



**30 DAYS**  
**OF PRAYER**  
FOR THE MUSLIM WORLD

*just for kids*

**APRIL 24 - MAY 23 2020**

# 30 DAYS OF PRAYER FOR THE MUSLIM WORLD

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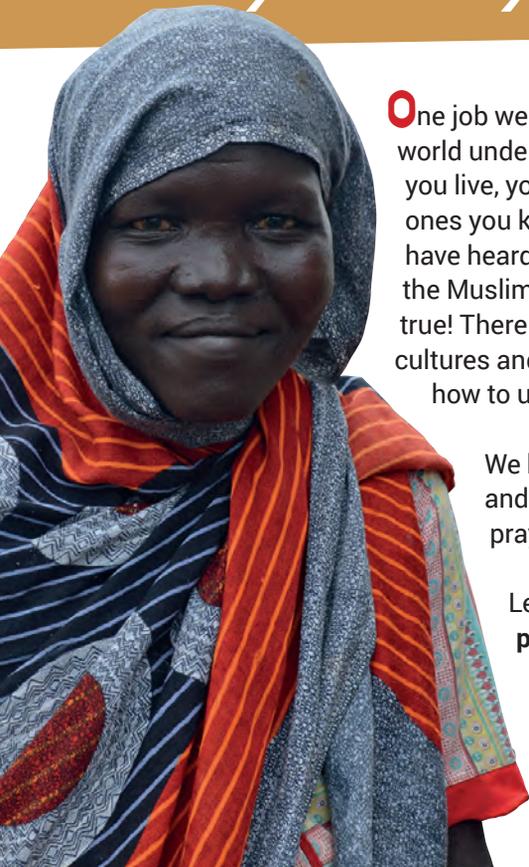


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### For your information

We are not an organization with development staff and foundational grants underwriting our projects. We are a small family operation risking our own personal finances each year, hoping and praying that sales AND donations will be sufficient to keep us going.

# Welcome to the 2020 edition of the *30 Days of Prayer for the Muslim World!*



One job we have at 30 Days that we think is very important is to help Christians all over the world understand Muslims better. If you know some Muslims where you live, you might think that all Muslims are just the same as the ones you know. Or maybe you don't know any Muslims, but you have heard about them on the news. It would be easy to think that the Muslims you see on TV are like all Muslims. But this is not true! There are many different ideas about what it means to be a Muslim. Muslims in different cultures and at different times have had different ideas about how to worship, how to live and how to understand their faith, and these ideas have spread and changed some more.

**Note: some of the pages have quizzes. You will find the answers on page 32.**

We hope you will learn a lot about the different ways Muslims all over the world believe and the different ways they practice their faith. This will give you new ideas for how to pray.

Let us know what you learned and how you prayed, email us at:  
**[paulf@30daysprayer.com](mailto:paulf@30daysprayer.com)**

**Thank you for praying!**  
**30 Days Editors**

## Let's pray!

**1** Pray that the many Christians who are praying in the next 30 days will be in unity when they pray for Muslims.

**2** Pray that Christians will show the love of God to Muslims.

**3** All Muslims believe that Jesus (*Isa*) was a prophet. Pray that in the coming days they will experience that He is much more, that He is the Son of God.

# An introduction to movements in Islam

## Let's go!

**Read 1 Corinthians 12:12–21 together. How many body parts are mentioned here? Two are only mentioned by what we do with them. When you pray, touch one of those parts with your hands. The next person touches another part of his or her body.**

**Did you discover all the body parts?**

**Answer on page 32**

**Y**ou and your family are probably going to a church. Maybe you have friends in school who are also going to a church, but not the same one as you. Maybe you wonder why there are so many different churches with so many different names? But everyone going to any of these churches says that they are Christians, because we all believe in Jesus. It is as 1 Corinthians 12:12 says: We are all different, like parts of a body, but all the parts together make a complete body. We live differently, we might worship differently, but because we all believe in Jesus, we are one body.

It is the same for Muslims. They might all go to the mosque on Friday but believe different things about how to worship or how to live as a Muslim. Maybe you have seen Muslim women who are completely covered by black coats and others who are just wearing a shawl over their head. That is a sign that they belong to different Muslim groups and believe in different ways on how best to live as a Muslim. These different groups are sometimes called a “movement”.

In the next 30 days we will get to know some of these movements and will learn how to pray for the Muslims involved in them.



DAY

2

APRIL 25

## Let's pray!

**1** Pray that Sufis will find the love of God through Jesus, who practiced it during His whole life and even with His death.

**2** Among the 80 million people of Turkey, there are a few thousand Christian believers who were previously Muslims. Pray for them to share their faith effectively to Sufi Muslims.

**3** Pray that Muslim people will experience that God gives all good things to everybody, and we don't have to earn His love. (Matthew 5:45b)

They want to have a close relationship with God.

# Sufism in Turkey

**W**hat do you do when you want to learn about God and to talk to Him? You read the Bible to learn about Jesus, who showed us God's great love and taught us about His Father. You pray and sing songs about God's greatness.

Sufis are Muslims who also want to know God and experience His love. They want to have a close relationship with God and learn about Him. Some of them—the Turkish Mevlevi Dervishes—have special music and dances which they use to help them focus on God. They whirl themselves around, very fast, with one hand stretched up to God and another hand outstretched to the earth. While they whirl around, they repeat prayers to help them think about God and experience God's presence.

