



Ramadan 2023

Light the Darkness

Depending on the sighting of the moon over Mecca,
Ramadan starts on the evening of 22 March
until the evening of 21 April 2023

With thanks and acknowledgement to all contributors
From *Christian Concern for Muslims (CCM)*

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Day 1 – Why Ramadan?

Muslims believe that in A.D. 610, the angel Gabriel appeared to Prophet Muhammad and revealed to him the Quran, the Islamic holy book. This revelation, called Laylat Al Qadar - or the "Night of Power" - is believed to have occurred during Ramadan. Muslims fast during this month as a way to commemorate the revelation of the Quran.

As Islam is a religion where one has to work for your salvation, this is the time when Muslims double-up on their efforts to seek favour with Allah.

Why do Christians pray for Muslims during Ramadan?

During the month of Ramadan, Muslims devote a lot of time to prayer and fasting and abstaining from earthly pleasures, seeking Allah's favour and the purification of their sins, though they are never sure if they have been forgiven or if what they have done is ever enough. Muslims everywhere are seeking God's approval through a system of works, and yet, they don't have assurance of their salvation and forgiveness. (From *Loving Muslims Together*)

Christians need to know that during this particular month of fasting, Muslims' hearts are softened and burdened. Therefore, what can believers do during Ramadan? **Simple, pray.** As Christ's followers, we know He is the Truth. We have direct access to God the Father through the Son to intercede for lost souls. Pray that those fasting would be awakened to the Truth of the gospel.

Prayer Points

- Pray that as Muslims fast and pray, Jesus will reveal Himself to them as Lord and Saviour through dreams, visions and through His people.
- Pray for new Muslim-background believers as they respond to questions and scrutiny for not participating in Ramadan festivities.
- Pray that the Holy Spirit will inspire us in taking opportunities to share the Gospel and demonstrate the love of Christ with Muslims who cross our paths.
- Pray that we will see a harvest that we have never seen in the Muslim world before. "And the disciples went everywhere and preached, and the Lord worked through them, confirming what they said by many miraculous signs." Mark 16:20

Day 2 – The Battle is on

According to Islam, the world as we know it can be divided into two kinds of houses:

Houses of peace ('Dar-es- Salaam') or houses of war. Countries under Islamic rule are seen as the first, and all others as houses of war.

Through the eyes of Islam, South Africa like Nigeria, is an economic and political hub. Both are seen as the powerhouses of Africa. Those who rule them, rule Africa.

Strategies of Islam in South Africa

- The 'Halaal' industry generates finances to further Islam.
- Recruitment of poor people through the offering of food and free education, in return for the training of their young people in the ways of Islam, which does not exclude militant ways.
- Infiltration and immigration from Islamic countries. Many come to study or to work, and it may include the teaching of Islamic ways.
- They do prison ministries. When the Good news of Jesus is absent, people will be open to anything else.
- Through marriage with Western women. The children are always raised Islam.

Acts 17:26-27 "From one man He created all the nations throughout the whole earth. He decided beforehand when they should rise and fall, and He determined their boundaries. **"His purpose was for the nations to seek after God** and perhaps feel their way toward Him and find Him—though He is not far from any one of us."

To ponder and act upon:

- "Lord Jesus, *how* and *where* can I *get involved?*"
[Strategic prayer, prayer walking, teaching English, local outreach ...]
- "Lord Jesus, I want to see these nations through Your eyes!"
Matthew 9:36 "When He saw the crowds, He had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd."
- Pray that Muslims will encounter the One who has died for them and who loves them.
John 3:16 "For God so loved the (Muslim) world, that he gave his only Son..."

Day 3 – Outreach at the Gateways of South Africa

As a strategic gateway to Africa, a huge spiritual battle is being fought over the soil of South Africa.

Islam especially is actively vying for a foothold through various ways. One such way is through the so called 'Halaal' industry, through which most food companies (and many non-food companies) agreed to pay hefty amounts towards the Muslim Councils (in order for their products to have a 'Halaal' logo). This money is being utilized to build mosques, Islamic schools, and to further the cause of Islam.

In 2019 diplomatic ties were strengthened with the 'heart' of the Islamic world, Saudi Arabia, through 'Halaal trading'. After that we have seen many more flights between SA and the Emirates. We have read in our newspapers that it was to boost tourism in the Western Cape and to increase tourism to Saudi Arabia, but perhaps in reality especially to Mecca.

BUT God...

Isaiah 46:9-10 '... remember the former things of old; for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like Me, declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done, saying, 'My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all My purpose,'

Our God raised up a group of people who daily awaits the 'Ishmaels' at one strategic gateway. MANY from the Arabian Peninsula and elsewhere file through these gates.

An increasing number of these 'Ishmaels' are open to take an Arabic New Testament. The most beautiful scene to observe is when one of them would hold the Injil (New Testament) close to his/her heart and say: "Thank you! Thank you!"

Or stop to ask for a second copy.

Or look at a New Testament in total disbelief – holding it - clasping it tightly and ask: "Is it for free?"

To ponder upon:

- Pray for those stationed at the many gateways. "He will give a longing for justice to their judges. He will give great courage to their warriors who stand at the gates" (Isaiah 28:6)
- Then I said, "Here I am! Send me." (Isaiah 6:8) [for informed prayer, prayer walking, local outreach to Muslims...]
- To learn more about outreach in Cape Town vicinity, write to jannie.ferreira@barid.org
- Prayer – a useful link: <https://jwipn.com/prayer-watches/> (ISA WATCH)

Gulf Partnership Outreaches



Day 4 – Giving in to the Love of Christ

- ♥ "Ismael" was born a Muslim; his mother was an ex Christian. When his father passed on, he very much loved and took care of his mom whom, to his surprise and shock became a born again Christian. Being ostracised from her Muslim family, only her son stayed by her side fighting and encouraging her to leave serving Jesus, a battle that went on for quite a few years. His mom allowed prayer meetings and had church in her house. He would often leave the house when service started and hated the clapping of hands. One day he stayed whilst the service was on and at the end the leader asked if they could pray for him, which he agreed to and broke out in tears during the prayer. That was the point when the Holy Spirit broke his hardened heart as he surrendered his life to Jesus as Saviour. Today his mother is in the presence of God and he is pastoring a church.
- ♥ "Shahieda" was a faithful, Hijab wearing Muslim whose marriage because of her husband's infidelity was on the rocks. On this particular day in 2018 whilst being employed at this electrical apparatus store, a pastor approached her in the aisle to inquire about an item to purchase. He noticed her sad crying face. He encouraged her and there and then asked if he could pray for her, which she agreed to. She asked the pastor for a copy of the Bible. On his next visit he brought her a Bible and exchanged telephone numbers. Three months later she phoned the pastor to inform him that she gave her life to Jesus. Presently she is strongly serving the Lord, attends church and open and boldly confesses her love for the Lord. Except for the eldest daughter, two of her children is serving Christ. **Please pray** for the eldest daughter to commit her life to Christ as well.
- ♥ The "Hassiem" family consists of four girls and one son. The mother asked a believer for a minister to visit her house, as she wanted to know more about Jesus. The believer contacted a Korean professor who in return contacted a pastor (me) to visit and engage with the family. For three months in the heart of winter I travelled to speak to the family about Jesus and to answer their questions. The mother secretly gave her life to Jesus and thought of only sharing with the eldest daughter, who in return said she had Christian friends that spoke to her about Jesus and she also gave her life to Jesus. The father, a quiet man, was not a practising Muslim and gave permission when his wife indicated visiting my church together with the family. He brought them every Sunday and sat in church with them. On Father's Day I invited the family for lunch. Later the father approached me in private and made a decision to follow Jesus too. Since then the family has moved to a quiet town where they faithfully serve in church. The father opens and locks the church building, the elder daughter is a Sunday school teacher, the second eldest sings in the worship team and the others are part of the youth ministry. The youngest child assists with the sound equipment for the church. I am presently still in contact with them, we visit each other's families and have functions together.

