

Email

Dear Friend,

This week we will be praying for the Middle East Region and specifically for the teams of workers located there. We will be praying for them across six areas of life and ministry that we hope all of our field members are strong in, however they do not gain capacity in these areas if we do not support them in prayer. Please join with us as we pray for these dear fellow workers that they would be strong and effective in the Lord and well equipped for the work that God has called them too.

We would also like to invite you to join us for Pray Now Live on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> April 8-9.30pm. We are back on zoom and we will have workers from the Middle East and Central Asia joining us to share stories of what God is doing in their midst as they seek to reach communities of Muslims with the gospel. We will also hear from one of the teams we previously prayed for. They were coaching a small group of believers which has now grown to over a thousand people.

Click the link below to book: <https://geni.us/praynowlive>

May God bless you as you pray and intercede this week.

For His glory in the nations,

Charlotte and Richard

Prayer Mobilisation Team

**Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April**

### **Rooted and Abiding**

Workers across the Muslim world need to be strongly rooted in their faith, and nowhere is this more true than in the Middle East.

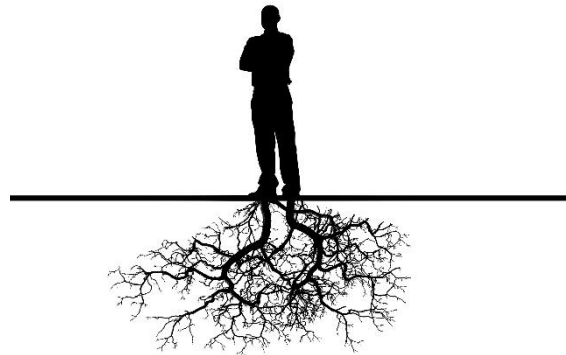
Workers therefore need to cultivate good habits and rhythms of life. Simply put these include habits that promote time abiding in Christ, using ancient practices like Lectio Divina, Biblical meditation, stillness with God, and Examen Prayer, to name just a few. All of these contribute to healthy spiritual rhythms and help us to retain a God-centeredness in our everyday life.

Another aspect of being rooted and abiding is the recognition that suffering and persecution are an expected part of the Christian life. As we root ourselves in Christ we can expect opposition, either explicitly or implicitly, from the world around us. Understanding that our physical or even our emotional circumstances do not determine our identity in God is key to enduring this opposition. He loves us and walks through our suffering with us.

### **Prayer**

- Pray that our workers throughout the Middle East will spend the time they need each day to rest in Jesus's presence.
- Pray that they will live and work from a position of deep connectedness to Jesus that sustains them throughout each day.
- Pray that this rootedness will be visible to all of those around, demonstrating Christ to the communities around them.

For more information see  
<https://www.frontiers.org.uk/latest/pray-now.php>



**Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> April**

### **Restored and Christlike**

As we live and serve across the Muslim world it is very easy to see the brokenness and need for Jesus in the world around us. It is easy to point the finger, but we often forget that we too are recipients of grace, and that God is restoring us into the likeness of Christ too.

Jesus calls us, whether we are overseas workers, church members in the UK, or Muslims in the Middle East to live such that we be all that we were created to be.

We are called to thrive, developing healthy rhythms of rest, work, play, family, and community. We are called to be full of grace, extending it to everyone around us. We are called to a deep realisation of who we are, our identity in Christ. We are called to healthy singleness and to healthy marriages. We are called to nurture healthy children, and all of these things are part of living restored, Christlike lives.

### **Prayer**

- Pray for workers across the Middle East region, that they would thrive in the places where God has placed them.
- Pray that they would find their identity in Christ, not in their calling, not in their work, but simply in who they are in Christ.
- Pray particularly for workers who are healthy in their marriages and who are healthy in their singleness.
- Pray that in their thriving workers across the Middle East would reflect Jesus to those they live amongst

For more information see

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**Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> April**

### **Aware of context and identity**

The sort of cross-cultural work that our workers are engaged in throughout the Muslim world requires a real sensitivity to the cultures that we are guests within.

A key aspect of this is understanding why identity matters. The people we live and work amongst often see the west as corrupted, or as an imperial power, and want no part of either. Faith in Jesus is then seen as a western religion with an implicit expectation that following Jesus means giving up your own cultural identity to become 'western'. Whatever 'western' means it usually has negative connotations, and ultimately means being seen as a traitor to your culture and tribe of birth. Understanding the local nuances of this is key for Frontiers workers as they invite our Muslim brothers and sisters to meet Jesus.

It is also then important to understand what a community of Jesus followers might look like within a given culture and location. In some places it will be OK to look more western, but in many places groups of Jesus followers will build a community that, in the appearance of its worship, sits somewhere between a more western approach and their Islamic culture. Religious books will be treated with more physical respect than in the west, and prayer and worship might look more Islamic than western.

