

Email

Dear Friend,

Throughout this week we will be praying again for our SWAN region. It is a region of enormous diversity and beauty, of generous peoples and vibrant cities. And yet it is also a region of real danger, in particular there is danger to followers of Jesus, whether they are local or foreign. The cost of following Jesus amongst these communities is real.

Over the last 2 weeks we have prayed for those travelling to the region to participate in teams seeking to reach out to the many and varied peoples of the SWAN region. This week we are going to spend time in the Biblical theme of thankfulness as we continue to pray for SWAN. With the many challenges that come with trying to bring the Good News of the Gospel to the peoples of Pakistan, Afghanistan and Iran it is often easy to be despondent and despairing at people's hardness and resistance to Jesus' influence in their lives. And yet there are many reasons to be thankful.

Every year, for 30 days, the majority of the world's 1.9 billion Muslims fast from food and water during daylight hours. During those 30 days hundreds of thousands of Christians around the world take time to pray for them. Would you join us for 30 days in praying for the Muslim world?

If you'd like us to post you a free copy, email your postal address to info@frontiers.org.uk or call us on 0303 333 5051 (Mon-Fri, 9.00-5.00).

If you'd like to order more copies for your church, prices (including postage) are below:

2-10 copies £2.00 per copy

11+ copies £1.60 per copy

Additional postage and packaging costs may apply outside the UK.

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

For His glory in the nations,

Charlotte and Richard

Prayer Mobilisation Team

Monday 26th February

Thankfulness in Every Breath

Then the LORD God formed the man from the dust of the ground. He breathed the breath of life into the man's nostrils, and the man became a living person.

Gen 2:7

We, humans, are each alive today because of the breath of the living God breathing His animating Spirit into each of us. His Spirit creates and animates all things, sustaining them and us by the power of His word from moment to moment.

God's creative, sustaining Spirit is also being breathed into each Muslim person throughout the SWAN region. Each Iranian, Pakistani or Afghani is alive and breathing because of the creative, animating will and power of the God's Spirit breathing His creative power out over His creation.

Thankfulness is an invitation to draw close to the God who is always doing far more than we can imagine, and to allow our eyes to be opened and our hearts warmed by His generosity and grace – whatever our circumstances feel like.

Prayer

- Spend some time simply breathing in and out, and reflecting on the breath which is within you. It is a gift that connects you to your Father in every moment. And it connects you to the people of SWAN as they breathe the each day.
- Reflect on the things that you are thankful for. How many of these would be the same for our Muslim brothers and sisters throughout the SWAN region? Pray that many



Muslims across SWAN would be thankful that God gives them breath every day.

- Pray that God will open your eyes to the many little everyday ways He is at work in the SWAN region.

Based on day 6 of '25 Days of Prayer' produced by Oasis Church, Birmingham. See [the Oasis Blog](#) for more info or here for the [25 days of Prayer booklet](#)

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

Tuesday 27th February

Thankfulness in Worship

*Enter his gates with thanksgiving;
go into his courts with praise.
Give thanks to him and praise his name.
For the LORD is good.
His unfailing love continues forever,
and his faithfulness continues to each
generation.*

Ps 100:4-5

Thankfulness is like a key that unlocks a deeper level of intimacy and relationship with God when we draw near to Him in worship. As we give God thanks, it causes us to lift our eyes off ourselves and fix them on God – the source of all goodness, love and faithfulness. It resets our perspectives and invites us to see more of how He is at work in our lives and in the lives of others.

Life across the SWAN region can be tough. Life in rural areas is often poor and sustaining life a constant battle. Life in the cities is hardly less difficult, with poverty also a constant battle for many. This poverty is made more difficult when human factors are included, with corruption and violence everyday aspects of life for many.

In these circumstances it is hard for people to remember that there is still much we can be thankful to God for. Let us pray for thankful hearts amongst the people of the SWAN region and that they would recognise, even in the midst of the daily grind, that there is goodness in the world, and that they can thank God for it.

Prayer

- Read aloud through Psalm 100 several times. Try putting it into your own



words

and praying (or even singing!) it over the peoples of the SWAN region.

- Give thanks for the ways that you can see God working in the SWAN region. For God's provision, His presence and His good plans for the people there.
- Pray that God would cultivate a heart of thanksgiving amongst the people of SWAN.

Based on day 7 of '25 Days of Prayer' produced by Oasis Church, Birmingham. See [the Oasis Blog](#) for more info or here for the [25 days of Prayer booklet](#)

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Wednesday 28th February

Thankfulness in Salvation

God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it.