Please pray...

- Pray for the individuals and their families I gave testimonies about.
- Pray for my Muslim family (the Lord knows who they all are), for their conversion to Christ.
- Pray for Cassiem's conversion, as well as the following Muslim families – the Shahied family, the Russell family, the Kalam family, Isaac's family and the Behardien family.
- Pray that the hearts of pastors may open up to allow us entrance into their churches, so that we can train and develop the believers to reach the Muslims with the Gospel in love.
- Pray for us as a team that the Lord may continue to use us powerfully in our personal capacity in reaching out to the Muslims.

Day 5 – A Harbour of Hope

After more than 6 years working in Bo-Kaap and hosting many different prayer groups, there is still no faith community in the area. Yet the Lord keeps encouraging us in so many ways. We trust Jesus to bring many families to faith in Him and that He will reveal Himself as their Saviour. We are grateful for a workshop where we have many opportunities for interaction with children and adults. We are trusting God for job creation for the grown-ups as well as creating a place of safety for the children. May the workshop indeed be a Harbour of Hope.

Please pray:

- That Jesus will reveal Himself as Son of God in dreams and visions.
- That we will meet Persons of Peace in the community.
- That the Holy Spirit will prepare people's hearts for the Gospel.
- That we will see where Father works and join Him.
- Pray for entire families to come to faith.
- That God will raise up more workers that are focused and dedicated. We need a team.
- That we will have much wisdom in helping kids who are not going to school and who are getting involved in drug abuse.
- Pray that our workshop be a place where Holy Spirit dwells and many meet Jesus.
- Pray that churches and faith communities around Bo-Kaap will realize there is an unreached people group on their doorstep, and that they have a responsibility and role to play.

Bo-Kaap



Day 6 – Changed lives for women

- ♥ Sumaya was reared Muslim and always felt a void in her heart. From a young age she was rebellious and disobedient to her mother. She was not interested in the mosque, neither in saying her prayers when growing up. Her mother was very strict and addressed her rebellion. One day Sumaya asked an acquaintance to bring her a Koran... but she never received one. On another day she asked someone else to bring her a Koran but to no avail.

Then she asked a schoolfriend to bring her a Bible. The friend was shocked but also overjoyed that she wanted a Bible. As Sumaya began to read the Bible she started experiencing a tremendous peace in her heart - she finally found what she was longing for. It wasn't long thereafter that she surrendered her life to the Lord Jesus Christ and hasn't looked back once.

Now, years later, her siblings are still Muslim, as well as her mother and one of her sons, and we are trusting the Lord for their salvation too.

- ♥ Samira was brought up as a Muslim. Two years ago she became a born again believer. Her upbringing was extremely painful as she was often molested by her stepfather. She was introduced to Jesus by one of the neighbours and has since been rejected by all her family members. She is determined to continue to serve the Lord fervently in spirit and in truth.

Please pray...

- For more labourers in the Jameelah ministry.
- that local churches will be interested in collaborating with us to reach out to Muslims in their communities.
- For Muslim-background believers, especially for those who are secret believers, to continue serving the Lord faithfully despite their challenges, and that the Holy Spirit will strengthen them.
- For all Muslims globally during the upcoming period of Ramadan, for a mighty outpouring of the Holy Spirit and that they will receive dreams and visions from the Lord.
- For Sumaya and Samira's families to become followers of Jesus Christ.
- Also, please pray for my siblings. They have all embraced Islam because of their spouses. Their names are Nabeelah, Achmat, Uzair, Nadeem and Armier.

Jameelah

Day 7 – Emigrating to South Africa

The earliest Somali communities were formed in Cape Town and surrounding areas in the late nineties and early 2000s. A number of Somali-South African residents have risen to prominence locally and internationally.

Following the civil war in Somalia that broke out in 1991, a number of Somalis emigrated to South Africa. They soon established themselves in the commercial sector, creating employment opportunities for themselves and opening their own stores.

Somali businesses have offered goods to customers at lower prices than their local competitors, cornering the market in many areas. By 2010, Somali entrepreneurs provided most of the retail trade in informal settlements around the Western Cape province, among other places. Somali-owned convenience shops selling products like snacks, soft drinks and clothing have been especially successful.

[Somalis in South Africa](#)

Praise the Lord that despite the many challenges of reaching out to a *hard to reach* people group, we can say God is faithful through it all. It is always our plan to share Scripture, but many times this community is closed off, so we share it in various ways. I praise God for the recent opportunities to open the Bible in a shop and share with a few young men.

- Pray that the truth of the gospel would penetrate their hearts, and that they would seek repentance in faith to the true and only God.

Also pray...

- For the young people who are born in South Africa and raised in a culture that is different to the culture they experience in their home environment, as this causes confusion. Pray that the Lord would open their eyes to the fact that they need a Saviour, and that their identity may be found in Christ.
- Pray for the many ladies, both young and old in this time of uncertainty in the world – and their lack of understanding the truth - that they would realise their need for their own sins to be forgiven, and that there is one way to experience this forgiveness.
- Pray for the devout men and women in this time of fasting, that they will find the truth in Jesus.
- Pray for the ongoing perseverance of the labourers among this people group, that we would continue to seek our joy in the Lord and glorify His holy name among those who do not know Him.
- Pray for solid Bible-teaching churches to come alongside this ministry and see the need to evangelise and see a church planted.

Somalis in South Africa

Day 8 – Coming to Christ at an early age

Most Christians come to Christ in their teens and early twenties and students are among the first to respond when the gospel is proclaimed. Universities can be an ideal place to share the gospel, where young adults start to question the values they were brought up with and seek out their own identities and values. For many Muslims this may be the first time in their lives they are exposed to different cultures.

Locally, several students from closed countries have heard the gospel and have also received Injils (New Testaments) in their own language. Muslims live in fear; therefore, it is difficult to see if anyone commits his or her life to Christ. However, at one of our meetings one such student explained in a very animated way to another student from a closed country, how the God of the Bible makes sense to him.

Praise

- We thank God for the opportunities to receive international students in our homes, sharing Christ's love with them and making them feel accepted.
- We thank God for the way He puts people together to support these students and introduce them to the gospel.
- We thank God for preparing believers' hearts in advance, in order to have a better understanding of the different cultures.

Please Pray...

- That God will give the students receptive minds and hearts towards the gospel.
- For opportunities to show international students love and acceptance.
- That they will be open to Christians that reach out to them in friendship.
- That Muslim students will learn of God's love for them, which will lead them to love themselves also.
- For easy adjustment of Muslim students in their new surroundings.
- That different home languages will not hinder communication and understanding.
- That local believers will learn to cross the cultural divide, learn to be more hospitable and also to accept invitations to the homes of people from a different culture.
- Pray that the international students will find more conservative local communities that they can become part of - communities that are similar to what they're used to regarding use of alcohol and dress sense.

International Students – Western Cape

Day 9 – A Call for Christians to Reach out to their Muslim friends

Muslims are promoting Islam in a determined and forceful way

In Durban, the Islamic Propagation Centre International (IPCI) and Islamic Comparative Religion Academy (ICRA, <https://icra.co.za/>) are two organisations committed to the spread of Islam.

