

Monday 4th January

Survey results

Thank you to everyone who took part in our survey. We were greatly encouraged by the replies. 72% said they thought the content of our weekly guides was excellent, 25% said it was very good and 3% said it was good. This gives us a rating of 100% who think our guides are good or better!

94% of respondents said that the length of the guides was about right, as were the number of prayer points. Almost half read the guides weekly, while 31% read them every day. The favourite topics you like to read and pray about are testimonies and stories from workers. For the rest of this week, we will be sharing inspiring stories from the field.

Some topics suggested for inclusion are the persecution, hardships and suffering of Muslim background believers, as well as more testimonies about them. We will try to include these and some of the other suggestions throughout the coming year, including more about the work of Frontiers.

We have produced a new six-day guide called 'About Frontiers' that explains who we are and what we do. We will be publishing it next week as our weekly prayer guide.

'About Frontiers' was written for new subscribers to our weekly guides to introduce them to our organisation and the format of our usual weekly guides. Our hope and prayer this year is for more people to sign up to read our guides, to raise up more prayer for the Muslim world.

When asked how likely you were to recommend our guide to friends, 90% said they were very likely to do so. Could you think of 1-5 people who may be interested in reading it themselves or in promoting it within their church or organisation to mobilise others to subscribe that you could send it to?

If there is anyone you think might like to receive our emails, they can contact us at: info@frontiers.org.uk or you can ask us to contact them.

- We thank God for each of you and your prayerful support for the Muslim world.
- We pray that you will be blessed, equipped and inspired as you pray.
- Please join us in praying that this year we will see more people signing up to pray through our weekly guides.
- Perhaps take a moment to ask God if there is someone you can ask to receive 'Pray Now'.

Tuesday 5th January

Lord of all Peoples

The following story is from Frontiers workers in West Africa:

A young Fulani man wearing a purple robe and carrying a shepherd's staff sat down on the carpet. He had heard bits and pieces about following Jesus over the preceding several months from different friends, but he wanted to know more. I sat in the corner of a room full of Fulani followers of Jesus wondering how they would unpack the story of the gospel to this guest.

Each of the eight men took it in turn to share the good news in their own words.

“We were born into our former religion. We didn’t choose it. It was just what we found ourselves in. It told us how to pray, how to live, that we were slaves. It oppressed us. It told us our people would never be good enough. That we can only reach God by speaking in another language and becoming another people, that there was no sure way to God. But they were wrong. They changed our story. You see, this is where our story began,” the man said as he held up the Bible.

“Our story began with a God who created mankind in his image. It began with a God who created all peoples to glorify Him in their unique way. It began with a God who, when we had fallen away and were slaves to sin, came to earth to set us free from sin and redeem us to Himself forever. God always intended for the Fulani people to come to Him through Jesus. To follow His law and walk in His holiness. God always intended for our people to uniquely worship Him in our Fulani way, that the Fulani people would mirror His image and be a display of His glory on the earth. That the Fulani would be worshippers of God and praise Him in our own tongue. This is our story.”

After hearing this, the young man believed and was baptised.

God continues to call Fulani around us back to their real story – His story for them which began at creation, and through faith in Christ will continue for eternity. It’s a critical time for the Fulani as they grow discontent with the ‘yoke’ they have carried for so many years. It seems they are at a crossroads. Many are searching. Some are turning to extremism in our wider region (Boko Haram), some to apathy and others to Jesus.

- Let’s take a moment to thank God for how He is working among the Fulani, revealing Himself to them and setting them free to live in holiness as children of God.
- Pray for the searching Fulani people to find their true identity in being Fulani worshippers of Jesus!
- The Fulani have a poor reputation with the other people groups they live amongst; for fighting, looting and murdering. Let’s pray for the Fulani people to mirror God’s image and display His glory on the earth.

Wednesday 6th January

Hope for the Future in a Little Boy’s Heart

This story is from a Frontiers worker in the Middle East:

I sat on the floor, dipping dates in tahini and admiring a round-faced baby girl cradled in the arms of her mother, Hasana. Hasana’s 3-year-old son, Uday, raced around the room. Round and round and round he ran, as his grandmother scolded him and tried to catch him. Uday ran into the next room and brought back some tools.

