

Monday 26th July

The Unengaged: One of the Final Frontiers in the Arabian Peninsula

Frontiers USA President Emeritus Bob Blincoe wrote an article about the need for workers to go to those people groups that remain unengaged with the gospel. He said, "To engage a Muslim people group is to go to the final frontier."



He said that Paul often talked about the final frontier. Paul wrote, *"I make it my ambition to preach the gospel, not where Christ has already been named, lest I build on someone else's foundation, but as it is written, "Those who have never been told of him will see, and those who have never heard will understand."* Romans 15:20–21

At that time, Paul was on his way to Spain—the final frontier in the first century.

Bob said he believed the final frontier today is found in Jesus' words when He said, *"This gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come"* (Matthew 24:14). This is the only place in the Bible these words are used: And then the end shall come.

There are many unengaged people groups living in the Arabian Peninsula. Last year we prayed for four Priority Peoples in Saudi Arabia and one in Yemen. Tomorrow you can listen to a Prayercast testimony from a Muslim from Saudi who became a follower of Christ. Frontiers has Priority Peoples in Kuwait, Qatar and Iraq that urgently need our prayers this week.

God says we are blessed to be a blessing to all the families of the earth and that includes Muslim families. They need God's love.

Imagine a familiar verse written with Muslims in mind: 'For God so loved Muslims that He gave His only son, that Muslims who believe in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn Muslims, but that Muslims might be saved through Christ.' John 3:16-17

- Pray for more workers to go to the final frontiers, including the Arabian Peninsula.
- Pray for openings for those called to this region and for wisdom to know where best to settle.
- Let's ask that the unreached people groups we pray for this week will be declared 'reached' next year.

Source: <https://frontiersusa.org/blog/the-unengaged-the-final-frontiers/>

Tuesday 27th July

Ahmed's story - gripped by the love of a Heavenly Father

You can listen to Ahmed's full story here: <https://prayercast.com/ahmed.html>

Ahmed grew up as a Sunni Muslim in Saudi Arabia and then moved to Oman with his family for work. He tried his hardest to be a good Muslim, but when that did not satisfy him, he pursued Sufism. He practised the rituals and kissed the doors and walls of the tombs of the Sufi saints. Even though Ahmed dedicated himself to these practices, they still did not give him the peace and assurance he was looking for. Something was still missing. Disappointed and frustrated, Ahmed turned to drugs and made other poor life choices. People did not want to be around him. Soon, only his mother and wife remained.

Then he discovered he could be free of his drug addiction if he went to a rehabilitation hospital. After 6 months there, he was recovered enough to help new addicts who arrived. He then heard about God, but it was just before he moved to Israel. There he met Jews and Palestinians who he had been taught to hate, but he realised they were just like him. He liked them both, but realised they hated each other.

A Christian friend introduced him to Jesus and told him that Jesus is the one who can give you love that you can pass on to others. Ahmed didn't really believe him, but he went to a gathering his friend had invited him to. There he began to understand for the first time that God is a father. Over time, he made a decision to give his life to Jesus and to come into a life of freedom. Now he wants others to know that God is not angry but a father who loves everyone – and that includes Palestinians, Jews and Muslims.

- Pray for many Saudis and others across the Arabian Peninsula to know, just like Ahmed, that God is a loving father.
- Pray for Ahmed as he shares the love of God with Jews and Palestinians around him who have been taught to hate each other.
- Pray for Muslims who are trying to find the truth and the assurance they are loved, to meet followers of Christ willing to share the good news.

Wednesday 28th July

Kuwait Sunni and Shia Arabs

"I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert." Isaiah 43:19

Kuwait is located between the two religious powerhouses of Iraq and Saudi Arabia. It has an abundance of oil and material wealth, as well as access to major shipping routes. Kuwait is ranked amongst the ten richest countries in the world. There the unreached Sunni and Shia Muslims live - 2 of Frontiers Priority Peoples.