## Let's go!

**What happens if you whirl around only ten times? Try it! Do you get dizzy and fall down? When you pray, form a circle and sing a worship song or a song about God's love together.**



Photo © Nadia Ismail via Flickr CC BY-NC-SA

DAY

3

APRIL 26

## Let's pray!

**1** In the countries where the Tijanis live are thousands of unreached Muslim groups. Pray for Muslims to get to know Jesus and for the Christians who work in that area.

**2** In some nations, the Tijaniyyah leaders have a lot of influence: People listen if they say something. Pray that they will use their influence to bring peace to their people in West Africa.

**3** In Psalm 136, phrases are repeated and it helps Christians to remember how much God loves us. Read the Psalm and pray the words for the Tijaniyyah.

## Let's go!

Do you know some of the different names of God? Where can you find some?

Repeat those names as you pray for the Tijaniyyah. Here are two examples:

- **Judges 6:24**  
**The Lord is Peace**
- **Exodus 15:26**  
**The Lord my healer**

# The Tijaniyyah

**A**bdul lives in a village in Senegal and he has to hurry because today is a special day. At midnight he and his friends will start to celebrate the birthday of the prophet Muhammad. They will do this with singing, reciting poems and making speeches about the life of the prophet. It is the most important day of the year. Abdul and his friends are part of a group called the Tijaniyyah and they call themselves Tijanis.

The Tijaniyyah group started in 1780, nearly 250 years ago in a place that belongs to the country of Algeria now. The Tijanis wanted to bring change to Islam, helping the poor and bringing education to the people.

The Tijanis are part of a bigger group called Sufis. You can find Tijaniyyahs in many West African countries, for example in Senegal, Mali, Niger, Chad, Ghana and Nigeria. It is important for Tijanis to repeat holy phrases. These can be short prayers, the names of God or other phrases that help them to look to God.

# The Nile-Nubians in Egypt and Sudan

## Let's pray!

- 1 Pray that the Nubians will remember that once they were all Christians, and that new churches will be built.
- 2 Pray that the desire to know God will help many Nubians to find Jesus.
- 3 Pray for all the Christians who are working among the Nubians, telling them about Jesus.

## Let's go!

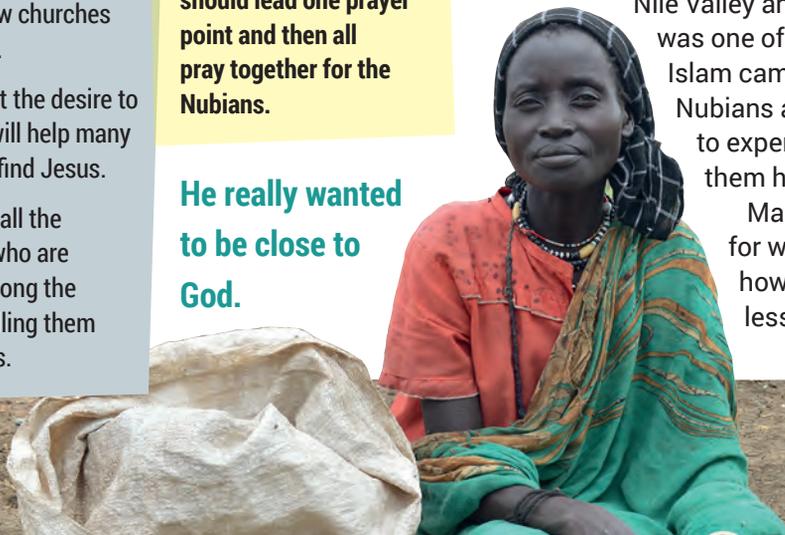
**Divide yourselves into three groups, to represent the three Nubian kingdoms which were filled with some of the earliest African Christians. Each group should lead one prayer point and then all pray together for the Nubians.**

**He really wanted to be close to God.**

**A**bu Ali is a Nubian from a village in Egypt. He really wanted to be close to God so he decided to become a Sufi since that is a movement in Islam that really focuses on having a spiritual experience with God. He meditated many hours every day, which means he was thinking about God quietly and in prayer. But he was disappointed to find that no matter how hard he tried, he never really experienced God as he wanted to. However, when he heard the gospel he decided to follow Jesus.

About 1,500 years ago, the Nubians had built three kingdoms in the Nile Valley and all the people living there were Christians. It was one of the first churches in Africa. In the 13th century, Islam came into the Nile Valley and today almost all Nubians are Sunni Muslims. But like Abu Ali, many want to experience God more deeply, though only a few of them have heard the gospel.

Many Nubian men have traveled to Saudi Arabia for work. Saudi Arabia has very strict beliefs about how to be a Muslim and this has made the Nubians less open to learning about Christianity.



Wahhabism is a very strict way to follow Islam.

## Wahhabism

You are probably wondering what this word means! Wahhabism is again a movement in Islam, and it was developed in Saudi Arabia by a man called Muhammad ibn Abd al-Wahhab. Wahhabism is a very strict way to follow Islam. Wahhabis are not allowed to drink alcohol, to smoke or to listen to any music. In Wahhabism, men and women have to live separately—they cannot spend time together. Muslims following Wahhabism think that they are the only true Muslims.