“Wow, show me what you’ve got,” I said to Uday, trying to acknowledge him. But the boy hardly stopped to hear me. He ran outside and moments later appeared in the doorway with his little bike, ready to ride in splendour into the living room. More scolding ensued. But by now, I had figured out what was going on.

excused myself from the room and followed Uday into the courtyard. "Show me what you can do," I said to Uday. Gleefully he took off on his bike. I shouted and clapped as he rode in circles in the



courtyard. He went around to the back of the house and I thought he was gone. But no, he came back for some more applause!

Uday wanted my attention. That was all. He knew that I was a special guest of his parents, and to get in on the glory, he needed to steal part of the show. Yet more than five years ago, when Uday's father sat in my English class and invited me to his home to meet his new wife, this little boy was still an unfulfilled prayer in his parents' hearts.

Now Uday is starting preschool and has a baby sister. And there's still a place for me in their home. Watching my local friends' children grow up in front of me can make me feel old. But it also keeps the future in front of me. My hope is that the seeds of the gospel that have been sown in this home bear the fruit of faith in Uday's heart and in his entire family.

- Let's thank God for field workers who have been welcomed into the lives and homes of Muslim families.
- Pray that the witness of Frontiers workers will open Muslims' eyes to see Jesus and soften their hearts to the gospel.
- Ask the Lord to prepare children like Uday and youth in Muslim countries to receive the good news and grow into faithful disciples of Christ.

Source: <https://frontiersusa.org/blog/little-boys-heart/>

Thursday 7th January

The healing power of Jesus

"The Father is always at work." John 15:7

This story is from a colleague who works with a team in North Africa who have witnessed individual lives being transformed as well as whole communities:

"For the past few years, I have worked with a team that has trained local Christian and Muslim followers of Jesus to go out two-by-two into remote villages to share the good news. This is Fatima's story.

Fatima had been crippled for about 5 years. She was only able to leave her room and go outside with the help of her family. One day she heard a loud voice - it was one of the believers praying. She was shocked to see her leg not only grow in length, but to heal. She was utterly amazed and so thankful but was too afraid to tell her neighbours how it had happened.

The following week the believers came to her village again and began praying. Fatima went to them and asked them if she too could believe in the same way they did. They were surprised and asked her why she felt this way. She explained what had happened to her the previous week when they had come to the village and prayed. She told them that if she too could have their faith and pray with them, then their God might heal her completely.

The local believers praised God for what he had already done and then prayed for her complete healing. Her hands and her back were then healed! She was so thankful for what God had done for her, that she took a step of faith and has recently been baptised!

I have now heard of 58 others being trained and sent out and of 144 Muslims being baptised. Many of these new followers of Jesus responded when they experienced the healing power of God. What started as a small trickle of Muslims coming to Jesus is now beginning to multiply. Our God who heals is the same yesterday, today and forever!"

- Let's take a moment to thank God for His grace and mercy and that, while we were still sinners, He sought us out and redeemed us.
- Pray for Fatima and all new believers in this region, that they would boldly proclaim what God has done for them, and in turn pray for others to be set free.
- Pray for protection and wisdom for our workers and all believers who work tirelessly to share the good news and see lives transformed.

Friday 8th January

The Fat on Our Cheeks

The following story is from a Frontiers worker in South Asia:

Naheed is a widowed mother struggling to provide for her four children. She's also one of three Muslim-background believers leading a growing movement of faith that includes more than 120 baptised followers of Jesus.

Until a few years ago, there were no known efforts to reach Naheed's people with the gospel. Then Fernando and Katrina felt God calling their family to the Muslim world. They joined Frontiers, recruited a team, and moved to an area of South Asia that is home to five different Muslim people groups. Theirs is the only team focused on reaching Naheed's people group of eight million Muslims.

Naheed was the first person Katrina led to faith. As a new believer, Naheed sought to put every lesson she learned from the Word into practice immediately. Soon, she was introducing people to Christ and leading several Bible study groups. But Katrina saw how Naheed struggled to provide for her children. The family lived in absolute poverty. Wanting to help without creating dependency, the team invited the new followers of Jesus into Bible studies about caring for the poor. The team prayed for Muslim-background disciples to see desperate situations like Naheed's as opportunities to meet needs and respond according to God's Word.

“You’re leading several Bible studies, and they’re growing and multiplying,” Katrina said to Naheed after some time. “I can see so much joy in your life. But has there been any difference in your financial situation since you began following Christ?”



