and proclaim the gospel so that all will glorify His name.
- Pray for isolated believers and the underground church to persevere in the face of persecution and testify to the truth with boldness.
- Pray for Tajiks, an under-represented population in the city, and ask God to call forth a Tajik church that honours their unique cultural heritage and adds beauty to the Kingdom.

Learn More

Na'im insists that everyone needs to hear the truth, even if telling them puts him at risk. Read his story:

<https://frontiersusa.org/blog/courageous-man/>

Saturday 17th April

DAY 5 SARAJEVO, The Jerusalem of Europe in Bosnia

Pop: Approx. 343,000

Sarajevo has long been a religiously and culturally diverse city. Catholic cathedrals, Orthodox churches, synagogues and mosques all stand within steps of each other, lending it the nickname the Jerusalem of Europe.

The Bosnian War of the 1990s dramatically altered the ethnic and religious makeup of the city. Today the population is predominantly Bosniak Muslim.

The city is vibrant and growing quickly. But it still bears decades-old scars of a violent four-year siege that displaced hundreds of thousands of people during the Bosnian War.



Hope from God's Word:

"But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city." Hebrews 11:16

- Pray that Muslims in Sarajevo will be drawn to Jesus Christ, embrace Him as Lord, and invite others to seek citizenship in His heavenly city.
- Pray for God to raise up followers of Christ who will pave the way for repentance, reconciliation and restored trust between communities divided by ethnic cleansing.
- Ask the Lord to give creativity and vision to workers as they engage the people of Sarajevo with the gospel and build a diverse and unified community of believers.

Learn More

A crossroads of cultures and a bridge between continents, this region of mountains and seas has held strategic importance throughout ages of empires, conquests and ethnic divides. Discover more about the Balkan region: <https://frontiersusa.org/regions/turkey-balkans>