Many other Muslims around the world don't like Wahhabism and think it is not a good way to practice Islam. Some say that Wahhabism is also involved with terrorist organizations across the world.

Wahhabis have a lot of influence, however, because the royal family of Saudi Arabia is Wahhabi and has a lot of money and power. The royal family helps to build mosques all over the world and gives money to spread the teaching of Wahhabism.

### Let's pray!

**1** Wahhabis think they are the only correct Muslims, and if they have influence they can make life difficult for other Muslims. Pray for those Muslims who don't want to be Wahhabis but who live in a Wahhabi society.

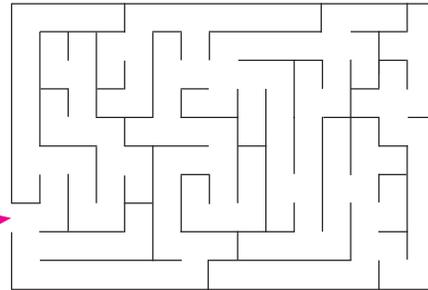
**2** Wahhabis do not build relationships with non-Wahhabis. This makes it difficult to share the gospel with them. Pray that they will have dreams and visions of Jesus.

**3** Pray that Wahhabis too will get to know Jesus and become children of God.

### Let's go!

Help the Christians find the way to the Wahhabis.

*Answer on page 32*



# Wahhabism in Dagestan

## Let's pray!

**1** Pray for the few hundred Christian believers in Dagestan who live among the Dargins, that they can be a light to them.

**2** Pray for the translation of the Bible into the local languages, in written and audio versions.

**3** Pray that God will give the Dargins a revelation of Jesus and the freedom He offers.

## Let's go!

See if you can find a stone that is shaped like a heart and also a heart that is made out of something soft. Go and get them (or draw one if you can't find one) and put them in front of you.

Read Ezekiel 36:26-27

*Answer on page 32*

How does God see the people who are following all the restrictions of the Wahhabis? They are people with \_\_\_\_\_.

What does God want to do? Replace them with (v26) \_\_\_\_\_ and (v27) \_\_\_\_\_.

**D**agestan is a republic of Russia by the Caspian Sea. It borders Georgia and Azerbaijan. About 95 percent of the 2.9 million people of Dagestan are Muslim. Two of the largest people groups are the Avars and the Dargins.

The Wahhabism movement came to Dagestan from Saudi Arabia in the 1980s and is influencing this whole Muslim society. The Dargins do not want to be part of Russia—they want to have their own country. Because of this there have been several violent conflicts.

The Wahhabis control nearly everything in people's lives: How you have to behave, what to eat, what to wear, how to worship and how to react to corruption. They even forbid listening to music if you want to be a serious Muslim. How would you feel in such a society? Is it possible to keep all these rules? (Even strict Wahhabis sometimes listen to their traditional music and dances when they have guests!)



DAY

7

APRIL 30

Photo © C Toller/iron

## Let's pray!

**1** Young people like Anwar want to do the right thing. Pray that they get to know Jesus so they can preach about Him.

**2** When so many people gather at the meeting in Bangladesh, there are many things that could go wrong. Pray that everyone who is attending will be safe.

**3** Pray for Christians who are sharing with members of the Tablighi Jamaat, that they have wisdom to be an effective witness.

## Let's go!

**Today you can be Anwar and go on a preaching tour. Take the booklet with you and walk from room to room in your house. In every room you can pray for one of the requests.**

# Tablighi Jamaat

**T**ablighi Jamaat means “Society for Spreading Faith”. It has over 80 million members, which makes it the biggest Muslim organization in the world. You can find members of Tablighi Jamaat in 150 countries, including Ethiopia, the USA, Nepal and South Africa. Once a year there is a gathering in Bangladesh and over five million Muslims attend it every year.

Anwar is a member of Tablighi Jamaat and he wanted to learn more about it. So he traveled from Australia, his home country, to Delhi, in India. Together with other young Muslims from many countries Anwar learned more about his faith. They went on preaching tours to Muslims who did not live a Sunni Muslim lifestyle. Anwar knew that by doing this he would learn a lot for his own life. He really enjoyed being with other young Muslims like him, but he didn't like so much the lack of comfort in some of the places they went to while preaching and he was really challenged by it.

**Anwar has packed his suitcase. Can you find out how many things he has in it?**

**Answer on page 32**



## Let's pray!

**1** The Quranists are searching for truth in the Quran. Pray that they will find Jesus and want to know more about Him.

**2** Pray that they will have dreams and visions about Jesus so they will search for more in the Bible.

**3** Read Proverbs 3:5–6 and pray that the Quranists will really put their trust in God alone.

## Let's go!

Quranists are looking for truth in the Quran. The Quran has many passages about Jesus (*Isa*). Here are some examples:

- The Quran says that *Isa* was the son of the virgin Mary.
- The Quran talks about *Isa Mesiah* (Jesus the Messiah).
- The Quran calls *Isa* the Word of God.
- The Quran tells stories about the miracles performed by *Isa*.
- The Quran says *Isa* is without sin.
- The Quran says *Isa* will come back.

Do you know some of the Bible stories where these things are also written?