Naheed smiled as she pinched her own cheek. “Look here,” she said. “You can see there is something more than just skin between my fingers.” She continued, “When we meet in our groups, we have people sharing about their needs, and we ask who can help meet this need—just as you showed us. When I share that my children have no food that day, then someone in the group says, ‘I will share what I have with you.’ When I have more another day, then I share it with them. So now we all have a little bit of fat on our cheeks.”

Praise God! As the Kingdom advances in the region, new believers are finding salvation for their souls and displaying in practical ways the love of Jesus!”

- Pray for more people in Naheed’s community to read the Bible and turn to Jesus Christ.
- Pray that Muslim-background believers will grow in love and unity as they live according to God’s Word.
- Ask the Lord to send more gospel messengers to bring spiritual and physical transformation to Muslim people groups.

Source: <https://frontiersusa.org/blog/fat-on-our-cheeks/>

Saturday 9th January

Peace to Heal a Family Feud

Our final story is from a worker in the Central Asia and Caucasus region:

“Kanita lost almost everything after her cousin turned on her. What started out as an argument between them got out of control, pitting one side of the family against the other. In the fallout, a cousin laid claim to Kanita’s house—the home where both their mothers had been born. Rallying the support of extended family members, she forced Kanita and her 20-year-old daughter, Aylin, out of the home.

Homeless and struggling to find work, Kanita and Aylin sought refuge in a neighbouring country. As poor immigrants, they worked in several different jobs and skimped on meals to save as much as they could to go back to their country. After 10 years, a kind employer gave them a generous gift to help them return home. Once there they found much had changed. The economy was stronger, and Kanita and Aylin easily found work. They were also surprised to discover that several people they knew now followed Jesus.

“Isn’t being a Muslim good enough?” Kanita asked Nafiset, a friend who had become a follower of Jesus. Nafiset replied that whatever Islam offered, it didn’t compare to the peace of knowing Christ.

“Islam is all about peace,” Kanita insisted. But as soon as she said it, she realised it had been years since she’d felt anything but anger and disappointment. Islam had given her no comfort and no hope. Peace had always eluded her.

“How did you first hear about Jesus?” Kanita asked her friend. Nafiset explained that some years earlier, she had started studying the Word with a couple of Frontiers workers who introduced her to Christ, nurtured her faith, and helped her start a Bible study with her friends and family. It grew and multiplied as more people joined to learn about Jesus.

Kanita and Aylin joined one of the Bible studies and started reading the Word regularly. After some weeks, they both committed to follow Jesus and began sharing the gospel with others. Several of their friends and neighbours also embraced Jesus as Lord and Saviour through their witness.



For the first time, Kanita felt hopeful about her future. She knew Christ had forgiven her. But she still struggled to forgive her cousin. The anger weighed Kanita down, and she felt powerless to let go. Then at a Bible study, she read Jesus’ command about loving others. If you love those who love you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. (Luke 6:32)

Kanita could see that God had shown her, a sinner, great mercy. But up until then, she had refused to extend His love and mercy to the people who had hurt her. Kanita decided it was time to reconcile with her family. After all, they were just like her—sinners in need of grace. So she and Aylin made a list of ten family members they no longer spoke to. The next day they visited each estranged family member, beginning with the one who had taken their home.

Sitting in her former living room, Kanita told her cousin how angry she had been and how difficult her life was after being kicked out of the home. “I wish things had turned out differently back then,” Kanita continued. “But I want you to know that I forgive you—just as Jesus Christ has forgiven me, a sinner.” Kanita asked if they could start visiting each other again. Her cousin tearfully embraced her and said they would always be welcome.

As she left her cousin’s house, Kanita felt an unexpected joy fill her heart. She and Aylin spent the rest of the day going from one relative’s home to another. Fuelled by the joy of reconciliation, they were practically running to their final visits.

“Nothing compares to the peace that Jesus gives,” Kanita shared. “There’s no joy that compares to following Him.”

Since making peace with their family members, Kanita and Aylin have shared the gospel with each one. Many relatives have started studying the Bible and several are now disciples of Christ.

- Let’s take a moment to praise God for drawing entire Muslim families to Himself.

- Pray that Muslims will read the Word and discover that through Christ they can be forgiven and can forgive others.
- Pray for more teams of long-term workers to boldly share the message of the gospel with families.
- Ask the Lord to multiply Bible studies and Christ-centred fellowships in Muslim communities.