IPCI was co-founded by the late Ahmed Deedat and has a global impact. Their resources, mostly books and DVDs conceived by Deedat, are freely distributed. These are opposed to core Christian beliefs, such as the Sonship and Deity of Jesus, the Crucifixion and the Bible as the Word of God.

Following in its footsteps is the ICRA, founded in September 2000 by Ayoob Karim. Karim stated that since it's "inception in September 2000, we have overcome great odds against Christian Missionary Activities and Evangelism. As understudies of Sheikh Deedat, we have demonstrated the knowledge, skills and expertise gained from him by conducting many lectures, dialogues and debates throughout the country".

The challenge of the church

Mission engagement to Muslims is slow and disjointed, as is voiced in the following Christians workers' statements:

"Muslim evangelism is one of the toughest fields of Christian witness. Most western missionaries are result oriented; instead, you should be concerned about preaching the Gospel correctly (as it is)." (Missionary to the Muslims, South African attorney John Gilchrist in the introduction to *Sharing the Gospel with Muslims*).

The Apostle to the Muslims, Samuel Zwemer said that "One might suppose that the church thought the Great Commission did not apply to Muslims".

The church's result-oriented attitude contributes to the lack of response regarding Muslim evangelism. They do not see easy results hence decide that Muslim evangelism is a waste of time and resources. Only 2% of missionaries work among Muslims.

Christians are further hindered by fear, which takes three primary forms:

1. Intimidation – the fear of suffering or persecution that most Christians face when ministering to Muslims.
2. Ignorance – Muslims are trained to pose challenging, sometimes aggressive, questions to Christians. Believers usually do not have sufficient knowledge and do not feel confident enough to answer questions asked by Muslims.
3. Indifference – Lastly, most Christians are not aware of, or are even apathetic towards, the need Muslims have for Christ.

Mission 2 Muslims (M2M) is an Apologetics ministry, dedicated to helping Christians defend their faith and proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ effectively to Muslims.

Prayer Requests

- Pray for outreach to Muslims and that churches will become involved.
- Pray for the success of M2M seminars educating Christians in Muslim evangelism.
- Pray for pastors to open their doors to host our seminars.

Pastor Bobby Freddy
Mission 2 Muslims (M2M)
WhatsApp +27 83 320 1874
Durban, KwaZulu-Natal

Day 10 – *We can make our plans, but the Lord determines our steps*

Proverbs 16:9

Since 2017 the Lord started sending persecuted believers across our family's path. Some were running for their lives as their clan found out about their new-found faith and wanted to kill them. Others have been believers for years and have lost their businesses and homes because they chose the love they found in the Lord, over the luxuries of their previous lives.

Suddenly, during January this year, many of them who have stayed with us over the years, came to visit in January. Only the Lord could have planned to let them all come in the same month to meet each other and be encouraged by each other's stories.

Out of their sharing and prayer time together, a new passion, and ideas for building His kingdom through many creative ways, were born.

Please pray...

- For these brothers to hear the Lord's voice and to grow in wisdom and unity.
- Pray that wherever they go, God will reveal the best ways to share Christ's message of salvation.



Day 11 – Sharing the Gospel

Fazale Rab ministry is deeply involved in sharing the gospel with Muslims in South Africa and Pakistan.

- **Praise God** that this year alone 18 people put their faith in Christ.
- **Pray** for more people to get involved in our ministry.

Baber had a dream that someone was putting a Bible in his lap and was asking him to read. When he shared his dream with us, we provided him with a Bible and once he started to read and study God's Word, he quickly realized that this is the true Word of God and became a believer.

- **Pray** for Baber's wife and 2 kids that they will also become believers in Christ.

Sanallah accepted Christ six years ago. His wife and three kids, then his mother, his sister and his brother-in-law became believers 3 years later.

- **Pray** for his father and brother to be open to the gospel, that they will learn to follow Christ.

Liaqat is an imam in a mosque and accepted Christ four years ago. He is still active in the mosque and his contract is coming to an end in April.

- **Pray** for Liaqat for provision to start a small business so that he can leave the mosque.

Inat ullah accepted Christ last year and is growing fast in his faith as he studies the Word of God. He borrowed money from a Muslim person and in return now has to work for this person. He barely receives enough money to buy food and his children are not going to school. The plans he had for his future are completely thwarted.

- **Pray** that God would provide for him financially, so that he can be free from a situation of slavery, and send his kids to school.

Fazale Rab Ministry



[SA Flag](#)



Pakistani Flag

Day 12 – Trusting God for the Right Moments

I use fitness and self-defence as a tool to witness to people in various communities. However, I also have been called to work in the field of ministry to Muslims. In this I have a two-fold responsibility:

1. Teaching believers why we ought to reach out to Muslims more actively, exposing them to the Muslim culture, and teaching them methods of witnessing to Muslims. My teaching also revolves around Biblical foundations and principles.
2. Personally I reach out to Muslims and engage them in conversation. I see my other responsibility as praying and being a source of encouragement and support to other ministry workers in the field.

I often come across Muslim women needing personal training but they tend to stop lessons long before I can share the gospel of Christ with them.

- **Please pray** that I will identify the moments that are meant for sharing the Gospel and that we can nurture good relationships.

My 12 year-old daughter has also started to share the Gospel at her school.

- **Please pray** that God continues to lead her and that she will be able to maintain her integrity throughout her development as a Christian disciple.

Also, I foster an undocumented teenager who has been part of our family for the past 5 years. I was able to secure her placement in primary school but high school is a huge problem. This child is anointed and a diligent hard worker. She also chose to be baptised two weeks ago.

Please pray...

- That we will be able to overcome the barriers in initiating her secondary education.
- Pray that there will be provision for her biological father to attain her study permit soon.
- Pray for Muslim children to make friends with classmates, including those of other backgrounds. Ask God for friendships that will lead to opportunities to share the love of Christ.
- Pray that the Holy Spirit will give them the revelation of Jesus who is the Way, the Truth and the Life.

Sharon S
Johannesburg

Day 13 – Finding Jesus in the Islamic writings

Sometimes certain verses from the Qur'an or quotations from the Hadith make references to Jesus that, when reflected on, may hopefully lead Muslims to reconsider their beliefs about Jesus and the claims He makes in the Bible. In the Hadith, mentions are made of the King of Kings (the person we know to be Jesus) as the worst name in Allah's sight.

Narated By Abu Huraira : Allah's Apostle said, "The most awful name in Allah's sight on the Day of Resurrection, will be (that of) a man calling himself Malik Al-Amlak (the king of kings)."

Sahih Bukhari Volume 8, Book 73, Hadith Number 224.

From the [Hadith Collection](#)

Narated By Abu Huraira : The Prophet said, "The most awful (meanest) name in Allah's sight." Sufyan said more than once, "The most awful (meanest) name in Allah's sight is (that of) a man calling himself king of kings." Sufyan said, "Somebody else (i.e. other than Abu Az-Zinad, a sub-narrator) says: What is meant by 'The king of kings' is 'Shahan Shah.'"

Sahih Bukhari Volume 8, Book 73, Hadith Number 225.

From the [Hadith Collection](#)

Kingdom Focus made a video of these quotes, using them to explain Allah's fear of Jesus' Kingship. The video is also available on the Facebook page *Christians & Muslims Conversations*:

Allah fears Jesus, the King of kings

<https://www.facebook.com/1439846809634792/posts/pfbid02usBjm3PUZRxFCDZLs3sPbM8d6gp9zfZKTGHGo2JpswmVSCSoSkM3n29FmgEDeouKI/>

After the first day already 30 000 people opened it, 2.3 k "liked" it, 54 people commented (mostly positively, like "Hallelujah" and "Amen"), 18 people shared the post.