Image from PxHere

Sunni Islam is the official religion of Kuwait, and 60% of ethnic Kuwaitis are Sunni Muslims. Kuwaitis themselves are descendants of nomadic tribes who settled in the area in the 1800s. However, Kuwaitis make up only a small part of the population of Kuwait, with nearly 70% of the overall population made up of immigrants. These migrant workers are often looked down upon and taken advantage of.

Approximately 30% of Kuwaiti Muslims are Shi'ites. Unlike in some other Gulf states, Shia citizens in Kuwait are well integrated into the Kuwaiti state. The government policy in Kuwait doesn't

discriminate against citizens for sectarian reasons. Because of this, Shi'ites are relatively well-treated by the government in Kuwait and are considered the most well-integrated Shia group in the entire Gulf region.

The Shia community in Kuwait has contributed significantly to the general economic development of the country. The first female minister in Kuwait is a Shia.

You might like to watch a short video about Kuwaiti Arabs here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pYMrbAVr1UI&t=1s>

Tomorrow you can listen and read a testimony from a Kuwaiti Arab.

- Christian satellite TV, radio programmes and websites are effective tools that are reaching numerous Kuwaitis. Ask that those who access the good news of Jesus in this way, would be followed up and connected to a local church.
- The underground church in Kuwait is growing in maturity and numbers. Ask for believers to be wise, bold and courageous as they share their faith with family and friends.
- Many Kuwaiti students study abroad and have met believers while there. Several have come to faith. Pray they will be integrated into groups of believers when they return to Kuwait.

Thursday 29th July

Safiya's story

"The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners;" Isa 61:1

You can listen to Safiya's full testimony of being transformed by the love of followers of Christ:

<https://prayercast.com/safiya.html>

As a child living in Kuwait, Safiya faithfully prayed, doing her best to be a good Muslim. She attended a Muslim school and went on the Hajj in Mecca with her family at the age of 8. Growing up, she and her mother were beaten by her father. She prayed for this to stop. She wanted assurance that she would go to paradise when she died. But her prayers were never answered.

One year she went on holiday to America with her family. While they were there, they heard that Saddam Hussein's forces had invaded their country. Their home was destroyed, forcing Safiya's family to stay and live in America. With Allah and many of her family distant from her, she felt lost in a foreign country. Then her beloved grandmother died, and Safiya was heartbroken. Hearing about this, a work colleague came up to her and hugged her. For the first time, Safiya felt peace. When her colleague invited her to church, Safiya went. She was clearly dressed as a Muslim, yet she was made so welcome. She heard the gospel message and wanted to know this loving God who sets the captives free.

Her work colleague gave her a Bible where she continued to read God's Word. She realised she had hated God's people and asked God to forgive her and to change her heart. She continued to read the Bible and went to church. She started to change and was filled with love and joy. She was so desperate to know a loving God, that she was willing to give up Islam and make a life-changing decision to follow Him. She decided to be baptised. Since then, God has changed her life and she wants to tell everyone that Jesus came to save them, He is merciful and has a future for them filled with hope.

- Let's thank God for Safiya's brave decision to choose life and to share that message with others.
- Pray for Safiya's family and millions more in the Arabian Peninsula to experience the unconditional love of Jesus!
- Let's thank God for Safiya's work colleague and church who pointed her to Jesus by their loving actions. Pause and ask God whether there is someone in your sphere of influence who you could encourage to come to your church or perhaps give a copy of the Bible.

Friday 30th July

Qatari Arabs

Pop: Approximately 550,000

"Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God!"" Mark 10:23

Like Kuwait, Qatar's population has more expatriates than local citizens. In fact, only 12% of the population are Qatari nationals, with expatriates making up the remainder. Qatari Arabs are another of Frontiers Priority Peoples.



Economically, Qatar has rich gas reserves but is also trying to diversify by investing heavily in research, development, finance, health, education and infrastructure. It continues to develop quickly as it prepares to host the 2022 Football World Cup.

