

Email

Dear Friend,

This week we are praying for the Middle East region again, which we have defined as the countries of Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Israel/Palestine, Saudi Arabia, Yemen and the Gulf States. As the birthplace of Islam, the Middle East is the spiritual heartland for Muslims across the globe and we will be praying for various countries and people groups.

We would also like to remind you to book tickets to join us for Pray Now Live on Monday 29th 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>

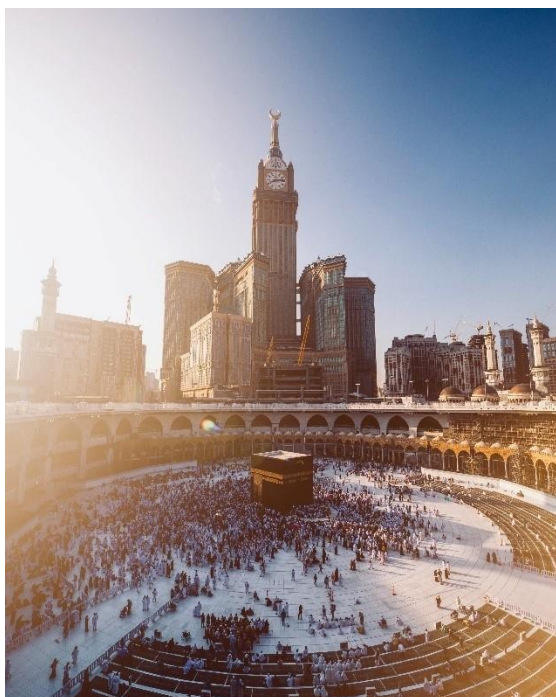
May God bless you as you pray and intercede this week.

For His glory in the nations,

Charlotte and Richard

Prayer Mobilisation Team

Monday 22nd April



The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has a rich history steeped in desert culture. For thousands of years, the Saudis have thrived in the heat and expanse of the Saudi desert. That desert life was forever altered about 70 years ago when 25% of the world's oil reserves were found beneath the sand. This oil has allowed the Saud family to rule the country through the years.

Mecca is located in Saudi Arabia. Its importance for Muslims dates back to the year 570 when the prophet Mohammed (the founder of Islam) was born there. Muslims worldwide are commanded to face Mecca five times a day to pray toward the spiritual centre of Islam. They pray acknowledging there is only one God and Mohammed is his prophet. One of the key tenets of Islam is a pilgrimage, the Hajj, to Mecca at least once in a Muslim's life. Approximately two million Muslims from Saudi Arabia and around the world arrive there annually for the Hajj.

As the homeland of Islam, anything that affects Saudi Arabia potentially affects the whole of the Muslim world. In the past, the Saudi family had succeeded in recycling the oil wealth through the economy to please the masses, providing a comfortable life for most. Since the Gulf War normal people are finding themselves less and less advantaged as their population swells. This is a slow boiling pot politically which could explode at some point in the future.

The Saudi population is, by government statistics, 100% Muslim. There are few local Christians among the Saudis. While there are many foreign Christians living and working in Saudi Arabia, churches for them are not officially permitted. The Saudi government is also known to be a generous contributor to the propagation of Islam around the world.

Despite this, many Saudis are very approachable on the topic of religion. Many Saudis travel internationally, and it is quite easy to speak to them about Christ, especially when they are away from their homeland.

<https://www.pray-ap.info/saudi.html>

Prayer

- Pray for many in Saudi Arabia to come to know Jesus.
- Pray for the government to allow religious freedom.
- Pray for Saudi believers to be bold in their witness to others and for those around them to be impacted by their witness and to want to learn more about Jesus.

For more information see

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

Tuesday 23rd April

Iraq



Listen to this worship song:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HUISd7LSxAQ>

Iraq suffered great upheaval in 1991 (with the Gulf War), again in 2003 (with the 2nd Iraq War and the fall of Saddam Hussein), and yet again in 2013 with the rise of ISIS (Islamic State of Iraq and Syria). While ISIS has been greatly reduced and Iraq is less unstable, the country's future remains uncertain.

War with the West brought greater autonomy for the Kurdish area, a representative government, and some reforms in the economy, education, and healthcare. But the US invasion led to a time of violence by Islamist militants, while Sunni and Shi'a groups turned on each other.

Many deep divisions run through Iraqi society (Kurds against Arabs, Shi'as against Sunnis, secular politicians against Islamist groups). Christians and other religious minorities lack true religious freedom. They face demands for bribes, kidnapping, destruction of their property, rape, and murder. Most Muslim political leaders want to see progress, but extremist groups continue to make the country unstable.