Finally, how we invite our Muslim friends to follow Jesus will vary depending on their cultural background too. Do we start with the person of Jesus in the pages of the Quran? Or do we work through the prophets of the OT before eventually meeting Jesus? And what of questions that are often hard to deal with (e.g. Is the Bible corrupted? Is Jesus God? And, Do we believe in three Gods?)? How we deal with these questions, and even which questions we will have to deal with, will vary from place to place and culture to culture.



Knowing which questions are being asked locally is key in deciding how to introduce them to Jesus.

### **Prayer**

- Pray that workers moving to the Middle East will understand their need to take off their 'western-ness' and become incarnate in the local culture.
- Please pray that local Muslim Background Believers would be released to establish worship of Jesus in ways that reflect and honour the local culture AND Jesus.
- Pray that our workers in the Middle East would find appropriate ways to introduce their friends and neighbours to the person of Jesus, so that they too can fall in love with Him.

For more information see

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**Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> April**

### **Spiritual community and partnership**

Life in a Frontiers team is often intense. Teams often live in close relationship to one another, supporting each other in day-to-day needs, and with spiritual support too. We often describe our worldwide community as an Apostolic Spiritual Community, and this starts in our teams in the places that we serve. As our teams pray and worship together in and for the places they serve they grow in spiritual maturity and community together.

This is not to say that building and maintaining healthy teams is easy. Healthy team is something that requires significant work on both the part of the team leaders and the team members, as well as pastoral care and support from our sending communities.

Healthy team also requires that the organisational structures that support the team work well too. Each team leader should be accountable to others within the organisation, both for the work and progress of the team's vision, and for the good functioning of the team relationships.

Inevitably in a cross-cultural organisation like Frontiers there are misunderstandings and disagreements and so it is especially important that there are clear routes for making peace when individuals fall out.

### **Prayer**

- Pray for teams throughout the Middle East region that they would enjoy close spiritual community with each other and that they would grow in Jesus together.
- Pray for team leaders as they lead their teams. Pray for wisdom and discernment as they lead, and for Godly oversight of their leadership.
- Pray for excellent peace-making across the teams of the Middle East.



Pray that individuals would keep short accounts of wrongs and be quick to both forgive and ask for forgiveness.

For more information see

<https://www.frontiers.org.uk/latest/pray-now.php>

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> April

### Language and Culture

As cross-cultural teams working in the Middle East learning the local language is a key task in the first years of life in the place of ministry. The main language across the region is Arabic, however this is not just one language, but a smorgasbord of dialects. As a result learning to speak a local dialect is a very different proposition to learning the standard Arabic used for written communication and requires new workers to actively pursue language learning.

In the first instance we learn language so that we can go shopping, visit the bank and sort out the bureaucratic challenges that attend life in a different country, but eventually we want something more. It is said that in learning a new language the pupil also learns a new culture, and maybe a new personality too. As new team members learn the local language, they also begin to learn about the new culture, and through the language and culture begin to find ways of connecting with local people in their mother tongue or heart language.

In a culture that values hospitality so highly, it then becomes possible to use newly acquired language to speak blessings over people, to pray over a meal, to pray for healing, to share scripture, and eventually to coach and mentor new followers of Jesus too.

### Prayer

- Pray for new team members in the Middle East region as they learn the local dialect Arabic and/or one of the other regional languages. Pray that language learning would be an enjoyable process of growth rather than a chore.
- Pray that as new team members learn language they would also learn to understand the local culture too. Pray



for insight and discernment as they become familiar with the local people and their culture.

- Pray that learning local language dialects will allow new team members to speak into the hearts of local people in a way that simply learning a trade language will not.

For more information see

<https://www.frontiers.org.uk/latest/pray-now.php>

**Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> April**

### **Movements**

Frontiers teams exist to lovingly invite the people that we live and work amongst to meet and know Jesus. Our hope is that some of the people we meet will be men or women of peace, open to Jesus, and open to sharing Jesus within their family and neighbourhood networks too. The idea is that it is not foreigners sharing Jesus, but locals meeting Jesus, and then sharing him in their turn.

This dynamic of sharing is an important one that, as communities of Jesus followers, is an important part of their DNA. Unless people share Jesus, the transformation that comes from knowing him will not happen, and it certainly will not happen across whole communities.

For this to happen teams in the Middle East need a solid foundation in prayer and worship, and in intercessory prayer. In many places where this has happened and is continuing, strategies for reaching into the local community are one result of the what is being called 'strategic prayer'.

Another aspect of this is prayer for signs and wonders. In many of the regions where our teams work, we hear accounts of dreams where the 'man in white' has appeared to the dreamer, revealing himself as Jesus, ultimately leading to lives of following Him. Prayer for more of these dreams and more encounters with those who have dreamed them are also part of team life too.

### **Prayer**

- Pray that many teams in the Middle East would have the opportunity to lovingly invite the people of the Middle East to love and follow Jesus
- Pray that teams throughout the Middle East would press into prayer, building on existing momentum in prayer, to release Jesus filled and



centred outreach strategies into the Middle East region.

- Pray too for more encounters across the Middle East with the 'Man in White'. That lives would be changed and nations saved.

For more information see

<https://www.frontiers.org.uk/latest/pray-now.php>