

**Monday 10th February**

**Egypt                      Pop: 100 million                      Muslim: 90%**

*"The Lord Almighty will bless them, saying, "Blessed be Egypt my people, Assyria my handiwork, and Israel my inheritance." Isaiah 19:25*

Egypt, known officially as the Arab Republic of Egypt, is part of both the African and Asian continents, covering both the northeastern part of Africa and the southwest corner of the Asian



continent. This is made possible by a land bridge formed by the Sinai Peninsula. Most of Egypt is located in Northeast Africa. Though it has a predominantly desert landscape, farms and sprawling cities line the banks of the Nile River.

Egypt is an ancient land, well known for its magnificent archaeology and antiquities, including the ancient pyramids. It has nearly 3,000 years of history that includes the Biblical story of the deliverance of the Israelites. It was an early and important centre of Christianity; it is referenced hundreds of times in the Bible from Genesis to Revelation. In the book of Isaiah God refers to Egypt as his people, calling them blessed (see above, Isaiah 19:25). The country was largely Islamised in the seventh century and it remains a majority Muslim country. The predominant religion is the Sunni branch of Islam, but there are minorities of Shia and Sufi Muslims. Of its population of over 100 million, 90% are Muslim with a significant Christian minority making up the remaining 10%.

Islam became the state religion in 1980. This makes it difficult for an Egyptian Arab to find a job after becoming a follower of Christ. When an Egyptian citizen applies for a job, he must present an identity card on which is listed whether he is Christian or Muslim. Arabs trying to change their religion from Muslim to Christian have been arrested on charges of falsifying documents. Egypt is ranked at number 16 on Open Doors' World Watch List. However, even as persecution increases, the number of Muslims turning to Christ is growing! Scripture is more accessible than ever and the Church is growing in unity despite theological differences.

You can watch a short video clip and read more about Egypt here:

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

- Many Egyptian Muslims know very little about the teachings of Christianity. Pray there will be more opportunities for them to know the truth and to be set free.
- Pray for Jesus to reveal Himself to an unprecedented number of Egyptian Muslims who would come to see Jesus Christ as the true source of salvation.
- Pray that Muslim background believers (MBBs) would stand firm in the face of persecution and allow the Holy Spirit in them to show others what Jesus can do for the faithful.

Sources: <https://prayercast.com/egypt.html>

<https://www.arabworldmedia.org/prayer-guides/breakthrough-january-2017/>

## **Tuesday 11th February**

### **Emad's testimony**

Emad is an Egyptian who is now a follower of Christ. This is his testimony as told and filmed by PrayerCast. You can listen to Emad's full testimony in a short clip at:

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

Emad was born into a Christian family. His father died when he was young and he turned away from God and decided to become an atheist when he was thirteen. No one stopped him when he smoked and drank alcohol. As he grew up, Emad was convinced that God did not exist and he passionately believed in communism. He felt it gave him licence to sin and a freedom he hadn't known. He left school and had a successful business. Coming home from work one day, he visited his sister for dinner. She had another guest who began sharing the gospel with him. But Emad was stubborn. "If Christ exists," he said, "He has to show Himself physically to me."

The guest began to pray for Emad and three miracles occurred. He forgot all the information that he had read about in atheist books; after fourteen years of smoking, drinking and taking drugs, he was able to stop and thirdly, the back pain that he had suffered for many years went away.

People noticed the change in Emad and it was clear that God was working in his life. Now he loves to share with others about the love of God and the forgiveness that Jesus offers.

- Let's pray for Emad as he shares his faith with others, that his words will have impact and as he prays for others, they too will experience miracles and freedom in their lives.
- Pray for protection for Emad and all those who share their faith with Muslims, with their Muslim families and with friends.
- Let's thank God that He continues to have mercy and works amongst Egyptian Muslims today. Pray for millions of Egyptian Muslims to follow Jesus!

## **Wednesday 12th February**

### **President el-Sisi – a leader of influence in challenging times**

Abdel Fattah el-Sisi, former defence minister and head of the army, was elected president of Egypt in May 2014. He was re-elected for a second term in March 2018. Egyptians hoped that he would bring stability to the country. Since 2013, militants linked to the Islamic State (IS) have led an insurgency, bringing widespread terror and the deaths of thousands.

President el-Sisi's approach to governing Egypt has become increasingly controversial and authoritarian. Having never been a politician, he has been running the country almost by himself. He views the Muslim Brotherhood as violent terrorists and a serious threat to Egypt's security. The army appears to act with impunity and has killed and arrested far more people in the last few years than it had under former President Mubarak. El-Sisi has cracked down on the press, silenced political opposition and leads without a political party.

Yet he is a family man and was raised in Old Cairo in a religious family from Upper Egypt. They lived in a neighborhood close to al-Azhar mosque with Jews, Muslims and Christians. He is known to be quiet, someone who listens and one who frequently quotes the Quran. He is friendly toward Christians, has rebuilt many churches destroyed by the army and the Muslim Brotherhood and publicly affirms Christians as Egyptian citizens who have vital ongoing contributions to make to the future of Egypt.

In addition to Egypt's struggling economy, a consequence of continuing political unrest, President el-Sisi also has to deal with an Islamist insurgency on its borders with Israel and Gaza.

