

Monday 12th August

Introducing the UAE Pop: 9.68 million

Once a centre for piracy, this area was known as the Pirate Coast before being subdued by British forces. It became a British protectorate in the 19th century and remained so until independence in 1971.

Today, the UAE is a federation of seven states, called emirates, ruled by tribal chiefs called Sheiks or



Emirs. The largest and richest of the emirates are Abu Dhabi and Dubai with significant oil and gas reserves. Dubai is the commercial hub of the Gulf with the major port of Jebel Ali at its centre. Expo2020 will be held in Dubai in 2020. This is a global event when millions from around the world will visit the country and over 133 nations will participate.

The development of the oil and financial industries in the UAE has brought fabulous wealth and rapid modernisation. There have been huge amounts spent on development to diversify the economy into commercial, IT, industrial and entertainment areas. Millions of expatriates have come from around the world to work

there – a staggering 85% of the population is made up of expats, with UAE nationals making up only 15% of the total population.

As with the rest of the region, Islam is the state religion. Religious tolerance is granted to Christians, but proselytism is still illegal. The government has given land for church compounds to be built in some of the emirates, however, there is little freedom and tolerance for local Emiratis to turn to Christ. It is sad that Muslims in the UAE who leave Islam are in real danger of losing family, jobs and even their lives.

Watch a Prayercast clip about the country [here](#).

- Pray for the few Emirati believers, that they would grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ (2 Peter 3:18), that each believer will find several family members who will engage with the gospel and that they will be able to quietly meet together so whole families come to faith.
- Pray for the leaders of the Emirates to rule wisely and bring peace and justice to their respective emirates.
- Pray for expat believers to catch a vision to see the gospel proclaimed to the Emirati people.
- Pray for Expo 2020, that during the six months of this event the Lord would use it to proclaim his Son Jesus to the world in Dubai and that many would come to faith.

Source: Praying Through the Arabian Peninsula <http://www.pray-ap.info/uae.html>

Tuesday 13th August

The Year of Tolerance

"The Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul's message." Acts 16:14

Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the UAE, has proclaimed 2019 as the "The Year of Tolerance" in his country. It seems the government is serious about embracing difference and



Mary Mother of Jesus Mosque

diversity; especially with a population including Indian, Filipino, Korean, Egyptian, Iranian, Pakistani, Afghan, Somali, Sudanese as well as Western communities. The aim is to promote peace, coexistence and respect between different cultures and especially amongst youth and to reject extremism.

In 2017, Sheikh Mohammad bin Zayed Al-Nahyan, ordered that a prominent mosque there be renamed 'Mary Mother of Jesus' to "consolidate bonds of humanity between followers of different religions." Mary plays a prominent role in the Christian and Islamic traditions. It was formerly known as the Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Mosque.

Interestingly, the Arabic word for tolerance can also be translated as forgiveness. Perhaps this reveals something about the local understanding of God. As believers, we know that because of Jesus death and resurrection God is able to forgive sin, so that it is finally and decisively dealt with. Without Jesus there is no forgiveness of sin, only tolerance.

- Let's pray for Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, that as he seeks to promote tolerance and peace in the UAE, he will have a revelation and open heart to believe the gospel.
- Let's pray that all Muslims in the UAE will understand that God does not tolerate sin but forgives sin and makes a way of reconciliation and peace with Him, through the sacrifice of his Son Jesus.
- Pray for young Emirati adults who comprise the majority of the local population. Pray for open minds that are not afraid of radical change toward new thinking and beliefs and for a greater openness to the gospel as they leave some traditional ideas behind.

Source of some material: <http://www.pray-ap.info/uae.html>

Wednesday 14th August

"but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life." John 4:14

After 40 years of outreach in the UAE, there are only a few known believers there. However, workers in the region report that as they intentionally pray, they are seeing changes. Many of the Gulf States that were previously untouched are now seeing movements to Christ – large numbers coming to faith after many years of prayer with seemingly little fruit.

In the age of the easy, the entitled and the instant, an expectation in the UAE and throughout the region, it is hard to see how people have any need for an intimate God. However, as the cost of living increases and families and children suffer from the effects of modern living – anxiety, depression, diabetes – an easy life often leads to sin and the consequence can be family chaos and divorce. Easy and instant don't offer much hope.



Abu Dhabi skyline

A couple of field workers wrote to say that during some of their prayer drives, they had been so saddened by a sense of hopelessness felt by many living there. Despite seemingly having everything, such material wealth and the promises of spiritual fulfilment and purpose in Islam, they have no hope without knowledge of the One who came to save.

Workers said they cannot overstate the importance of prayer for this land. "This is a crucial time, where the message of the gospel really matters. It is a gospel of power, not just words. We are expectant, waiting for a move of the Spirit and praying to this end."

The first missionary came to the UAE in the 1960's and his son, who recently visited, was incredibly encouraged at the perceived openness of locals to prayer compared to the time he had lived there with his parents. We thank God for this.