Kingdom Focus is a Social Media Ministry that mobilises churches to get involved in missions, shares the gospel on Facebook and WhatsApp, reaches out to unreached people and provides [God & Islam – Facts & Myths](#).

Please pray...

- That as Muslims read the Qur'an and Hadith, that they will become curious about Jesus.
- That the video will have a far-reaching impact.
- For wisdom for the Kingdom Focus team, that God will use this ministry in a powerful way to lead Muslims to Him.

Join us for  PRAYER @[KoFie](#)  and pray for our KoFie-Project.



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Day 14 – The Bible and the Qur'an

In debates between Muslims and Christians, the Muslim will often argue that the Bible has been corrupted. However, there are no explanations, nor is there any evidence describing when, how or why the Bible was changed ([Isa Masih, 1998](#)). In fact, the Qur'an affirms the **divine inspiration** of the Bible:

It is He [God] Who sent down to you (step by step), in truth, the Book, confirming what went before it; and He sent down the Law (of Moses) and the Gospel (of Jesus) before this, as a guide to mankind, and He sent down the criterion (of judgement between right and wrong).

Surah 3:3

The Qur'an further affirms the **authority** of the Bible:

But why do they come to you for judgment when they already have the Torah containing Allah's judgment, then they turn away after all? They are not true believers.

Surah 5:46

The Word of God cannot be corrupted: "... no change can there be in the Words of God..." Surah 10:64

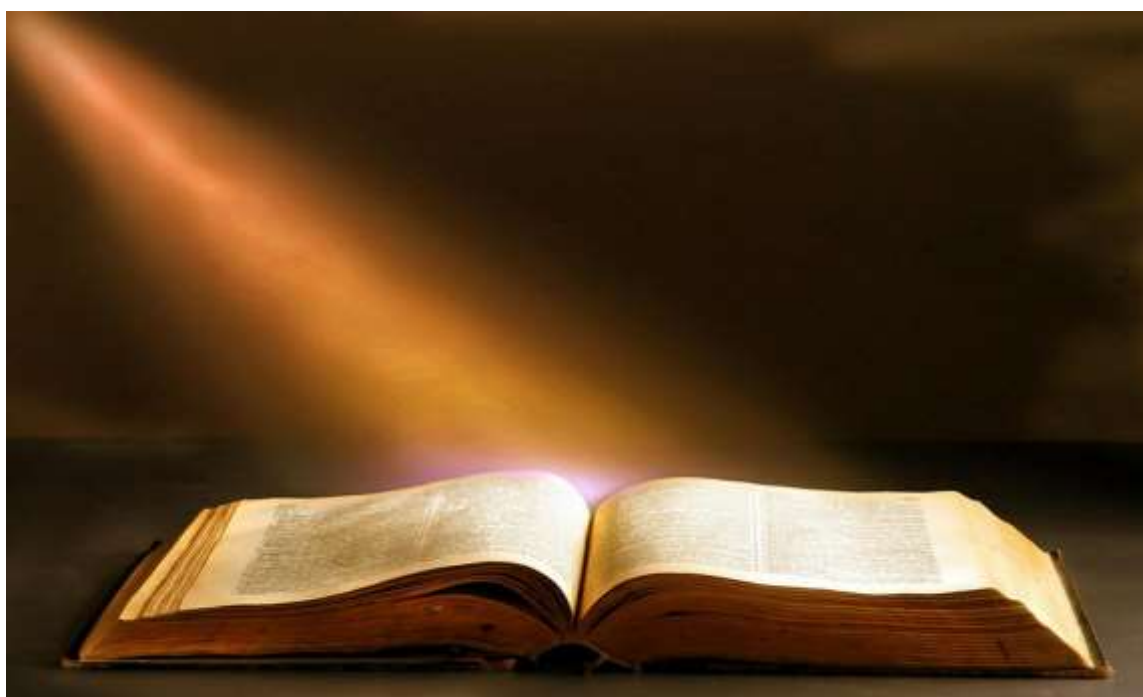
and "For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished"

Matthew 5:18

Please pray...

- That our Muslim friends will realise that they have no evidence to prove the Bible has been changed.
- That when reading the Qur'an, their interest in Jesus will be sparked and they will want to study the Bible.
- That the Holy Spirit will work in their hearts to open their eyes to God's Word.

Stéphanie-Claire Hansen



Day 15 – The Courage and the Ways

The challenge we all have is to find the courage and the ways to do what the Lord expects us to do according to His commands in Matthew 28: 18-19, as well as Acts 1:8.

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere - in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

If mission work becomes part of our daily lives, it will make a difference in the Kingdom of God and bring the glory to His name. God finds us all worthy to be part of his Kingdom work. All it takes is an act of obedience - He provides the opportunities. I realised this when I met a young woman in town and started a journey with her.

In 2010 we had the opportunity to visit Yemen and had amazing meetings with young girls at a university where we could share the gospel. During that time God touched my heart for this nation and especially the women. Soon after, war broke out which hasn't just destroyed buildings and infrastructure, but also all opportunities to visit the country and to meet with the people. When a Yemeni woman ended up in my town recently, and I could start sharing, I just realised once again how amazing God is in His way of doing things.

When we make friends and build relationships, it is easy to find ways to share the gospel, to pray together and to make a difference in people's lives - not only with this lady, but also with other people in our community from a Muslim background, from an ancestral worship background and many others.

I thank God for allowing us to be part of what He is doing.

Please pray...

- For divine opportunities to share the gospel.
- For wisdom from the Holy Spirit when having conversations.
- For open hearts when we reach out.
- For the church of Christ to see the need to reach out and share the gospel.

**Ama Chrisna
Limpopo**

Day 16 – Facing the Demonic

Spiritual warfare is very real in Muslim evangelism. Don McCurry wrote: 'No greater disservice could a discipler render to a young believer than to keep him or her in the dark about the spiritual battles that have raged and will rage over his or her soul and over his or her tribe, clan, people or nation' (*Healing the Broken Family of Abraham*).

Jamil was initiated into the demonic aspect of Islam very early in life. After meeting with Christ at the age of 21, his eyes were suddenly opened. He realized how evil he had been, how much harm he had done under the tutelage of his Dad and Uncle. He recalled them placing curses on people to die, to be sick, to go crazy etc., and he considered all that as normal until he gave his life to Christ.

Now in Christ, the battle continues to rage over his life. Though he is in a ministry environment, he has suffered severe satanic attacks on his health, his immediate family, as well as other areas of his life. When he discussed this with his parents, their only response was: return to Islam.

So far, he has not yielded to the pressures.

Prayer Points

- Let us pray for many Muslim-background believers (MBBs) who suffer serious demonic attacks because of their faith in Christ, that God's grace will be sufficient for them. Pray that they will learn how to stand firm in their spiritual battles (Luke 10:17-20).
- Let us pray for MBBs who have been forced to give up their faith or have returned to Islam through satanic machination. Pray that their eyes will be opened and that they will return to the Lord (Luke 11:24-26).
- Let us pray for the workers and disciple-makers among believers from a Muslim background, that they shall have God's wisdom, discernment and courage to teach their disciples by all means about spiritual warfare, the reality of the enemy and how to exercise authority over him in the name of Jesus (2 Corinthians 4:2).

Mozambique

Day 17 – Advancing Islam through Forceful Marriages

In March 2022, Tami Banda reported to her father that a Muslim man was troubling her. He was bullying her to accept a love proposal after she refused him several times. This man started using threats and coming to the home of Tami at night. One night around 9pm, the man arrived at Mr Banda's house. When he discovered that Mr Banda was around he ran away. Mr Banda decided to take the matter to the relatives of this Muslim man. After some discussions the situation still did not change.