## Quranists

Most Muslims believe that there are three essential parts to Islamic law:

- The Quran is the book the prophet Muhammad received as a revelation from God.
- The Sunnah is a collection of the words, deeds and observations of the prophet Muhammad.
- The Hadith is a collection of six books of stories that others told about the life of Muhammad.

To memorize, interpret and apply these texts keeps Muslim scholars busy!

Quranists are different, however. They are Muslims who only accept the Quran as the source for religious law and guidance in Islam. They don't think that the other books should be used: For them the Quran is enough. They appreciate the prophet Muhammad, but they do not honor him in the same way as other Muslims do, who see him as a role model for Islam. They think that to do so is like worshiping an idol. When they declare their faith using the traditional words of the Shahadah, which declares that there is one God and Muhammad is his prophet, they leave out the sentence about Muhammad.

The movement of the Quranists started in the time of Muhammad but became more popular during the 20th century in all regions with large Muslim populations.



DAY

9

MAY 2

## Let's pray!

1 Pray that Ahmadis will find the truth about Jesus and experience that He is powerful.

2 Pray that God will use the influence Ahmadis have in many countries to bring good changes for the people who live there.

3 Pray that other Muslims will see how peaceful Ahmadis are and that they will take it as an example for themselves.

# The Ahmadiyya movement in Ghana

Today about 10 million Muslims are Ahmadis.



## Let's go!

Solve the riddle below first, then pray that the Ahmadis will understand what Jesus told Peter.

**H**azrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad was born about 180 years ago in India. He said that he was the Messiah and the *Mahdi* (the one who makes everything right). Muslims also believe that Jesus will come back and will be their *Mahdi*. Ahmad, however, said that he had come instead of Jesus. Today about 10 million Muslims are Ahmadis. They are a peace-loving movement and have learned a lot from the Christian faith in the way they speak and talk about their beliefs.

From India, the Ahmadiyya movement spread to many countries in Africa. In Ghana there are 635,000 Ahmadis living in different tribes. The first tribe to follow Ahmadiyya was the Akan tribe, then the Waala tribe. The efforts of the Ahmadiyya movement have helped to develop the country of Ghana and other West African countries.

Read Matthew 16:15-16:

doG gnivil eht fo noS eht, tsirhc eht era ouY, deilper reteP nomiS. ?mA I that yas uoy od ohw tub, meht ot dias eH.

Answer on page 32

DAY

10

MAY 3

## Let's pray!

**1** Like Shabbir, many Bohra people wonder what is more important, the Dai and Islam or their job and everything else in life? Pray that they will have wisdom and understanding.

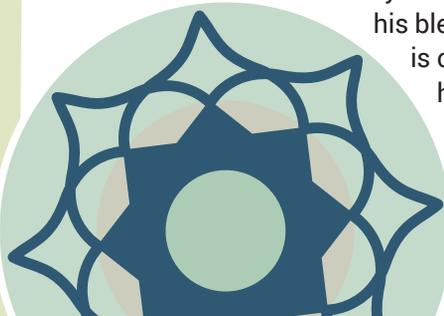
**2** Pray that Bohra will turn to Jesus and understand that He is the One who gives them guidance in life and can save them.

**3** Pray that God sends Christians to live alongside the Bora people to share the gospel with them and help them to find out who God is.

## Let's go!

The Daudi Bohra women really like colors. Get a colorful shawl or blanket and wear it over your shoulders or as a skirt while praying.

They are Muslim but follow a religious leader called the Dai.



# The Daudi Bohra

**T**here are over a million Daudi Bohra and they live mainly in India, though some have moved to the USA and to countries in Europe and East Africa. They are Muslim but follow a religious leader called the Dai. Daudi Bohra Muslims believe that the Dai is communicating with a hidden imam (Islamic teacher) who is receiving guidance from God. The Dai gives that guidance and blessings to the Daudi Bora.

Shabbir is a student and has an important exam coming up. But on the day of his exam, there is a big holiday and thousands of people are coming to hear the Dai and receive his blessings. Shabbir is also supposed to attend the meeting. He is confused: Should he go and do his exam or should he go and hear the Dai? If he doesn't do his exam he will fail in college and maybe he will not get a good job. But if he misses the Dai he could miss his blessing. Can he trust the Dai and follow his Bora community? What should Shabbir do?



DAY

11

MAY 4

# The empowerment of women in Saudi Arabia

## Let's pray!

**1** Pray that the Saudi government will continue to give women the same rights that men have, including also freedom of religion (to be able to believe whatever they choose).

**2** In the Bible we read that women were the first ones who recognized Jesus after He had risen. Pray that Saudi women will get to know Jesus through miraculous revelations.

**3** Pray for other opportunities for women in Saudi Arabia to meet Christians.

## Let's go!

Use some chairs to make a "car"—two seats in front, two or three in the back. Maybe you have a van? Use a plate as a steering wheel. A girl sits in the driver's seat and "steers" as you pray together.

Three years ago, in 2017, women were allowed to drive a car for the first time.

**H**ave you ever seen a woman driving a car? You may be thinking, "Of course! What a silly question!" For most countries, women driving is expected and most boys and girls learn to drive. But until recently, in Saudi Arabia women were not allowed to drive a car, go to college or work outside of the house in a public place, like a shop or an office building. This was due to the nation's strict laws, inspired by Wahhabism, an Islamic movement that restricts women's freedom.

