

Email

Dear Friend,

For the last two weeks we have been praying over conflict zones we feel particularly drawn to intercede for and which we prayed for in our last Pray Now Live in October, and this week we will pray for Libya. Our next Pray Now Live event will be on Thursday 3rd March at 8pm over Zoom, and you can book tickets for free on the following link: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/244081122207>

Libya is one of today's most hostile conflict zones and for many it is synonymous with the 42-year dictatorship of Muammar Gaddafi, whose rule involved brutal civil rights violation and the suppression of traditional Berber culture. However, there is a lot more to Libya than its recent history, and it has a rich and beautiful heritage.

There are very few believers in Libya but in recent years numbers have begun to increase and we want to pray for God's Kingdom to be established in that place.

May God mightily bless you this year and encourage you as you pray and intercede.

For His Glory in the Nations,

Alice
Prayer Coordinator

Monday 24th January

Let's watch this Prayer Cast video to introduce us to Libya, praying along:

<https://www.prayercast.com/libya.html>

Libya has a population of 6.4 million people, of which 96.6% are Muslim. A small percentage are Christian, but these are mostly migrant believers. There are some vibrant Filipino and Sub-Saharan African churches in Tripoli but only a few are intentionally witnessing to those around them. The number of Libyan believers is tiny, estimated at around 150 worldwide. There is no cohesion amongst the few who live in-country. Fear keeps them from meeting together as churches, so they are extremely isolated.

Despite this, there appears to be a growing spiritual openness in Libya. More gospel growth has happened over the last ten years than the previous one hundred, with people coming to faith gradually in ones and twos. In 2001 there were estimated to be no more than a handful of Libyan Christians, so God is clearly on the move. There is lots of work that still needs to be done and several factors preventing the church from growing faster. People are hungry for the word and will download resources about Jesus but won't meet to talk with anyone further, out of fear. Scripture is not currently available in Libyan Arabic or the Berber dialect. Translation work is underway, but the standard Arabic version is used in the meantime. There is also a need for more gospel workers, particularly outside of the capital city.

- We pray for Libyans to know the peace that the Lord gives us in spite of turbulent earthly circumstances.
- We pray that a movement of the Holy Spirit would sweep across this land and bring many to know the rise Jesus for themselves.
- We pray that there would be ways for gospel workers to reach Libyans with the Good News.

Tuesday 25th January



Libyan society is layered with a fascinating history of conquests on top of its Berber roots. Ancient Phoenicians put the country on the biblical map (Simon of Cyrene and his sons were from Libya), and in fact Libya is found in the Bible in Genesis 10:13 – originally called Lehabim. This was followed by occupation by the Greeks, Romans, Arabs, Ottomans and more recently the Italians, before independence in 1951. In fact, Libya used to be known as ‘Italian North Africa’ from 1912-1927. The result is a country strewn with ancient ruins, a people who are deeply Islamic and who quietly enjoy Italian café culture in daily life.

It is extremely difficult to obtain visas for Libya so very few visitors have been able to appreciate the kind hospitality of the people there. This is particularly poignant as Libyans have ranked consistently alongside Iraqis as the world’s most generous people towards strangers. They are known to be full of joy, despite their suffering, and take time to enjoy each other’s company. Mostly prepared by women, Libyan tea is very thick as a result of mixing a lot of tea leaves and a high sugar concentration. Once the two ingredients are mixed and an appropriate amount of water is added, the tea boils for 20 to 30 minutes. When the tea is ready, it is served in small glasses accompanied by sumak and khobza which are Libyan favourite bites. Picnicking also happens a lot, family meals are made much of, and men often take trips into the desert to camp and hunt together.

- May the people of Libya know that God has not forgotten His people; He remembered them in Genesis, and He remembers them now.
- We pray that many may hear stories of Jesus’ hospitality and be stirred in their hearts with the love of Christ.
- May they know that their identity is in Christ, despite a Libyan history of land changing hands multiple times, their roots in Christ cannot be shaken.