On 1 January 2023 it was reported that this man was missing. Eighteen policemen together with the man's family members came to search the whole Banda house and surroundings for the missing man. They found nothing except a Qur'an in Tami's bedroom which was given to her by another girl, a Muslim friend.

On 2 February 2023 in the afternoon, his relatives and friends (about 300) stormed Mr Banda's home and started causing trouble accusing the Banda family of being responsible for the missing man. Mr Banda's family is being intimidated and continues living in fear. Mr Banda was invited by the police to explain the whole issue. In his statement, he emphasised that it was the Muslim man who is troubling his daughter and now also the man's family, through threats.

From the man's side it was reported to the police that the man went missing because he was being troubled and intimidated by Tami. On the 9th of February 2023, rumours indicated that he was found in Karonga district, but the relatives rushed to Karonga to pick him up and hide him somewhere, possibly Nkhotakota their home district.

There are strong indicators that Muslim young men are sent to marry Christian women to advance Islam. Since they are funded they use forceful ways to accomplish their goals. This issue is in the hands of the police and Evangelical Association of Malawi (EAM).

Pray that persecution challenges will be taken seriously, because:

- The biggest challenge is that many people are not aware that they are facing persecution.
- From what people hear about Islam on the media, they are afraid. People try as best they can to avoid situations of persecution.
- The Malawi Church, church leaders and members should be given training on how to be aware of persecution and receive training in trauma healing, because most of them don't know that what is happening is persecution, which needs a united response.

Rumphi district, Malawi

Day 18 – “My daughter cannot be married to a Christian,” vows a Muslim parent

Chikhu Kalua and Maria Sambo have been in love with each other for some time. After preparing the marriage arrangement Chikhu started approaching both families, but Mr Sambo refused that his daughter be married to a Christian.

In June 2022, Chikhu and Maria got married without receiving the blessing from Mr Sambo. Because of their age, they had the freedom to make decisions on their own. Since then, Mr Sambo has declared a total war on Chikhu and Maria, demanding them not to continue this marriage relationship. The most astonishing thing people are talking about is why he is behaving like this, while he himself is married to two women who were Christians before he forced them to join Islam.

Currently, Maria has a strained relationship with her father because of her marriage to Chikhu. Since she got married she has not seen or talked to her father and other relatives. At the same time, Chikhu is afraid that he might be caught off guard with the threats he is receiving from Maria’s father. They are living in total fear, as they don’t know what is going to happen to them. We thank God that Maria has started to attend Bible classes.

As if this is not enough, Maria’s mother is also facing persecution. Her husband is claiming that she is the one who influenced Maria to marry a Christian. She has since reported the harassment to the police, but they are not doing enough to help her because they are also afraid of the violent acts of Muslims.

Please continue to pray that persecution challenges will be taken seriously.

- Gate keepers of the Christian faith, as well as the police, traditional leaders, chiefs and other authorities, must be given civic education on persecution and how to handle it.
- Preventative measures must be developed and taught to the church and all its members.
- The church must be aware of Muslim actions, tricks and behaviours.

Mzimba district, Malawi

Day 19 – “Lame people are not allowed in Islam”, Mr Onani Gondwe was told

Onani Gondwe was born fine 30 years ago, and was able to walk and do everything as a normal person. At the age of twelve Onani became ill and the result was that he lost the use of both his legs as well as one hand.

He was taken to different hospitals but he couldn't be helped. Although he was well, he could not walk. He was pushed in a wheelchair but he could not manage to maintain the wheelchair and for ten years he has been looking for another chair.

This led to him starting to face persecution from his uncle who is a Muslims leader (Sheik), and other Muslims. According to his uncle, Islam cannot allow lame people to enter a mosque. Mr Gondwe was told he can join any church because he is not welcome to Islam.

Pastor Size from another church started visiting him and shared the gospel with him. Three years ago he became a follower of Jesus Christ, the crucified One. He now has some peace of mind after finding new friends – Christian friends. These friendships also contribute to the anger Muslims have towards Onani Gondwe.

We are grateful that Pastor Yunusu Mataka was able to find a tricycle wheelchair from *Action for Progress*. Thank God that Pastor Alpheus Banda and Rev Paul Mawaya were able to provide fuel to deliver it to Machinga from Blantyre.

Please pray...

- That Yunusu and his team will continue serving our Father God regardless of Mthenga Wabwino's challenges.
- Mthenga Wabwino activities have been stopped because there is no funding, pray for God's provision.
- For continued work among Muslims by mobilizing and equipping church leaders, church members and individuals in reaching out to Muslims regardless of any situation.
- That partners will join us in supporting our ministry financially or in any other way so that the work of our Father God in reaching out to Muslims can continue.

Machinga district, Malawi

Day 20 – I don't want to see you again until your husband becomes a Muslim

Dulani fell in love with Mimi and got married to her in 2018. Since then both Mimi and her husband are facing persecution from her father. He has vowed he doesn't want to see her unless Dulani converts to Islam or she returns to Islam, otherwise she is no longer needed by her father.

Since then, she has experienced difficulty visiting her parents. She can only visit her mother when her father is not at home. For Dulani, he is also threatened by Mimi's father. Up to this date Dulani has not even attempted to visit the home of Mimi's parents and it affects their marriage.

Mimi is too afraid to go to church. Although she is committed, she fears that her father will discover her and make trouble for her. Pastor Yunusu Mataka is discipling both of them using *Come Follow Me* material. Thanks be to God that both of them are responding positively.

Prayer Requests

- Please continue to pray that Yunusu and his team will continue serving our Father God regardless of challenges facing his ministry, Mthenga Wabwino.
- Pray for our relocation to Rumphu and all the logistics required for a smooth transfer.
- Pray for our boy who will remain behind because of school. He will be writing exams the second week of May 2023.
- Pray that as Muslims fast and pray during Ramadan, and beyond, that they will come to know the truth of salvation in Christ, and be set free indeed.

Blantyre district, Malawi

Day 21 – The Copperbelt

We reach out to the Muslims in the Copperbelt province in Zambia by...

Mobilizing churches to get involved in Muslim evangelism and doing training • Outreaches into Muslim communities and markets • Visiting homes and lending a helping hand to Muslims in need • Visiting mosques and building relationships • Having dialogues and doing follow-up.

While reaching out to Muslims, we have seen that churches become more aware of the ministry and are connecting with Muslims. Each person in the team has specific people he/she visits weekly. We are thankful to God for that. We constantly go into mosques and people's homes to share the love of Christ and to build relationships. This is hard work and it takes time to see results, however our God is doing wonders in the Copperbelt.

Our team is growing, yet we still need more people to join us in this ministry! We also need resources to help us do the work more effectively. There has been a big move from Muslims giving out loans to the youth to start their own businesses, and we have seen a big number of people turning to Islam because of that. The Islamic dawah team is also very busy converting people by visiting them and using open-air meetings, which is a very big concern in Zambia.

In January we had a debate with them and over 200 Muslims attended. For three days we had the opportunity to share the gospel with them. Each day we were given 45 minutes to share the topics, which were: 1) The crucifixion, death and resurrection of Jesus, 2) Jesus, the Son of God and 3) The authenticity of the Bible. Since that event we have been debating with the Islamic leaders on many other topics and heard some testimonies of how some Muslims had dreams of Jesus after that same event. We are thankful that churches are still on fire since that time.

