

News and Current Events :: 30 Days of Prayer for the Muslim World Ramadan: 9 July Â– 7 August 2013**30 Days of Prayer for the Muslim World Ramadan: 9 July Â– 7 August 2013 - posted by ArthurRosh (), on: 2013/7/18 13:**

There are two reasons why the 30 days of prayer is held during the month of Ramadan: (1) As a means by which Christians can identify with Muslims for a fixed period of time, and (2) to call upon God's sovereign intervention in the lives of Muslims during a time of the year when they are particularly religious. Please note that praying during the month of Ramadan does not mean that we conform ourselves to the Muslim practices of fasting and prayer. As believers in Jesus Christ we disagree with Islamic ideas, theology and practice in several areas, but we place an emphasis on God's love for Muslims. We encourage all believers to cultivate a spirit of humility, love, respect and service toward Muslims.

Over the last 30 years Islam became more and more visible in the news. Much of the Muslim world is in turmoil today with many people inside and outside of Islam asking questions about God, salvation, peace and the future. Many are tired of violence, strife, bloodshed and hopelessness. Over the last three decades more and more Christians started to share their faith with Muslims. An amazing number of Muslims are coming to faith in Jesus and accept His love for them. Today, efforts have increased ten-fold and 30 Days of Prayer for the Muslim world is one of the many agencies who have embraced the call to share the message of Jesus amongst the Muslim people. This agency has played a big part in educating, motivating and encouraging believers to respectfully and lovingly share their faith with Muslims.

This prayer guide is now distributed in over 38 languages, and millions participate every year in the event! It was reported by a mission's strategist in the 'Mission Frontiers' magazine last year that in 1997 only two church-planting movements amongst Muslim people groups could be identified. By 2010, however, over 1,000 baptisms and/or 100 churches had been planted amongst at least 25 Muslim populations in the last decade.

Major breakthrough happened in South Asia among the Bengali, where at least half a million people with a Muslim background came to faith in Jesus. In Iran, Christian satellite broadcasting supports a strong and growing underground church movement with thousands of house fellowships throughout the country. Several hundred thousand people of an unreached Berber group in North Africa came to faith in just one of several movements taking place in that region.

The technological advance of the past 20 years has transformed the way in which the Gospel is communicated to previously unreached Muslim groups. Radio and satellite broadcasting throughout the Muslim world has resulted in millions of Muslims responding to the message of Christ. In the Arab world alone, one ministry, SAT7, has a regular audience of 8.5 million. It has also impacted the distribution of the Scriptures. Translations in local languages have become available, and alternatives such as audio and video versions of the Scriptures online, or as digital files has made Jesus more accessible and understandable than ever before to Muslims.

<http://www.jwipn.com/ramadan-2013/>