Eph 2:8-9

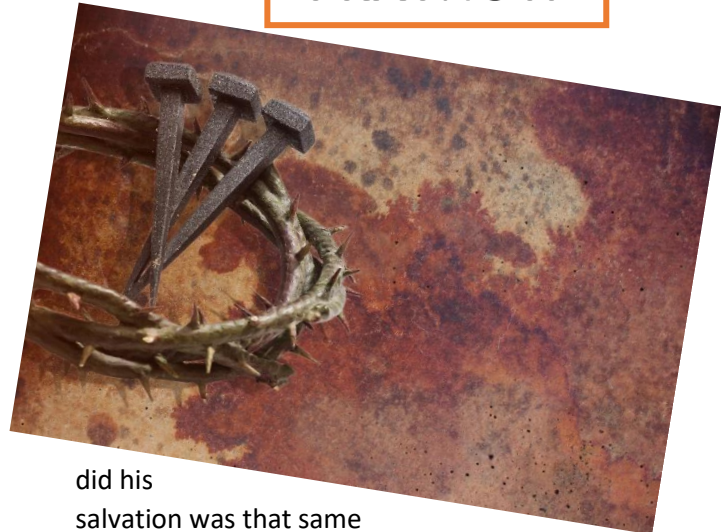
Salvation is a gift of grace. It's not given because we've earned it in the past, or because we might earn it in the future, but because of the overwhelming, overflowing love of God towards us.

Salvation is a gift that we often find easy to take for granted, yet for Muslims this gift is anything but guaranteed and the grace of the gift is an offense.

Years ago, whilst talking to Muslim man in the UK he articulated his understanding of grace to a worker. He described life as an exam and how at the end we might fall a little short of the pass mark, but God in his grace, gives us the necessary few marks to make the grade.

By contrast the worker described how life maybe was an exam, but it was one in which, as we turn over the question paper, we realise that we have no hope of even getting one mark, let alone anywhere close to the pass mark. And yet, God's grace is shown to us when we turn over the answer papers, we find that they have been fully and correctly completed – all we have to do is add our name. This, for the follower of Jesus, is the grace we experience.

For the Muslim man, this grace was an outrage, he looked as if he had been punched on the nose. For him the free grace of Gospel was deeply offensive. We will not know if this gentleman went on to follow Jesus, but if he



did his salvation was that same grace that we have all been freely gifted with.

Prayer.

- Spend time reflecting on Jesus' life, death and resurrection, thanking God for the saving work of the Father, Son and Spirit and receiving the truth of it afresh.
- Pray for the millions of Muslims across the SWAN region who do not know Jesus. Pray that God would reveal His free gift of salvation to them.
- Pray for the many Muslim Background Believers in SWAN, whether they are secret believers or part of a believing community. Pray that they would grow in thankfulness for the salvation God has offered to them, and which he offers to their families and wider communities.

Based on day 8 of '25 Days of Prayer' produced by Oasis Church, Birmingham. See [the Oasis Blog](#) for more info or here for the [25 days of Prayer booklet](#)

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Thursday 29th February

Thankfulness in Relationships

And let the peace that comes from Christ rule in your hearts. For as members of one body you are called to live in peace. And always be thankful.

Col 3:15

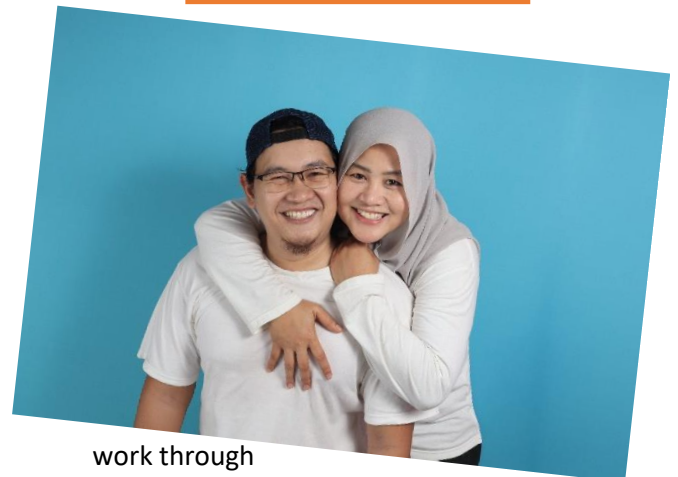
Relationships with others are a gift, but that doesn't mean that they're always easy. As husbands and wives who follow Jesus we are 'one body' given to each other to bless, encourage, challenge, support and comfort our spouse. Cultivating a heart of thanksgiving for our relationships helps us find perspective in the moments when things are tricky, and it draws us together in peace and unity.

