

Monday 30th March

Sudan today

Pop: 43.5 million

Muslim: 90%

Since we prayed for Sudan a year ago, President Omar al-Bashir has been overthrown by the army after 30 years in power. His removal last April followed months of protests against his authoritarian rule. A power-sharing deal put a joint civilian-military government in place in September. They will rule until elections are held in December 2022. They are making efforts to try and unite the country and meet the needs of the people, especially among minority groups. Sudan's current leader is Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok.

Sudan has a history of conflict. Two rounds of north-south civil war cost the lives of 1.5 million people and a continuing conflict in the western region of Darfur has driven 2 million people from their homes and killed more than 200,000. Reconciliation and peace are desperately needed. Sudan is one of the poorest and least developed countries of the world. The majority of its inhabitants are dependent on farming and animal breeding for their livelihoods. Some are nomadic herdsmen, travelling from place to place with their herds of cattle and camels in search of better grazing lands.

Today, the majority of Sudan's inhabitants are Arab Sunni Muslims, whereas Christians comprise only 7% of the population, according to Operation World. In spite of decades of turmoil, the gospel has spread and the small Sudanese church has matured through suffering. Nevertheless, it is a reality that many Muslims in Sudan remain unreached with the gospel and many cross-cultural workers are needed. Now that the current government is more open to help from outside, there is a great opportunity for workers to go to Sudan and to bless the nation and people with the good news of Jesus.

Watch this short Prayercast video about Sudan: <https://www.prayercast.com/sudan.html>.

- Pray for leaders and authorities to move towards a more open and democratic government that allows equal rights for everyone.
- Pray this critical moment of transition opens a door for the Good News of Jesus Christ to reach millions of Sudanese who have yet to hear it!
- Please pray for workers to go there at this crucial time to bless the nation and reach them with the good news of Jesus.

Tuesday 31st March

Reaching the unreached people groups

During decades of oppression under Bashir's rule, outreach in Sudan was extremely difficult. As a result, few people know the good news of Jesus. As we read yesterday, the transitional government is more open to help from outside and today there are more visa opportunities for qualified people to enter the country. Aid agencies that were expelled in the last ten years have even been offered the opportunity to return. At the same time, organisations and individual believers are working hard to develop gospel resources for many of Sudan's remaining unreached people groups who are 'oral communities,' which means they don't use traditional methods of reading and writing to learn or communicate.

Five of Sudan's 'most influential' languages have been identified. It is hoped this will impact the highest number of people groups and influence the entire country of Sudan. One initiative focuses on a language spoken by Sudan's Beja people. The vast majority, over 90%, cannot read and write. Currently ministries are working together to translate The Jesus Film into the Beja's heart language as well as the Magdalena film and Story of Jesus for Children. Eventually the entire gospel message will be available for a people group who do not know how to read and write.

A Frontiers worker who has a heart for and has been praying for the Beja people of Sudan, advises there is a great sense of urgency to grasp this window of opportunity and to raise up workers and team leaders while the gospel has the chance to grow and thrive in Sudan. There is a growing sense of increased openness among people and a willingness and desire to find a better way.

- Ask the Lord to bless these initiatives among Sudan's unreached people groups. Pray for effective collaboration among believers, church leaders and ministries.
- Pray that the tools and resources developed will be received with interest by unreached people groups.
- Pray that, despite intense persecution over the years and difficult circumstances, Sudan's various people groups will begin to seek the Lord and find their hope in the Living God.

Source of some material: <https://www.mnnonline.org/news/amid-sudan-struggles-believers-develop-new-tools-to-reach-the-unreached/>

Wednesday 1st April

Who are the Beja people? Pop in Sudan: 2.1 million

"For a wide door for effective work has opened to me, and there are many adversaries."

1 Corinthians 16:9

Frontiers as an organisation have designated 100 people groups as priority groups for outreach this year. The Beja and Rashaida (who we will be praying for tomorrow) are two such groups in Sudan.

The Beja are a group of traditionally nomadic shepherds who are scattered across the desert region of Sudan, Egypt, and Eritrea, but who are primarily located in Sudan.



The Beja are hospitable people, always showing kindness to other clans; however, they are not necessarily friendly to strangers. They can seem aloof, withdrawn, aggressive and warlike. Only the wealthiest Beja have more than one wife. Fewer than 3% live in cities.

Illiteracy is well over 90%. 66% of school-age children do not have education of any kind. Many drop out after the first year. They live with a shortage of public services, lack of health

care and poor job opportunities. Most urban-dwelling Beja now live in shantytowns outside cities, having been attracted there by the potential of jobs in the oil industry. They lack drinking water, especially hygienic drinking water. In the north, small groups of nomads raise flocks of sheep, goats, camels and cattle. Some of the Beja have become more settled and engage in some farming, usually of sorghum. The majority continue to suffer the adverse effects of desertification, rough roads if any, decreasing rainfall and the scarcity of pastures for their animals.

There are opportunities for outreach in large cities such as Port Sudan, as well as in very rural subsistence farming and nomadic settings.

- The majority of Beja have been marginalised by the Sudanese government for decades. They feel forgotten and that they have no voice in wider society. Please pray that they will find their self-worth and identity in God.
- Pray that God would raise workers who can thrive in the remote, nomadic environment in which most Beja live.
- Pray for workers who will provide much needed resources including clean water and education, as well as providing job skills in, farming, animal husbandry and many more.
- There are local churches in Sudan that have a heart for reaching the Beja, but they need someone to partner with them. Let's ask God to raise the right people and ministries for effective partnership and outreach.