Three years ago, in 2017, women were allowed to drive a car for the first time, and in August 2019 the government announced that women



who are over 21 can get a passport and travel to another country without a male relative traveling with them.

Many women in Saudi Arabia celebrated this new law and have taken advantage of the opportunity to do things that have been normal in other places for a long time.

## Let's pray!

1 Pray that the women who read *Heavenly Ornaments* will also seek God's kingdom as in Matthew 13:45–46.

2 Pray that the women who read *Heavenly Ornaments* will also have access to the Bible in their own language.

3 Pray that Muslim women will have wisdom and understanding in raising their children in a good way.

## Let's go!

Do you have some ornaments, maybe some rings or a necklace? Get some and put them on, or pass them around from person to person as you are praying.

It is one of the most widely printed books in South Asia.

# Heavenly Ornaments

Zahra was asked if she knew about a book called *Heavenly Ornaments*. "Of course!" she said! She has known about this book since she was a little girl. When Zahra was little, she used to visit her aunt who was leading a women's group, where her mother and the other women read and discussed the book together. Even though Zahra was not part of the group, she heard about the book when she was playing in the same room. Now Zahra is grown up and she leads her own book reading group in her house.

*Heavenly Ornaments* was written in North India at the beginning of the 20th century. It is a special book for Muslim women, to teach them about Islam and how to teach it to their children. It also discusses how to live a good life as a Muslim wife and mother. Many young women receive it as a wedding gift.

All over the world Muslim women read the book together, often in groups where teenage Muslim girls study the book together before getting married.



Photo © C Tollerlton

What does Jesus compare the kingdom of God with?

Answer on page 32

- A shiny diamond    A gold ring    A beautiful pearl    A precious stone

## Let's pray!

1 Many of the black Muslims in America were not born as Muslims, but decided to become Muslims later. Pray that many of these black Muslims will meet Jesus and have a changed life.

2 There is a lot of injustice towards black people in the USA. Pray for those people who speak out against it to have wisdom and strength.

3 Pray that the Christians in the American Church will love their Muslim neighbors as Jesus said we should do.

## Let's go!

**Black people in the USA face many challenges, and often they are not accepted or loved as they should be. As you pray, stand in a circle, but looking outward. As each person prays, turn in to the circle as a reminder that the Church is commanded to love and welcome all people. End by giving each other a hug as you pray for the Church to lead the way in loving their neighbors.**

## The Nation of Islam

Islam came to the USA when African Muslim slaves were brought there. They continued to keep their faith quietly. This began to change at the beginning of the 20th century, about 100 years ago. In 1930 a man called Wali Fard Muhammad founded a movement that he called Nation of Islam. It was both political and religious. The Nation of Islam encouraged its followers to have strong family lives and to keep to the Islamic traditions. But they also wanted to help the black people in America and even thought for a time it would be good if black Muslims had their own country in the south of the USA.

After Wali Fard Muhammad, other leaders took over the Nation of Islam. Some of the new leaders started different movements as well. In 1977, when Louis Farrakhan became the leader, the Nation of Islam became a strong movement again. Mr Farrakhan also wanted to help black families in the USA and today the movement has tens of thousands of members.

**Hidden in the puzzle (right) are eight words that are important for the Nation of Islam. Can you find them?**

*Answer on page 32*

T	W	C	R	T	Z	U	I
R	L	O	V	E	O	P	Y
A	J	U	S	T	I	C	E
D	A	N	A	T	I	O	N
I	S	T	D	F	S	G	O
T	H	R	J	K	L	L	M
I	X	Y	C	V	A	B	N
O	Q	Y	L	I	M	A	F
N	W	E	R	U	P	U	I

DAY

14

MAY 7

## Let's pray!

**1** Pray that in India all the followers of different religions can live in peace with each other, and instead of using violence towards one other will work for peace in their nation.

**2** Pray that the Muslims who live together in Uttar Pradesh have the opportunity to hear about Jesus.

**3** Pray for Christians in North India, that they can bring peace, hope and the love of Jesus into the Muslim communities.

## Let's go!

Like the Muslims in Uttar Pradesh who live close together, gather close together under your dining table, or maybe in a closet or small room where you can hide and be close together. Do you all fit? Whisper your prayers—you don't want the neighbors to hear them!

# Muslims of Uttar Pradesh, India

**A**bout 180 million Muslims live in India, but they are still only 15 percent of the whole population. Some 40 million of them live in Uttar Pradesh, a state in North India and the one with the most inhabitants. For many years Christian missionaries have tried to reach the Muslims in Uttar Pradesh, but hardly any have responded and followed Jesus.

In 2002 something really terrible happened in the state of Gujarat in India. Over a thousand Muslims were killed by Hindus, and many more became refugees. Since that time, Muslims are afraid that this might happen again and so they started to live close together to feel safer. You can tell where these Muslim communities are because they fly green flags over their houses, while their Hindu neighbors will have orange flags over their houses. There is a lot of poverty in these Muslim neighborhoods. The water will often be cut off, their children are not allowed to go to local schools, and they cannot get healthcare.

More and more frequently, Muslims and Christians are being persecuted in India, but still the Muslims in Uttar Pradesh love to have guests and to share a meal or a *chai* (tea) with their guests.



DAY

15

MAY 8

## Let's pray!

**1** Pray for members of the Muslim Brotherhood who have influence in Arab nations to use their influence towards peace, freedom and the well-being of their communities.