Thank God for the virtual elimination of the Islamic State (ISIS/Da'esh) as a military force in the region. Their fighters seized partial control of Iraqi territory in summer 2014, and announced an Islamic State (covering parts of Iraq and Syria). Atrocities in the name of Islam against opponents and other ethnic and religious groups (including Christians) forced millions to flee for their lives, and brought further chaos on the region. While almost all of their territory has been retaken, the destruction and trauma they wrought remains, and their violent and brutal ideology remains a threat via the use of terrorist cells who are able to strike with little or no warning.

Prayer

- Pray for God to deliver this land from seemingly interminable conflict!
- Pray that Christians might minister life to those impacted by this evil; pray also that ISIS survivors and former ISIS fighters might encounter the Risen Jesus who forgives all sins and heals all wounds.

For more information see

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

Wednesday 24th April

The Bedouin

The Bedouin are traditionally pastoral nomadic people living in goat hair tents and migrating seasonally to secure water and good grazing conditions for their sheep, goats, and camels. Originating in the Arabian Desert, Bedouin Arabs have for centuries migrated back and forth over the lands of the Arabian Gulf and into what is now Iraq, Egypt, Palestine, Lebanon, Syria, and Jordan. These migrations have greatly reduced over the past century due to the modernization of nation-states and decades of war. Though many nomadic and semi-nomadic Bedouin remain, governments have encouraged them to settle, improving education and social welfare (and taxation!), but also weakening the Bedouin Arab tribal identities.

Bedouin culture is both idealized and diminished by traditionally settled peoples of the Middle East. On the one hand, they are held up as the ideal of traditional values of honour and hospitality, on the other hand, they are viewed as simple-minded and living in the past. This simple lifestyle is at one and the same time admired, considered a pure and unhindered lifestyle, but also rejected for its harsh and unpredictable lifestyle.

Hospitality is the most important value among Bedouin both settled and nomadic. Sweet tea is offered to visitors in abundance and often meals are served even if it is at great cost to the host. One Bedouin woman stated, "For Arabs hospitality lies at the heart of who we are. How well one treats his guests is a direct measurement of what kind of a person she or he is. Hospitality is among the most highly admired of virtues. Indeed, families judge themselves and each other according to the amount of generosity they bestow upon their guests when they entertain. Whether one's guests are relatives, friends, neighbours, or relative strangers they are welcomed into the home and to the dinner table with much the same kindness and generosity.



The Bedouin in the Arabian Peninsula have traditionally been difficult to access with the mobility of the nomadic and the remoteness of the settled making it difficult to meet them and learn their unique dialects of Bedawi Arabic. In contrast, their cousins in the Sinai Peninsula are very open to foreigners due to the economic impact tourism has on the region.

Prayer Points

- Ask God to enable access to Bedouin women. They are the keepers of the next generation and responsible for many of the traditional aspects of Bedouin life, from weaving to hospitality. Pray for female workers fluent in Arabic to be sent to these communities.
- Pray for strategic inroads into the lives of the Bedouin of the Arabian Peninsula. Pray that as the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia opens up to tourism that there would be opportunities for the Bedouin to benefit too, both economically and spiritually.
- Pray the Lord would bring dreams and visions and storytellers from afar to reveal the good news of the Kingdom of God.

For more information see

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

Thursday 25th April

Iraqi Sunni Arabs

The Sunni Arabs of Iraq make up approximately 29-34 percent of Iraq's population. Sunni Arabs dominated the country's government and economy throughout the 20th century. Following the end of Saddam Hussein's regime, the balance of power shifted. Since then, Sunnis have been trying to reclaim relevance and influence in the country, which is sharply divided by sectarian conflict.

In spite of the sectarian conflicts, there is a new voice emerging from the country's youth. Young people between the ages of 19 and 29 make up the majority of Iraq's population and they have led recent movements trying to bring together Iraqis as one people united by something deeper than the sectarian division. They are bound together by the shared loss due to decades of conflict, disappointment in lack of education and public services, high unemployment, and a struggling economy. Many are pointing back to their cultural heritage in order to reclaim unity for the future. The youth movement is ready for a new era.

Despite the fact many do not feel the youth movement has the power and influence it needs to succeed, they have the numbers to make themselves heard, and hope that the rest of the country agrees that a change is needed and will work to rebuild a better Iraq.

The earliest civilizations of ancient Mesopotamia were located between the two rivers of the Euphrates and the Tigris in modern-day Iraq. Though it was once known as the 'cradle of civilization' and the birthplace of writing and literature, today Iraq's culturally rich history is often forgotten by the outside world. It is now known as a war-torn country that has struggled to find peace. It has had little respite from war since 1914, and still today there continues to be sectarian violence.