Thursday 2nd April

Rashaida Pop: 120,000

The Rashaida people are closely related to the Bedouin of Saudi Arabia and mainly live in Sudan and Eritrea. Those in Sudan live in the northeastern region of the country. There are both nomadic herders and settled landowners. Nomadic Rashaida live in tents made of goatskins. Men work as herdsmen, breeding goats, sheep and camels. Although largely illiterate, they memorise the pedigree of their animals in great detail, keeping mental records of their herds over seven or eight

generations. Their camel breeds are highly prized across the Arabian Peninsula for racing and fetch very high prices. Rashaida camels are small, stocky and a reddish colour, with a high milk yield and are especially hardy and drought resistant.



Women work in grinding grain, churning milk, tanning animal skins, weaving, making tents and making jewellery. Wool sheared from camels can be used for tents and cloth. The Rashaida maintain much of their Arab customs, and are known to live in isolated communities, preferring to live separately from other tribes. Communities tend to be made up of fifteen to thirty extended households who migrate together, headed by a prominent man whom they respect and who resolves disputes within camps and with other tribes. In recent years tensions

have emerged between tribes in the region, resulting in conflict over pasture land and water. The mechanisation of sorghum production has resulted in reduced grazing land, environmental damage and desertification.

The Rashaïda are Sunni Muslims. Islamic practices govern their worship as well as many aspects of their everyday life. Because of their nomadic lifestyle, they generally worship in family prayer houses rather than mosques. In addition to pure Islam, many Rashaïda believe in spiritual beings such as jinn and ghosts and believe certain territory to be haunted.

You can watch a short video about the Rashaïda here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TNgD2ri25us>

- Pray that the church will hear the call to love the Rashaïda and will reach out to them in a way that meets their needs.
- Pray for the Lord to reveal Himself to the Rashaïda through dreams and visions.
- Pray for God to raise up teams of people to reach the Rashaïda in a way that is effective for a nomadic people group.

Friday 3rd April

Khartoum – the capital city

"Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you. See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the Lord rises upon you and his glory appears over you." Isaiah 60:1-2

According to Crosswalk: "Community transformation happens when a culture is impacted by the presence of God. His supernatural power flows into the city and affects every level of society. Cities are filled with spiritually homeless people who don't know who they are or where they are going. There is emptiness without God and we must invite Him into our cities. Our communities are looking for identity and God's presence is our identity. We must believe that revival and transformation will affect everything. We need a sense of purpose and the authority of God in our cities. Only Jesus can change a city and a nation. Jesus told His disciples: "Without me you can do nothing."



Khartoum is the capital of Sudan. Spiritually, it is a desert place. Physically, it lies at the confluence of the Blue and White Nile rivers, where the two rivers unite to form the River Nile. It is a metropolis made up of three cities; Khartoum proper, Khartoum North or Bahri which is the third largest city in Sudan and Omdurman which is the second largest city in Sudan. The total population of the three cities combined is estimated to be over 5 million. Refugees fleeing war in the country live in poor settlements on the outskirts of the city.

With so many diverse people groups coexisting here and because it is a strategic city in Sudan, Khartoum has a significant influence in this country. Imagine if people from each unreached people group and culture became believers, who then spread the good news to their families and out to their communities!

- Only God can change a city and a nation. Let's ask God to transform Khartoum; that He will impact every person and this transformation will spread and change this nation.
- Let's ask for God's supernatural power to flow into Khartoum, bringing change to this city and then to this nation.
- Let's pray for the authority of God to rule in Khartoum and ask that righteous political leaders would recognise and serve the true needs of the nation.

Source of some material: <https://www.crosswalk.com/faith/prayer/how-to-pray-for-god-s-transforming-power-in-your-city.html>

Saturday 4th April

Pray for Syria

"May the peoples praise you, God; may all the peoples praise you. May the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you rule the peoples with equity and guide the nations of the earth. And govern the nations upon earth." Ps 67:3-4

At the beginning of the week, we mentioned that we would be praying for Syria. Once again, at the time of writing, Syria has been in the international news with the fighting in the northwest of the country around Idlib. The Assad regime forces have been staging a fierce offensive to seize this city, the last major territory in Syria still controlled by rebels and jihadists who have been trying to overthrow Syrian President Bashar al-Assad since 2011.

The opposition once controlled large parts of the country, but the Syrian army has retaken most of the territory over the past five years with the help of Russian air power and Iranian-backed militiamen. Now the army wants to 'liberate' Idlib.

It has led to the displacement of over 900,000 people since December as they have fled to the border with Turkey, but with the border there closed, people are living in desperate conditions. Turkey then lifted controls on migrants leaving for the EU at the end of February, after suffering heavy military losses. At the beginning of March a ceasefire in Idlib was announced following negotiations between Russia and Turkey who back opposing sides in the war.

Analysts and local residents have little confidence that the ceasefire will last. There seems to be no end in sight to the suffering of the Syrian people.

Let's worship and cry out for Syria and its people.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=efl5r615fdw&list=RDefl5r615fdw&start_radio=1

- Cry out for Syria that this nation will be saved and turned back to God.

- Pray for the love of Christ to transform and compel President Assad to love his people and restore his nation.
- Ask God to give the Syrian people and their leaders insight and a desire to build a future on the new and solid foundation of His Word. (Luke 6. 46-49; Ps 67.3-4).
- Let's pray for the gospel of Jesus Christ to change the heart of President Assad in accordance with 1 Timothy 2:1-3: "I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good and pleases God our Saviour."