**2** Pray for Muslims who want to do good works, that they can make a positive difference in their communities.

**3** Most members of the Muslim Brotherhood think "Islam is the solution". Pray that some members search for other ways and find it in Jesus.

## Let's go!

Some people in the Muslim Brotherhood have disagreements. Others try to live a good life and help others. **The following verse could bring change to their lives. Read John 14:6 together, write the verse down and put it up somewhere so you can memorize it. See who can memorize it first.**

**The Muslim Brotherhood spread very fast in the Arab world.**



# The Muslim Brotherhood

**W**hen you hear the name "Muslim Brotherhood" you might think that it sounds like an old-fashioned movement. But it is one of the first modern movements in the Muslim world. It was started in 1928 by an Egyptian school teacher. The Brotherhood sees Islam as the best way to create personal and social change, and they are very involved in helping other people and also in politics.

The Muslim Brotherhood spread very fast in the Arab world, and some of their members wanted to establish Islamic states with a radical Islamic law. The Muslim Brotherhood also came to Europe, where they founded local communities to protect and help their members. In some places, the older and younger members of the Brotherhood have different ideas about what should be important for their movement, and that causes conflicts.

The Muslim Brotherhood says that it is peaceful and democratic and against violence, but some people believe that there might be terrorists organizing together within parts of the group. Because it is such a big movement, there might be all kinds of people in it, which makes it hard to describe as a whole.

# Deoband madrasa movement



Photo © C. Tollerford

## Let's pray!

1 Bless the young Muslim leaders and pray that they will seek first God's kingdom.

2 Deobandi madrasas produce community leaders. Pray that they will also be places where wisdom, compassion and kindness is taught.

3 Pray that many of the leaders in the Deoband madrasa movement will get to know Jesus and His salvation.

## Let's go!

**Madrasas are like schools. Take turns being the "teacher" and instructing the others which prayer point to pray.**

**These are the countries with Deobandi madrasas, but the words got a bit mixed up:**

**A** madrasa is a place of learning. It often refers to a place where young Muslims study the Quran and learn to become leaders of a mosque.

In 1866, in the city of Deoband in North India, the first Deobandi madrasa was opened. The leaders of the Deoband madrasa knew that it was not enough to have only one madrasa to train new leaders, but that it was necessary to have many madrasas all over the world. So they encouraged all the young leaders who graduated from the madrasa in Deoband to go to other places and countries and start madrasas there.

Today there are over 100,000 Deobandi madrasas, which have been started by young leaders who trained in Deoband or in Deobandi madrasas. Many of these madrasas are in Pakistan, Bangladesh and India, but you can also find them in South Africa, Australia, Canada, the UK and the USA. In these madrasas the teaching is in English and the local Muslim communities contribute to the running costs.

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**Sort them out!**

**Answer on page 32**

**Today there are over 100,000 Deobandi madrasas.**

Progressive Muslims try to live their faith in the modern world.

# Progressive Muslims

Tariq grew up in a religious Muslim family and regularly went to the mosque in his traditional Muslim community. But when Tariq grew older and started to work in a global business he found many different friends and he was not sure anymore if everything he believed was right. Islam did not give him answers to what he experienced every day. Tariq's family feared he was rejecting his faith. But Tariq did not want to stop being Muslim—he wanted to find a way to be a modern Muslim.

Islam was started by Muhammad in Arabia 1,400 years ago. Since then many things have changed. A movement of progressive Muslims started in the 19th century at a time when the world changed rapidly. Progressive Muslims try to live their faith in the modern world, still keeping their values, but also getting involved in politics and helping to bring the same rights to all.

Progressive Muslims are sometimes opposed by more conservative Muslims. So they may only meet privately or online to discuss their beliefs because they fear that their family would disapprove.

## Let's pray!

- 1 Pray for those Muslims who are really seeking answers about faith in the modern world.
- 2 Pray for those Muslims who have a hard time accepting the rapid changes in their communities and in the world. Pray that they will find peace in the One who never changes.
- 3 Pray for opportunities to share with Muslim friends and talk to them about what it is like to follow Jesus in 2020.

## Let's go!

Solve the riddle together and then pray that the progressive Muslims will find that.

Answer on page 32

1 19 11, 1 14 4 9 20 23 9 12 12 2 5 7 9 22 5 14 20 15 25 15 21; 19 5 5 11 1 14 4 25 15 21  
23 9 12 12 6 9 14 4, 11 14 15 3 11, 1 14 4 9 20 23 9 12 12 2 5 15 16 5 14 5 4 20 15 25 15 12.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

# The Islamic Revolution in Iran

DAY

18

MAY 11



## Let's pray!

**1** Pray for the leaders and people of Iran to have a new revolution for peace, stability and freedom.

**2** Pray that the economic situation will improve in Iran and people will have hope for a better life.

**3** Pray that the new movement of many Iranians turning to Jesus will also spread into neighboring countries.

## Let's go!

**Play a hiding game to pray! Everyone in the family should hide in a different room and say a prayer, thanking Jesus for what He has done. The youngest should start the game by finding someone in another room and pray with that person for the Iranians. Then, those two try to find the next person until everyone is found to pray together!**

**A** revolution brings changes to a country or a community. There are changes in society, politics, religious practices and values.