Testimony: To work among the Somali people is hard ground. But God is at work! After seven years working here and having more than 100 contacts, the first Somali came to our place. Before I could start sharing, he told me about Somali Christians being found worldwide. I gave him a flyer in Somali called: "Pure Gold". In this flyer are Bible verses and a website for Somali believers. He told me that he kept this flyer in secret and that he started to follow a Christian channel. But he is scared of his own Somali friends, so to come and visit us was hard for him. He asked about which church he must attend. I suggested he wait to find a church and that we will do Bible study together as he also follows the Christian channel, for his own safety. We trust that God will point out a church to him when the time is right. WhatsApp is a very helpful tool; we communicate freely and privately. I encourage him to ask Jesus for every answer.

Prayer points

- Pray that this man will be aware of God's presence at all times. Pray for us for wisdom as we teach him. The consequences of him confessing his faith in Christ are very serious! Currently he is staying with his uncle who is taking care of him and he is staying here with a refugee permit. Once the uncle finds out about his faith in Christ, he will be killed or he will be deported back to Somalia.
- Pray for wisdom and boldness as the team reaches out to Muslims in general in Zambia.
- Provision - we need finances and literature to connect and run some projects that can help those coming to faith.
- Pray for more workers to join the team in reaching out to others.
- Pray for the salvation of Muslims.

Day 22 – No Promise of an Income

On the 2nd of November 1998, we arrived in a village called Quionga in Palma together with our 3 children. We did not have any financial support nor the promise of an income, nor did we have a team praying for us. After being there for a month, we started baking bread to sell or to exchange for fish from the fishermen. I joined the men in the community to learn how to dry fish, which we used to take into Tanzania to sell and in return buy food and other requirements for the family.

Even though this activity was not planned, we later realized that selling bread to the fishermen and learning how to prepare and dry the fish, was actually a very positive way of engaging and impacting the community, because we identified with the community and our lifestyle was not hidden from them. We lived a similar life, yet we had Christ as the only difference. We saw many Muslims coming to faith in Jesus Christ.

This was the beginning of the current Proximity Access Ministry strategy which I am now leading at OM Africa. We realized that not only were Muslims reached geographically, because they live in our proximity - we also need to encourage every believer living in the proximity of the Muslims, to know that he/ she is a tool in God's hands to reach Muslims for Christ.

In Proximity Access Ministries, we are developing sustainable tools which will help those God has called to reach Muslims, to use for both entry into Muslim communities and also for their own sustainability.

One of the biggest challenges of being in ministry is money. Because of this we designed an internship training program which will train up to 14 interns per year in understanding Islam and the Muslim people, in defending and sharing the gospel and also how to use farming as a tool for engaging and sustaining ourselves in missions.

We started the first internship training program on the 1st of March here in Samfya at our farm called Kash Organic Farms.

It is costing US \$100 per intern per month for accommodation, meals and seed that is needed for the production of crops. Once we have produced enough food, interns who do not have sponsors for the training, can actually work on the farm to support themselves throughout the internship training period. The training program is 8 months simply because we want interns to raise their own seed fund through farming.

Please pray...

1. For God to send the right people who will commit to reach Muslims in Africa with the gospel.
2. That God will touch the lives of the current four interns in a powerful way, so that what they are learning will leave an impression on their hearts for life.
3. For provision of food requirements for the training period.
4. That God will help us with all the crops we are growing, so that the interns will be able to raise seed funds for their future ministry.
5. We need favour with the immigration department for the two Mozambican interns who are here, because we have been told that they need a business visa to be able to do what they are doing, and a business visa is very expensive.
6. We need people who have the same passion as us, to join our training team in different areas: Admin, Agriculture, Muslim evangelism, etc.
7. The facilities at our farm are very limited, we need more water supply and drip irrigation for a bigger area.

8. Our church is six kilometres from our farm and it is very hard to walk there. We are currently borrowing bicycles each time we have to go to church. We need our own bicycles at the farm for transport.
9. We need to own cows which will be used for the production of manure for crops and we need black soldier fly larvae to feed the fish and chickens. (cows are cheaper to maintain because they mostly eat grass).
10. We need donors who can adopt an intern for 8 months with US\$ 100 per month.
11. We also consult with pastors on the growth of Islam in Zambia. Please pray for favour with churches and the provision of resources.

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[Samfya, Zambia](#)

Day 23 – A Word for Spirit-filled Christians to bring Muslim People of the Earth to Faith in Christ

Paul, who used to be called Saul of Tarsus, who at one time called himself “a Hebrew of the Hebrews; concerning the law, a Pharisee” had a vision to persecute and kill all the Jewish believers. However, he was called by God to round up the “followers of ‘The Way’” (before they became known as Christians in Antioch). The testimonial that Jesus gave to Ananias about him was:

“Saul is my chosen instrument to take my message to the Gentiles and to kings, as well as to the people of Israel. ¹⁶ And I will show him how much he must suffer for my name’s sake.” (Acts 9:15 NLT).

The apostle Paul went on 3 significant missionary journeys to lead many people to Christ, pioneer many churches among Gentile people, do many signs and wonders, healings and miracles. He wrote nearly two thirds of the New Testament and preached powerful messages (Acts 17:22-25). Just as Jewish believers like Paul was called to communicate the Gospel to Gentile people and nations, so modern-day Christian believers have been given the mandate to reach the Muslim world. Most particularly, this mandate was given to a few Christian men who were not born into Muslim families, but brought Muslim men and women to Christ, so that these indigenous Muslims can bring their own people into the fellowship of Christ Jesus (1 Timothy 2:3-6)

Alive Africa is one such mission group, whose 9 Mission Stations in North-eastern Kenya, Southern Somalia and Zanzibar Island have indigenous Muslim-background believers leading Muslims to Christ. They also establish them in the Word of God through biblical training classes, to become true disciples of Jesus. The disciples learn from live email studies sent to each mission station in English, all translated into the 3 languages represented in all 9 stations – kiSwahili, Somali and Oromo. These studies are sent to them, on average, every second week, and they are able to ask questions about Christian living in 3 languages, translated back into English, with answers coming back from ministers in Australia and South Africa.

ALIVE AFRICA

TOTAL FEEDBACK STATISTICS FROM ALL STATIONS IN CALENDAR YEAR 2022

Station	No. of Sub-Classes	Members	New from	Dropped out	Murdered	Members	Total
		at 1 Jan '22	Jan-Dec '22	Jan-Dec '22	Jan-Dec '22	at Dec '22	Saved
Kilifi	13	437	347	170	2	612	544
Lamu	7	229	328	36	0	521	464
Garissa	10	323	258	82	23	476	403
Wajir	8	243	257	87	154	259	246
Mandera	8	102	204	6	99	201	300
Liboi/Soma	26	356	410	5	235	526	760
Mombasa	17	650	743	329	1	1063	939
Moyale	11	456	469	47	0	878	827
Zanzibar	4	48	86	1	0	133	121
TOTAL	104	2844	3102	763	514	4669	4604

Praise Offerings and Prayer Requests

- Praise God for the 19 full-time indigenous missionaries, serving the Lord in the 9 mission stations.
- Praise God for more than 104 lay volunteers, called deacons, serving the Lord and classes of new converts and seekers in the 104 sub-classes of the 9 mission stations.
- Praise the Lord for the new converts who are learning biblical principles week by week.