To learn more about President el-Sisi and to pray for him, watch this Prayercast video:

<https://prayercast.com/president-el-sisi.html>

- Praise God for President el-Sisi's support of followers of Christ. Pray for his salvation and that of his entire family.
- Pray that he would be surrounded by Christian leaders who will give him wise advice on how to deal with the many issues facing the country.
- Pray that God will lead him to influence many for good which will lead to the salvation of millions of Muslims in Egypt and across the region.

Sources: <https://prayercast.com/president-el-sisi.html>

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

## Thursday 13th February

**Cairo – a strategic city in the Muslim world      Pop: 20 million      Muslims: 17.5 million**

Arab World media, an online ministry, has made certain cities their focus of monthly prayer for 2020. The first city they focussed on in January was Cairo. You can read their full article here:

<https://www.arabworldmedia.org/prayer-guides/in-this-city-cairo/>

Cairo has been the capital of Egypt for about a thousand years. Today the city is the administrative, economic, industrial, educational, religious and cultural centre of the country. It is also the political



and economic hub of the Muslim world. Over 20 million people live there and thousands more travel in each day to work or access medical and social services. The Cairo metro, one of only two in Africa, carries over a billion passengers each year. Cairo is also home to 17.5 million Muslims including thousands of refugees from different nations.

On Friday November 11 2011, 71,000 Christians of all denominations joined together in an all-night prayer gathering at a church in Cairo. It was the largest assembly of Christians in Egypt for more than a thousand

years. Christians testify to a shift in the spiritual atmosphere of the country ever since. One network of underground believers in and around Cairo now numbers in the hundreds of thousands. Though there continues to be much opposition and persecution, God is at work in Cairo and Egypt in unprecedented ways.

You can watch a Prayercast video of Cairo and read more about this city here:

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

- Let's thank God for the faithful believers in Cairo who are praying for their Muslim neighbours. May they be a source of light in how they live their lives and the joy they know in Christ be reflected to their Muslim neighbours, friends and colleagues.
- Praise God for the spiritual shift in the atmosphere in Cairo. Let's ask for a spiritual revival in this city that would impact Egypt and the neighbouring countries.
- Let's ask that the River Nile that flows through Cairo would represent God's rivers of life bringing freedom and transformation.

Sources: <https://www.arabworldmedia.org/prayer-guides/in-this-city-cairo/>  
<https://prayercast.com/cairo.html>

## **Friday 14th February**

### **Education - Al-Azhar University**

Al-Azhar University is a famous Islamic university in Cairo. Founded in 970 AD, it is one of the world's oldest universities and is associated with the Al-Azhar Mosque. The teaching there shapes the thinking and the devotion of hundreds of millions of Muslims. The Cairo-birthered Muslim Brotherhood, which has close ties with Al-Azhar, also exerts a radicalising influence among Muslims around the world. Today the university exists to promote Islam and has huge influence over Sunni Muslims in and beyond Egypt. Scholars from the university regularly issue fatwas (decrees) to individuals and groups. Future imams (prayer leaders in mosques) from nearly every Sunni Muslim-majority country are trained at Al-Azhar.

Those who study there are taught in a style that doesn't allow questioning. Those who do can be considered infidels. In a culture where community and honour are paramount, it is difficult to break free of a religion that permeates every part of life. We need to pray that there would be a shift in this thinking.

Let's praise and worship God and pray: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pkR33OsvJSs>

- Pray for those who are studying at Al-Azhar University, that their minds would be drawn to different ways of thinking and understanding.
- Pray that they would not be afraid to question, even privately, the things they are being taught.

- Let's ask that those teaching and studying there would have a revelation that Jesus is not just a prophet but the Son of God who is able to break every chain over their lives and thinking.

Sources: <https://www.arabworldmedia.org/prayer-guides/breakthrough-january-2017/>  
<https://prayercast.com/cairo.html> see

## **Saturday 15th February**

### **Mustafa's story**

The following is a true story about a seeker from East Africa. He went to Egypt where he met a Frontiers worker who told him about Jesus. This led to him becoming a follower of Christ before returning to his home country where his witness has had an amazing impact. This is Mustafa's story:

Throughout history, millions of people have had an encounter with Jesus and meeting Him has changed their lives forever.

Mustafa is one such person. Hungry for the truth, he searched for someone in his home country in East Africa to tell him about Jesus but He didn't find anyone.

Then he felt a voice in his heart saying, "Go to Egypt where you'll find someone who can tell you about Me."

In obedience, Mustafa went to Egypt. Almost immediately, he met a Frontiers worker who shared the gospel with him. He was so eager to know more about Jesus that he quickly read the entire Bible. For months, Mustafa devoured God's Word.

Mustafa had the opportunity to go to Europe or America as a refugee, but he felt Jesus calling him to go back to his home country to tell people about Him, just as he had been told. Within two years of returning, he planted five groups of followers of Jesus, some of which have now multiplied to six generations.

God has promised us in His Word that: *"The days are coming," declares the Sovereign Lord, "when I will send a famine through the land—not a famine of food or a thirst for water, but a famine of hearing the words of the Lord."* Amos 8:11.

Today, there are so many people in this part of the world who hunger to hear about Jesus.

- Praise God for the obedience and faithfulness of Mustafa. Let's pray for all who hunger and thirst for the truth in this part of the Muslim world, that they will meet someone like him who is willing to tell them about Jesus.
- We thank God for workers who bring the gospel message to Muslims who have never heard the Good News. Let's ask for more labourers to go to this part of the Muslim world, so that anyone who asks about Jesus will find someone to tell them.
- Pray that God will pour out a hunger to know Jesus in places and among Muslim people throughout this region of Africa.