In 1979 there was a revolution in Iran and the Shah (the king) of Persia was replaced by a leader called Ayatollah Khomeini. This revolution impacted the whole Muslim world. Before the revolution, Iran was a more modern, Western-style country but the new leaders forced the people back to a strict, conservative Islamic way of life. Women had to hide their nice clothes and hair under a veil again, and there was a lot of things they were forbidden to do in public. The media cannot freely write anymore, and what they can say is very controlled by the leaders.

Now the population in Iran is getting older and many young people have left. The economic situation is very difficult, people do not have much money, and drug addiction has increased.

But at the same time, many Iranians inside and outside of the country have heard about Jesus through Christian media and through dreams and visions. House churches full of new believers are starting—we will read more about this tomorrow.

Many Iranians inside and outside of the country have heard about Jesus.



## Let's pray!

**1** Pray for Mahnaz and other new believers to grow in their faith, and for protection for the house churches.

**2** Pray for peace and stability for the country of Iran so that all people can live in freedom and worship in the way they choose.

**3** Pray for the government of Iran, that it is just towards Christians and that Christians can be salt and light.

## Iran's house-church movement

## Let's go!

**Mahnaz and her friends listened to a sermon on the internet. Find a Bible on the internet and read Matthew 10:11-18 together. Put your chairs in a tight circle together when you pray for Mahnaz and her friends. Imagine that you are one of the house churches in Iran.**

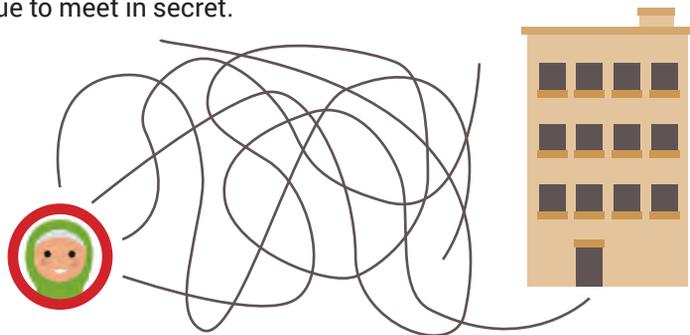
**M**ahnaz is nervously ringing the doorbell of the apartment she was told to go to. Did she come to the right place? The door opens and Mahnaz is invited to come in. She sees six friends and some well-used Bibles. She has come to the right place! Every week these Iranian Christians meet in a different home because they don't want to be found.

At first they sing a few worship songs, but they do it very quietly. They don't want the neighbors to know that they are in the house. Then some share a testimony and they listen to a sermon online. The teaching is from Matthew 10 and tells the listeners that followers of Jesus will have to suffer. Mahnaz and her friends already know that well and have experienced it.

About 20 years ago, the first house churches, like the one Mahnaz is part of, started in Iran. Many Muslims have become Christians and are now secretly meeting in the house churches. The government tries to stop them, but Mahnaz and her friends really want to learn more about Jesus and so they continue to meet in secret.

Can you show Mahnaz the way to her house church?

Answer on page 32



## Let's pray!

**1** Pray for the Indonesian workers in Taiwan, that they will be able to earn enough money for their families back home.

**2** Pray that Christians in Taiwan will reach out to the Indonesian workers and show them the love of God.

**3** Pray for the employers in Taiwan to be just and kind to their Indonesian workers, giving them opportunities to learn about Jesus.

## Let's go!

**Indonesia and Taiwan are both island nations: You have to fly from one island to the other. Take two big towels or sheets and put them on the floor. One is Taiwan, the other is Indonesia. Sit on the Indonesia island first, start praying there, then "fly" (spread your arms out, pretending to be airplanes) to Taiwan and continue to pray there.**

**There are about 350,000 Muslims in Taiwan.**

# Muslims in Taiwan

**H**ow would you feel if you had to leave your family and go to a country far away to find work? Would you miss your family and friends?

There are about 350,000 Muslims in Taiwan. Many of them are from Indonesia and they came there to work as fishermen, laborers, maids and nurses. Some came to study or to get married to someone from Taiwan. Most of these Muslims continue to follow their Islamic rituals. They keep their daily prayers, they fast during Ramadan, and they celebrate their Muslim holidays.

On Sunday many of them travel to Taipei, the capital city. They stay at the main train station and look for their friends. There, they can talk in their own language about their home, families and friends, and they eat their own Indonesian food together. They all love these times together.

Most Indonesian workers are in Taiwan for about three years. For many of them this might be the only time where they can meet Christians and hear about Jesus.



DAY

21

MAY 14

## Let's pray!

**1** There are Indian missionaries trying to share the gospel with the Kashmiri. Pray that they will be effective and safe in their efforts.

**2** Life is hard for Kashmiris as they have conflict all around them. Pray for peace and stability in their region.

**3** Pray for the political leaders in Kashmir to have wisdom so that there is peace and freedom for the Kashmiri people.