The Al Thani family has ruled since the mid-1800s. Qatar has a mixture of civil and Islamic law. Most Qataris adhere to the strict fundamentalist beliefs of Wahhabi Islam, making Qatar the most conservative Muslim nation in the world after Saudi Arabia. While relatively

peaceful within its borders, Qatar is accused of being a major funder of terrorist organisations, which has caused some of the neighbouring Gulf states to cut ties with Qatar, even going as far forcing Qatari citizens in their countries to leave.

Due to past and present restrictions, Qataris have had very little exposure to Christian truth. Most Qataris have never met a Christian with whom they could communicate at a meaningful level. Praise God this is beginning to change.

The government has granted permission and given land for a Church Compound. This land now houses all denominations of Christian gatherings both Catholic and Protestant. The land is surrounded by state security and makes watching Christians in the country easier for the government, especially as there are fewer house churches.

To learn more about the Qatari Arabs and for more prayer fuel, you might like to watch this short video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eDXE0g2QB0k>

- Qatari nationals are given free health care, education, housing and electricity by the government. They are some of the wealthiest people on earth. Pray that the abundance of material wealth would not dull their senses to their need for God.
- Christianity is tolerated among the expatriates living in Qatar, as long as they keep their faith to themselves. Expatriates have been forced to leave the country as a result of sharing their faith. Pray that believers would have opportunities and wisdom in how to share with Qataris.
- Pray for the safety of believers as they live and practise their faith in this challenging country.
- Pray for whole families of Qataris to come to Jesus and for movements among them.

Source of some information: <https://www.pray-ap.info/qatar.html>

Saturday 31st July

Iraqi Sunni and Shia Arabs

Iraq is known as the 'cradle of civilization', with modern Iraq occupying what was once ancient Mesopotamia. However, today Iraq is remembered less for its culturally rich history, and more as a war-torn country that has struggled to find peace. Since 2003 there has been sectarian violence between Sunnis and Shi'ites in the country. These tensions continue as the Shia majority struggle to rule the Sunni and Kurdish minorities, while also dealing with extremist groups.

In contrast to Kuwait who we prayed for on Wednesday, Sunni Arabs make up only 15-20% of Iraq's population. Throughout the 20th century, Sunni Arabs dominated the country's government and economy. Under the rule of Saddam Hussein and the Ba'ath Party, Sunni Islam was the state-established religion. Saddam ruthlessly suppressed Shia opposition, and during his rule Shia religious leaders were particularly targeted and many executed. Following the end of Saddam'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.

More than 3.1 million Iraqis, the vast majority Sunni, remain displaced from their homes. Baghdad hosts over half a million internally displaced people from Sunni-majority governorates.



Iraqi Shia

Shia Muslims make up the majority of Iraq's population, with 70% of Iraqis identifying as Shia. The holy cities of Najaf and Karbala, which are pilgrimage sites for millions of Shia Muslims, are in Iraq.

On the tenth day of the first month of the Islamic calendar, Shia Muslims mourn the death of one of their most important figures. Imam Hussein, the grandson of the prophet Mohammed, was killed and his tribe massacred in Karbala by 'Sunni' Muslims. Each year, Shia Muslims gather in the streets and beat themselves in remembrance of the suffering of their

people. It has been said that Shia Muslims are in a constant state of mourning, as this theology runs deep in their religious culture.

- Most Christians have fled the country, but there is a small minority who have stayed. Ask for God to use them in mighty ways.
- Pray for peace in Iraq. After a long period of being repressed, the Shia Muslims now hold political power. Ask for wisdom for those in positions of leadership in the government.
- Ask God to raise up labourers who have the experience, as well as Arabic language skills, to serve in Iraq. Those who go will face great hardship, but also the joy of sharing Jesus with Iraqi Muslims.
- The few workers there are seeing incredible opportunities to connect with seekers face to face as a result of social media campaigns. Pray for even more opportunities, as well as more workers who speak Arabic, to help with following up seekers.