- Praise the Lord for every new seeker that joins the classes regularly.
- Praise the Lord for every new testimony that glorifies Him regularly.
- Praise the Lord for every new teaching that is written for students to study, and every biblical answer given for new information and growth of character.
- Praise the Lord for the families of believing children who are hosting the daughters whose families have disowned and rejected them.
- Pray for every new attendee that comes into the classes, that they may make a clear commitment to Christ and grow in grace and the knowledge of the truth in the Word.
- Pray for the Godly counsel given by deacons and missionaries to the converts and the seekers.
- Pray for families who have lost loved ones through murders by al Shabaab, that they will be comforted and not lose hope.
- Pray for the enemies who hate what the gospel is accomplishing in the lives of people and are intent on persecuting the believers in Christ.
- Pray for communities who are hostile toward the gospel and who blaspheme the very name of Jesus.
- Pray for the funding of Alive Africa to pay the monthly stipends for the 19 missionaries, for the costs of the classes and people attending them, for funding of the daughters of the hostile fathers who have disowned them, and they are having to learn skills like making mats to survive, also for emergency funds to help believers who are injured when hostilities become physically abusive.

At present we are in serious need of funding. At the very time we have seen such growth in our ministry (never before have we seen more than 4,000 Muslims come to Christ in one year!) our donations have dipped just in the 2 months of January and February of this year, 2023. In that period, we received only 50% of what we needed, to cover missionary expenses (stipends). If this trend continues into the year, we will have to cut missionary stipends, which will be painful for us to do!

First, we need to PRAY, because the Lord's treasury has never lost its value, and second we NEED MORE DONORS to cover what we have lost!

For more information, please write to: keith.strugnell@strugnells.co.za
Alive Africa

Day 24 – The Lord Saves

In December 2021, Amir became a Christian and started attending an MTW Bible study. He wanted time to slowly introduce his family to the truth of the gospel and they continued attending the mosque without him. After his conversion, the Islamic leaders realised that Amir became a follower of Christ and started plotting how to reach him so that they could kill him. His eldest daughter, Sara, was active in the *madrassa* (Islamic school) and they decided to use her. They started giving her extra lessons separately from the other children and told her that Allah had a special message for her. Eventually they claimed that Allah had a mission for her; to secretly sneak a sachet of white powder into a glass of water for her father, explaining that it would make him rich.

Initially, Sara was happy to carry out this command from Allah. However, she was concerned she would be discovered and could not do it immediately. As time passed, she became more reluctant to obey the leaders and became fearful of Allah's punishment. Amir saw his daughter withdraw and sensed her struggle. He hoped that taking her along to a showing of the Jesus film would bring to light the source of her turmoil. He prayed with an MTW member, before he and Sara were seated in the first row.

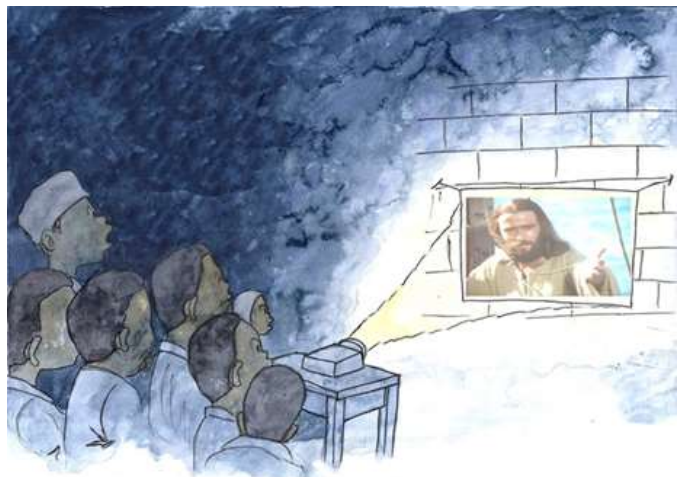
Sara was transported by the film. She was thrilled by the miracles Jesus was performing. At the stage when a servant's ear was cut off and Jesus restored it, she shouted, "very good Jesus," and everybody laughed. It was great! The momentum came during Jesus's crucifixion. I could see everybody in tears, and I heard Sara asking her father: "Dad, why are they hurting Jesus?" and even before her father could answer her, Sara said: "Dad, I will tell you what our leaders told me to do..."

Back home, after telling her father everything and showing him the powder, Amir realised the leaders had prompted her to poison him. He removed his family from the mosque and moved to a different home. Now Sara also attends Bible study, while they are waiting for the rest of their family to turn to Jesus.

Please pray...

- For this family's safety.
- That the rest of Amir and Sara's family will be led to Christ.
- For the protection of Muslim children against pressure to turn to terrorism, in order to spread Islam.

Kenya



Day 25 – From death to life

In February 2022, Hassan's daughter, Aaleyah, told him she was bored staying at home waiting to marry and she wanted to fill her time studying or working. He agreed and thought of sending her to college, but was too slow making arrangements for Aaleyah's liking. Soon, she found something herself to keep busy. Hassan was concerned and followed her one afternoon. He discovered her meeting a man and assumed she was having an affair. When she saw her father's anger and realised his assumption, Aaleyah told the truth; the man was in fact, a missionary with MTW and she had started learning about Christianity. Devastated, Hassan took her to be cleansed at the mosque, demanded she stop entertaining "*kafir's*" teachings and even tried to find out where MTW is based so that he could arrange an attack on it. Aaleyah did not know the location, but she did have a phone number that she gave to her father. He discovered the number was useless, after phoning without success. He decided the safest place for his daughter to be kept busy was Saudi Arabia, the Holy Land, where she would not be exposed to "*kafir's*" teachings.

She was excited about the prospect and Hassan was convinced he had done the right thing. He waited in anticipation to hear her news about life in the Holy Land, but was perplexed when she phoned only once after three months to tell him she was sick and returning home. On her arrival her family saw how ill she had become and no medical help was able to cure her. She died in mid-October 2022. Before her death she was able to reveal that she had been treated as a sex-slave, sold among three owners in three months. They also learnt that Arabs did not view African (or black) Muslims as Muslim. In fact, the Arabs see them as "*kafirs*" (unbelievers) as well.

These events left Hassan disillusioned and in desperation, he tried to contact the missionary again. When sending a text message, he finally received a reply! After sharing his story, he admitted his craving for truth. The MTW missionary explained how Christ's teaching is the truth. After being disciplined by MTW, Hassan and his whole family were led to Christ. Hassan believes that Aaleyah, having tasted the truth, is better off where she is now, as he trusts that no problem is too big and no person too small for God's saving power.

Girls are wanted for work, not just in Saudi Arabia, but also in Qatar and the United Arab Emirates. Many African Muslim (and non-Muslim) girls have the same experience when starting a "new life" in Saudi Arabia. After coming back, some recover, many die on their return home.

Please pray...

- That this exploitation will come to light and be stopped.
- That African Muslims will realise the love and acceptance they can find in Jesus.

Tanzania



Day 26 – Breaking through barriers

The Bajun people group is an Islamic community found in Lamu county, along the Kenyan coast. They speak Kitikuu, a dialect of the Swahili language. Due to their closeness to the Indian Ocean, their way of life is centered around the sea. The Swahili Bajun traditionally worked as fishermen, though many are now also in trade.

If Christian workers come to these islands, the locals are warned in the mosques and madrassas to watch out for these Christians and stay away from them. Either they will not rent accommodation to a missionary, or they will push up the rent extremely high and the accommodation will be in very bad condition. Muslim leaders will either try hard to convert such a person to Islam to gain favour with Allah, or they will resort to witchcraft and put bindings on the person. Sometimes life on these islands becomes so lonely that the Christian workers move away.

There are many people who are hostile towards me. Even though they know me, they don't greet me because of my belief. It is very difficult to form trusting relationships with these people.

However, when they see that you are sincere, they will start to trust you. In Lamu town I've had the opportunity to build relationships with a family who has been through a divorce. They even allowed me to take their two daughters for a day outing, which is a miracle. At the moment, one family has invited me to attend their family wedding after the month of Ramadan.