- Let's join in prayer with others across this land and region, for a move of the Spirit and for a harvest for the kingdom of God.
- Let's pray that Muslim men would find Jesus in this desert land and that women, who are often at home all day, would meet with Jesus there.
- Ask that they will learn that Jesus Christ is the "Water of Life" and go to him to drink and live!
- Let's pray for our workers who can easily be discouraged, to rise up and know that God is with them and for them. Let's ask for perseverance and resilience for them.

Thursday 15th August

Outreach – stories from the UAE

A family working with Frontiers in the UAE sent a very encouraging newsletter, some of which we would like to share with you here.

"We have recently had the privilege of sharing the gospel with some that had never heard it and we continue to do this with a family that that we have been chatting with for quite some time. This can be until 4am in the morning when children are finally in bed and phones stop buzzing, so that adults can finally have the time to sit and listen!

The family have experienced some of the Father's love for them and are growing in their understanding of who Jesus is. They wanted us to go through passages in the Bible where Jesus declares who he is. We wanted Jesus' words and actions in each passage to speak powerfully into

this. We shared some of the stories in the gospels including the one where Jesus healed the man blind from birth and where the paralysed man was lowered through the roof. We studied the stories in depth, looking at the reactions of those around them, of the religious leaders, and it was so interesting and beautiful to share together genuine revelations from these stories. The patriarch of the family said that what stood out for him, was that everyone wanted to make an excuse to suggest the men had not been healed.

They have asked us to continue to do more studies with them. This family is really hungry for more.”

- Let’s pray for the patriarch of this family, that he will not find any excuse to avoid the significance of who Jesus is.
- Pray for this family and many others in this country to experience Jesus for themselves, becoming disciples and disciple-makers.
- Let’s pray for our workers as they share gospel truths and build a relationship with this family and others, that they would have great wisdom in what and in how they share and pray.

Friday 16th August

Outreach – stories from the UAE

Another worker in this country shared the following:

“It can be challenging to have meaningful interactions with the local population. People live quite private lives and, although generally warm and friendly when you engage with them, they don’t initially appear very approachable. More than ever, we feel that we need to be very intentional with our time. A great opportunity for this presented itself recently.

There was a small sign erected in our neighbourhood giving directions to a funeral. Last year we learned that in the local culture it is an expectation that all the men from a neighbourhood will attend a funeral and pay their respects, even if they don’t know the family personally. So, it was with a certain amount of nerves that I walked up to the huge tent erected in front of an even larger house a few blocks away from where we live. After the burial the “*Azaa*” takes place at a hall or often in a tent near the family home. It’s three days for the men and one for the women and it’s actually very simple. On entering the tent each guest must personally greet every other guest and give condolences to the close relatives of the deceased. There is often a simple meal shared by all of the guests.

I received a warm welcome, greeting everyone and was able to chat with a few local people before sitting with the eldest son of the deceased. Although nothing tangible came from the evening, it felt very significant to be at a community event, to greet people and hopefully introduce myself as a God-fearing person.

We would love prayer for more opportunities like this.”

- Let’s pray for more opportunities to build relationships with the local population and for conversations that lead to kingdom fruit.

- Please pray for local people who want to gather their friends and family to read the Bible.
- Pray for this family to continue to be recognised as spiritual, God-fearing and grace-filled people in this community and to establish a sustainable rhythm of life.

Saturday 17th August

Different people groups in the UAE and Arab Gulf

“Of this you have heard before in the word of the truth, the gospel, which has come to you, as indeed in the whole world it is bearing fruit and growing - as it also does among you, since the day you heard it and understood the grace of God in truth, just as you learned it from Epaphras our beloved fellow servant. He is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf and has made known to us your love in the Spirit.” Col 1:5-8

The Arab people are the main indigenous group in this region. They are the original Arab Bedouins of the desert. Mohammad, the founder of Islam, was from this people group. However, there are minority people groups as well. They include:

Zanzibari Omanis: Swahili-speaking Omanis who have roots in Zanzibar, Tanzania in East Africa, since Oman ruled there during the 19th century.

Baluchi people: The Baluchi people come from Pakistan and surrounding areas. Some have mixed in with the local Arabs and have been there for generations.

Mahri people: They live in Yemen and Oman, straddling areas near the border of the two countries. They speak their own language which is distinct from Arabic.

Jebeli people: These are mountain peoples from the mountains of Salalah, Oman. They too have their own distinct language and culture.

Shuhooch Arabs: The Shuhooch are one of the Arab tribes in the UAE and the Musandam Peninsula, Oman. They are known as mountain peoples who speak a distinct dialect of Arabic.

You can watch a short 2-minute clip about the Shuhooch of the UAE [here](#).

Today, of the 43 people groups in the United Arab Emirates, 25 remain unreached by the gospel and many of them are illiterate.

- Let’s pray that the word of truth would go out to all the people groups of the region. May it transform lives among the Zanzibari Omanis, the Baluchi, the Mahri, the Jebeli, the Shuhooch and the Arab Bedouins.
- We also ask for many (like Epaphras in the verse above) to come out of these people groups to reach their own, to be ‘faithful ministers of Christ’.
- Let’s pray for great tribal and people group movements to Christ.

- Social media and the internet are a great means of reaching people with the Good News there. Let's pray that many will come across Christian material and be curious to know more.

Source: <http://www.pray-ap.info/pguides.html>