After decades of war, the people seem beaten down and with little hope for a peaceful future. There is a sense of weariness and despair in the country and yet so many seem hungry for the



gospel. The large numbers of responses from media outreach make it difficult to follow up each individual response. The need for more labourers is great. According to reports the harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few. The country is in a period of growth and rebuilding and there are many opportunities for kingdom minded people should they choose to live and work there.

Prayer Points:

- Ask the LORD of the Harvest to send out workers into this ready harvest field.
- Ask the LORD to raise up teams with a heart for these least reached in Iraq.
- Pray for deep healing of these traumatized people through Jesus the Messiah.
- Pray for the few Iraqi cultural Christians that live in the area, that the Lord would give them strength, forgiveness, deep healing and would ignite a fire in them to reach their neighbours with the good news.

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

Friday 26th April

Syrian Arabs

Syrian Arabs are a people with an ancient and rich history dating back to the 2nd Century. They are of Levantine Semitic roots meaning they are of the original peoples of the Levant area which includes Iraq, Jordan, Palestine, Israel, and Lebanon. They adopted Levantine Arabic after they were conquered by Muslim armies in the 7th Century. They are people of great generosity and hospitality, and they are people who are hurting.

With the civil war now in its eleventh year, an estimated 11.7 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance. 6.7 million people are internally displaced. An additional 6.6 million are refugees in Lebanon, Turkey, Jordan, Iraq, Egypt, North Africa., throughout Europe and North America.

The conflict in Syria remains one of the largest humanitarian crises worldwide. Attacks on healthcare are a hallmark of the crisis. The UN estimates that nearly half of the health facilities in Syria are either partially functional or not functional at all. More than 1 in 3 schools are damaged or destroyed. Essential basic services such as health, shelter, food, education, water, and sanitation are widely lacking. More than 465,000 Syrians have been killed in the fighting, over a million injured, and over 13 million have been displaced.

Then last year there was a devastating earthquake. The U.N. reported a death toll of at least 6,000 for all of Syria, including 4,400 in the rebel-held northwest. An official has said, 'We're hoping that this number will not increase by much, but from what we are seeing ... the devastation of this earthquake is really not giving us a lot of hope that this will be the end of it.'

They noted that even before the earthquake, there were 4.1 million people in need of aid in northwest Syria, many of whom were already



displaced and have now become homeless or displaced again.

Prayer

- Pray and ask for peace in this war-torn land.
- Ask for Him to intervene and bring a stop to children being forcibly recruited by all sides to serve as soldiers, human shields, and executioners.
- Ask that He would draw the children to Himself.
- Ask for protection of Syrian refugee women and girls who are forced into exploitive marriages or prostitution in neighbouring countries, as well as displaced children who are forced into street begging.
- Pray for those who have been displaced to find Jesus as their sure foundation.
- Pray for a swift end to the civil war, and for people of peace to rise up to places of leadership.

Sources: <https://www.pbs.org>

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

Saturday 27th April

Yemeni Shia

Although the peoples of Yemen date back to ancient times, they did not become the modern nation known today until 1990 when the north and the south united forming the Republic of Yemen. However, the country has seen little peace and prosperity in its young life and has been in a state of unrest and civil war since 2011. The civil war has been a power struggle between the various tribal groups and has grown to be a proxy war for regional superpowers, with Iran backing the Houthi rebels and Saudi Arabia supporting the Hadis. These outside forces have intensified the devastation of the conflict.

35% of the 30.4 million Yemeni practice Shia Islam, found mostly in the north/northeast region. There are two different branches of Shia in Yemen, the Zaidis (aka the fivers) who have been the traditional branch in Yemen, and the Twelvers who are historically foreign to Yemen but have recently increased due to influence from Iran. These two branches were named after the number of Imams, or spiritual leaders, the group believes are historically legitimate.

The UN has stated that the situation in Yemen is the world's worst humanitarian crisis. The conflict has caused 235,000 deaths and 131,00 have been from lack of food and medical care. The war made imports, the primary source of food for Yemenis, virtually impossible. Twenty million people are in need of humanitarian aid, 5 million are on the brink of starvation, and 2.3 million children are suffering from malnutrition. 50% of the country does not have clean water, and there have been devastating outbreaks of cholera and Covid. Eighty percent of Yemenis live in poverty, and many are fleeing the country to find opportunities for survival. They are a people in great need, both physically and spiritually.



Prayer Points

- Pray and ask for peace in this war-torn land.
- Pray for relief agencies to have the resources and access to help this desperate situation.
- Ask that He would Pray for those who have been displaced to find Jesus as their sure foundation.
- Pray for a swift end to the civil war, and for people of peace to rise up to places of leadership.
- Pray for dreams and visions for the Yemeni people and for them to encounter believers to help them understand.
- Pray for the small group of Yemeni believers that the Lord would give them the strength and ability to be a light in the midst of great darkness

For more information see

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