Wednesday 26th January

Refugees and Risk



Due to its location along the Mediterranean Sea, Libya has become a through-route to Europe for refugees escaping conflict and poverty in other African countries. It is a dangerous and difficult transit point as they are often mistreated, detained in centres, and trafficked. Many are caught trying to make the treacherous sea crossing to Italy.

As a result of corruption and Libya's own political struggles foreign aid is often abused. Although the Libyan dictator Muammar Gaddafi was ousted and killed in 2011, the resulting power vacuum resulted in a civil war which is still ongoing and underpinning the instability of the country today. It is a complicated affair involving three factions battling for control, each backed by international stakeholders with their own vested interests. Prayer is essential for seeing change, and particularly prayer for fair and peaceful leadership to unify the country.

- Pray for an end to the civil war in Libya. Ask for peaceful, stable leadership which will unite the country and rebuild it for the good of the people.
- We ask the Lord to draw close to those who have been affected by war. Pray especially for the many children suffering with post-traumatic stress disorder and ask that God would open doors for ministry to them.
- Lord, we pray for miraculous change in the leadership of Libya. We pray for just and fair leadership.
- We pray for confidence among Libyan believers, to know that they are “more than conquerors through him who loved us” (Romans 8:37) and that they need not be afraid when they walk with the Lord.

Thursday 27th January

If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.

2 Chronicles 7:14



I am reminded of this verse when I think of Libya. This is a verse in the context of God showing his perfect love but also his perfect justice upon the land for Israel. When we approach the current situation of Libya, we know that it is the same God who sent Jesus to die for us on the cross who promised, thousands of years earlier, that He would bring healing to the land, in spite of knowing all that we would do to continue to bring the destruction of sin over His perfect creation. He is always faithful. Let us remember our Heavenly perspective when we look upon the disasters, crises, and pain in the world today. Let us remember that “since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ” (Romans 5:1), and “we also glory in our sufferings” (Romans 5:3). Let us declare a defiant hope over this land, as “hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit” (Romans 5:5).

- Lord, we pray that we would not give up hope, or give up praying for the country of Libya. We pray that you would raise up perseverant prayer warriors to bring the light of Your kingdom into this place.
- Lord, we thank you that the hope that you give us will never put us to shame. You are the Alpha and Omega. You have your sovereign hand over Libya.
- Father, we ask for Libyans to hear this verse from Chronicles and know for themselves your perfect love and perfect justice.

Friday 28th January



People from Libya often ask how you are by literally enquiring “how’s the atmosphere?”. The song by Rend Collective ‘Build Your Kingdom Here’ dreams of God’s kingdom being established on Earth and includes:

‘Build Your kingdom here
Let the darkness fear
Show Your mighty hand
Heal our streets and land
Set Your church on fire
Win this nation back
Change the atmosphere
Build Your kingdom here
We pray.’

You can listen to the whole song here:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sbdJXKqVgtg&ab_channel=RendCollective

- Pray that the atmosphere in Libya changes and that people’s hearts and minds are turned towards Jesus.
- Pray that many intercessors arise to pray for this nation.
- Pray that many from this nation come into the kingdom

Saturday 29th January

Let us dream big! Ask that God would start a movement in Libya, of thousands of small gatherings following, obeying, and sharing Jesus. This nation is mentioned at the end of the book of Isaiah as part of God's plan for the nations. Ask that God's kingdom comes and His will is done!

"And I, because of what they have planned and done, am about to come and gather the people of all nations and languages, and they will come and see my glory.

I will set a sign among them, and I will send some of those who survive to the nations—to Tarshish, to the Libyans and Lydians (famous as archers), to Tubal and Greece, and to the distant islands that have not heard of my fame or seen my glory. They will proclaim my glory among the nations."

Isaiah 66: 18-19

- Pray that many will be sent from across the world to Libya.
- Pray that Libyans would proclaim God's glory among the nations.
- Pray for thousands of small gatherings of Jesus followers to start across Libya.