Prayer Requests

- Thank God that the Bajun have started to open up, compared to earlier times when they were hostile to the gospel and Christian activities.
- Pray for those who fear to accept the gospel to be followers of Christ, for they might be ridiculed, that they will be courageous enough to trust God with their lives.
- Pray that God would protect the secret believers, and that they will stand firm on the decision they made. In the villages people know each other well. That is why new converts move away from the village to other towns, for their own safety.

Kenya

Day 27 – South Sudan and adjacent Countries

Throughout hardship, war and fighting, among regimes and between Muslims and Christians, South Sudan became a separate country from Sudan and one of the newer countries on the African continent. The fighting left its mark and South Sudan is currently one of the poorest countries in the world. Constant war and people fleeing from one area to another put an end to local farming and most food has to be imported. In the streets of Juba young boys are openly sniffing glue. Poverty and hunger are visible everywhere.

I had the privilege last year in August to be invited by *Favor International* to go to South Sudan to train their field workers – about 400 were invited. These workers work not only in South Sudan, many of them also travel to Chad, Central African Republic, Uganda, Sudan and other African countries to spread the gospel and to encourage and train the people. They also visit many Muslims “in hiding” that no longer want to be part of a Jihad movement. In many of the places, where these field workers visit, there are **no** churches or any Sunday gatherings due to fear of persecution. People are mostly visited “one-by-one” by these fearless field workers.

While busy with the training, I was touched by so many personal testimonies of Muslim-background believers that are working to build up other Christians from a Muslim background. They also reach out to Muslims living in hiding due to fear of being called up to take part in Jihad.

During this trip, I also had the opportunity to share the gospel in a youth prison. These boys (from ages 8-15) are mostly in prison after being caught stealing or are left there by their parents. They do not have opportunities to develop, the smaller children have nowhere to play, only half of the boys can read, and even they have no books.

The gospel message was explained through the image of three houses, each with a chair inside, and a whole story that goes with it. After hearing the message, most of these children wanted to accept Jesus as their Lord and Saviour. One boy even shared that he had had the exact same dream about the houses.



Please pray...

- That God’s blessing will rest on South Sudan and that their economy and agriculture will improve.
- For children in general, but especially in the prisons, that they will receive opportunities for education and will be given open doors to a better future.
- That each boy who wanted to give his life to Jesus will grow in faith, be spared from persecution and share the gospel in their communities.

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www.tencourses.org/goldnuggets

Golden Nuggets Muslim evangelism course

Day 28 – To suffer for His name's sake – Persecution will come

Jesus said that persecution will come. In Matthew 10: 21-22 we read: “Brother will deliver brother over to death, and the father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death, and you will be hated by all for My name’s sake. But the one who endures to the end will be saved.”

In Africa, two of the many men who were persecuted by their families are now spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ using audio Bibles.

This is Ismael’s story (name and location are changed to protect the identity of the person):

My name is Ismael and I am 30 years old. I accepted Jesus as my Lord and Saviour in 2006, but I was persecuted by my family and had to flee. I have a passion to reach my people. I am still single. I have joined the Salem Baptist church as an evangelist since 2013. I have completed training in a mission college in 2016 and was awarded a certificate in Cultural Interaction. I started serving in a Salem prison after learning the importance of doing prison ministry in 2017. After that, I started to prepare teams who would be able to do prison ministry to the other five existing prisons in the city of Salem. I am now the city's prison ministry coordinator, and I preach and teach at the Juvenile Institution in Salem town. I am now conducting a seminar for various churches to know the importance of doing prison ministry. It is only because of the new life in Jesus that I can proclaim Good News to those in prison. Luke 4:18 says:

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me because He has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed”.

Ismael is evangelizing many and often walks long distances since he cannot afford transport. His laptop is missing several keys, but he uses a virtual keyboard and his mouse to type! He has no monthly income and his family is still wanting to do him harm.

Please pray...

- For Ismael and many other workers like him, who are ministering in very difficult circumstances, pray for their protection and that God will provide in all their needs.

Let’s follow Ismael’s example and share the gospel with family and friends.

MegaVoice

Day 29 – Across the Border

Both these stories are about people from Sudan, but living in a neighbouring country. Many Sudanese people have crossed the borders into other countries. There is unrest, very high inflation, and a lack of employment opportunities in parts of Sudan.

There was a Muslim woman called Aamaal, who was the first wife of a Muslim man. Aamaal became friends with Christian workers, who shared the Good News of Christ with her. She became a believer. After Aamaal became a believer, she began to treat the second wife very kindly, which is not usual. Fareeda couldn't help but notice that Aamaal was being kind to her, and they became friends (again, not typical for first and second wives to be friendly with each other). Aamaal began to tell Fareeda about Jesus, and her new life in Him. We are now overjoyed to report that the second wife, Fareeda, took the step and asked Jesus to be her Lord and Saviour and committed her life to Him. The workers have started the lifelong process of discipleship with Fareeda, and she is full of joy.

In a certain city there was a married couple called M and M, who were not believers. Workers befriended them, and they became open to the Good News and committed their lives to Christ. They were both baptized fairly recently! Their children were present at the baptism.

Then, M and M began to have trouble from their landlord, facing some persecution as their landlord is the local Imam and started asking why they weren't going to Friday prayers. Someone also told their family back in Sudan that they weren't going to prayers, their kids aren't going to the Islamic school, and they are hanging out with foreigners. All this was a scary situation for them. So, they started having their discipleship time on the other side of town, and were rotating homes. Everyone was praying about the persecution they were facing. Then, one day, the landlord apologized to them for giving them a hard time and told them that they can just pray at home. The workers went over to study with them recently, and no one bothered anyone. Very much an answer to our prayers!

Please pray...

- For these new believers to grow in their faith.
- For the two wives to continue to have a good relationship.
- For the husband to be convicted by their witness (although I don't think they talk to him about it, so by their actions).
- Against persecution.
- For the children of M and M to become believers.

Sudanese People



[Sudanese woman](#)

Day 30 – Eid al-Fitr

“Eid al-Fitr” is an Arabic word which is what the Muslim festival is called that marks the end of the fast of Ramadan. This is a big celebration that goes together with social gatherings, festive meals and the giving of gifts to family, friends and loved ones.

- ♥ When Ramadan comes to an end, we as believers need to continue praying for the salvation of Muslims.
- ♥ We need to get involved with ministries who reach out to Muslims, or develop our own ministries that would make a difference in their lives.

How to care for Muslims that you are in contact with

Introduce yourself – It seems simple but introducing yourself and asking to know and pronounce their name is a good first step to opening up further conversations.

Learn their story – Be interested in their lives. Are they South African or immigrants? What do they miss about their home country? Ask them about their childhood homes and how life at work or university compares to life at the mosque?

Find out their needs – “Are there any areas in which your community is experiencing challenges?” They may struggle with English, navigating governmental offices and processes, or job search. They might feel lonely in a work environment where there aren’t many other Muslims. Offer to help with these things.

Find something in common – This enables a future conversation or meeting to take place so that a relationship can be further established.

- Host an Iftar meal (their fast-breaking meals in the evenings).
- Offer to help with everyday tasks during Ramadan.
- Join them for one of their cultural or religious celebrations.
- Invite them to a holiday celebration such as Easter Sunday or Christmas day.
- Check in with them often.

Pray for them - Ask them if there’s anything they need prayer for. (Example: job, family, health etc.) Wait, listen to their response, and pray with them, in the name of Jesus.

Adapted from UPG North America

For security reasons, some of the names of the Muslim-background believers, have been changed.

Thank you for praying with us. If you feel led to contribute financially to any of these ministries, please contact CCM at +27 68 232 1026 to receive their contact details.

God bless you!