For many people (including many Muslims) this is not the experience of the marriage relationship. In many families marriage is an ongoing and chronic state of hostility between the husband and wife, and the many familial relationships that they represent. The idea that the marriage relationship should bless encourage, challenge, support and comfort is utterly foreign, and the relationship certainly doesn't go forward in peace and unity.

For Muslim families who accept Christ discipleship very often includes a substantial rebuilding of the husband-wife relationships to. Christian workers often provide marriage support to Muslim background believers, some who may have been following Jesus for years, but whose marriages have been the last part of their lives to be exposed to Jesus' gentle leading and rebuilding.

Prayer.

- Pray for Christian workers discipling and leading married MBBs as they



work through what it means to follow Jesus in every aspect of their lives.

- Pray that as these marriage relationships are transformed, they would be a witness to the families and communities around them. They would see the change, the love and lives that were previously in conflict changed by a relationship of peace and unity.
- Pray that Muslim men and women across SWAN would see the lives of peace and unity in believers that they might meet and be intrigued. Pray there would be a desire for transformed marriages and relationships, and that they would find this in Jesus.

Based on day 9 of '25 Days of Prayer' produced by Oasis Church, Birmingham. See [the Oasis Blog](#) for more info or here for the [25 days of Prayer booklet](#)

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Friday 1st March

Thankfulness in Eternity

*I heard a loud shout from the throne, saying,
“Look, God’s home is now among his people!*

He will live with them, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them. He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain.

All these things are gone forever.”

Revelation 21:3-4

God’s promise that one day He will set everything right enables us to live with an eternal perspective of thankfulness. The arc of history is bending towards an eternal future of complete wholeness, justice, peace, joy, and life, and setting our minds on this enables us to come with thanksgiving in whatever circumstances we are currently facing. We have an eternal future in Christ, full of life, and the God who will one day bring all of this to completion is with us even now, calling us on towards a glorious hope.

This is a glorious hope for all who follow Christ. For Muslims and the many others who do not recognise or follow Jesus, it is a lost opportunity. In Christ they have the opportunity to live a life in all its fullness now. In Christ they have the opportunity to be fully human just as Adam and Eve were created to be in the beginning. In Christ they have the opportunity to live with the Joy of the Lord as their strength now.

Prayer

- Spend some time reflecting on the picture of the new creation that Revelation 21 and 22 describes. What stands out to you about the future?



- Pray for the present in the light of the future, asking God to bring more of that eternal reality into the parts of the world that have yet to experience it.
- Pray that Muslim followers of Jesus across the SWAN region would experience this promised wholeness in their lives now. Pray that their lives of wholeness would prompt questions and a desire to know Jesus too.

Based on day 10 of ‘25 Days of Prayer’ produced by Oasis Church, Birmingham. See [the Oasis Blog](#) for more info or here for the [25 days of Prayer booklet](#)

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Saturday 2nd March

Thankfulness.

After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. 10 And they cried out in a loud voice:

*“Salvation belongs to our God,
who sits on the throne,
and to the Lamb.”*

Revelation 7:9-10

It has been said that more Muslims have come to faith in Jesus Christ over the last 30 years than at any other time in the 14 or so centuries since Islam burst out of the Arabian Peninsula in the year 610 AD.

Certainly, this is the story being reported by Frontiers teams across the Middle East, in parts of Africa, in India and the far East. It is true too in parts of the SWAN region with stories emerging from Iran of a house church movement quietly exploding across a society sick and disillusioned with Islam.

A 2020 survey that there are far greater numbers of Christian believers in Iran than ever before — more than a million. In fact, those involved with the “house church” movement in Iran are convinced that there are likely several million Christian believers there. However, life for these new believers there is not without risk.

New followers of Jesus in Iran face extreme persecution, imprisonment, violence, injustice, loss of position, job or university place, and yet just as in the early days of the New Testament church it continues to grow. These new MBBs are reading the Bible for the



first time, praying, gathering in small groups, and sharing their new faith with friends and family, despite the risks. Their faith is amazing, encouraging, and inspiring.

Let's pray for God's continuing intervention into Iran's religious life. Let's remember our little-known but rapidly growing Christian family inside Iran's borders. Their bold example of courage in the face of persecution shines brightly amid the ever-increasing darkness in the Middle East.

Prayer

- Praise God that the nations of the world, including the Muslim ones, are meeting Jesus and coming to know Him and praise Him.
- Praise God for the remarkable growth of the Kingdom of God in Iran.
- Pray for this new house Church movement in Iran that is changing the country from the inside out.

For more information see

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

<https://www.hudson.org>