## Let's go!

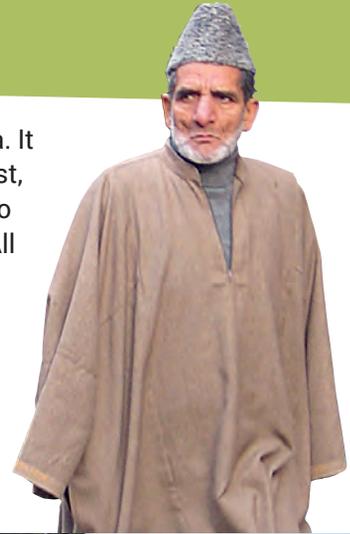
**Because there is so much conflict in Kashmir sit in different corners of a room when you begin to pray. As each person prays, move to the center of the room until everyone is together in the center, and then you can all hold hands as a sign of unity for the Kashmiri people.**

# Kashmiri Muslims

**K**ashmir is a region in the very north of India. It is surrounded by Muslim Pakistan to the west, India (where the main religion is Hinduism) to the south, and Buddhist Tibet to the north. All these religions have influenced Kashmir.

Most people who live in Kashmir are Muslims. Part of Kashmir belongs to Pakistan and part to India; both countries say that Kashmir really belongs to them. Because of that there have been many conflicts in Kashmir. Kashmiri Muslims say that they really don't belong to either of these countries. They would like to have their own independent state where they could be just Kashmiri.

There are very few Kashmiri Christians and it is difficult for Christians to share their faith in Kashmir.



**Most people who live in Kashmir are Muslims.**



## Let's pray!

- 1 Pray for Muslim students who feel lonely and far from home, that they will find supportive friends and do well in their studies.
- 2 Pray for organizations like Friends International, which want to pass on the love of Christ to international students. Pray for wisdom, sensitivity and deep friendship.
- 3 Pray that churches and Christians would see the opportunities to befriend Muslim students and be willing to get to know, understand and bless them. Jesus said in Matthew 25:35, "I was a stranger and you invited me in."

## Let's go!

**Gather some books. Write down a prayer request and put one in each book. One person can pretend to welcome the others to university. Each person should go to the person with the books and be welcomed to the university and get a book. Then, find the prayer requests and pray together.**

# International student movements

**M**any students travel to other countries to study. This includes many Muslim students from the Middle East, North Africa, Indonesia, Malaysia and Central Asia going to universities in Europe and North America. Here, they might meet Christians.

Each year up to 15,000 Muslims come to the United Kingdom as international students. These young men and women are far away from their country and family and may feel lonely, and are longing for fellowship and help with adjustment to a different culture.

This is a good opportunity for churches and Christian student organizations to welcome the new students with love and support. With friendship and hospitality, Christians can show foreign students the love of Christ and help with language and avoid a lot of misunderstandings. When students return to their home countries, they have a different understanding of Christianity because of their relationships and experiences.

Mohammed from the Middle East first thought that Christians were his enemies. Now, many of them are his best friends. Saara knew Jesus only as a prophet. Now she knows Him better and loves Him like never before.

**Hebrew 13:2 reminds us to** \_\_\_\_\_ .

**Find out what has happened sometimes by doing this:**

\_\_\_\_\_ (NIV)

*Answer on page 32*

DAY

23

MAY 16

# The Mappila of India: Women raising their voice

## Let's pray!

**1** Many Mappila men work far away from their families in some of the Gulf countries. Pray for these families who have to live without their husband and father.

**2** Pray that Mappila women will know how much value they have in God's eyes and that they will continue to value every person. Pray also that India will also make sure that women are treated equally under the law.

**3** The Mappila were the first Indians who became Muslims, over 1,000 years ago. Pray that they will decide to follow Jesus and share it with other Muslims.

**T**he Mappila live in the state of Kerala in South India. There are about 10 million of them. Most of them can read and write and the boys and girls go together to the madrasas, where they learn to read from the Quran.

On January 1, 2019, Ayisha took the face of her daughter into her hand and looked into her eyes. She said to her: "Today I will do something really special. I will join many other women and we will tell everyone that women, no matter if they are Muslim women, Mappila women, women from Kerala or from anywhere in India, have the same value as men and should be treated in the same way." Ayisha and five million other women formed a long wall of women holding hands along the roads in Kerala to tell everyone that they too had value and rights.

## Let's go!

**If you want to see how this impressive wall looked, you can check out this video:**

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=k-MsDqwiugQ](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k-MsDqwiugQ)

**Then form your own wall across your living room as you pray for the Mappila families.**

**Today I will  
do something  
really special.**



Photo © Flickr CC Meena Kadri

DAY

24

MAY 17

## Let's pray!

**1** Pray for Muslims who long for a faith that is important and significant, to find what they are looking for.

**2** Pray for yourself, that you can be a good follower of Jesus and that others will see that.

**3** Pray for cultural Muslims to really get an understanding of God.

Photo © Pexels CC Mentaldfg

## Let's go!

**One of the Bible verses that tells us what it means to be real and not cultural Christians is John 3:16. Maybe you know the verse—if not, read it. Then pray together.**

# Cultural Muslims

**H**ave you heard of the term, “cultural Christian”? It usually refers to people who grow up in a Christian community and accept some Christian values or rituals but don't really follow Jesus. They might believe in other things.

“Cultural Muslims” are similar. They may practice some of the rituals and celebrations in Islam but it is not important to them. Some have been frustrated with corrupt religious leaders or are angry at Muslims who join terrorist groups or support evil behavior but still call themselves Muslim.

Cultural Muslims can be found across the world, especially in North America, Europe, Central Asia, parts of the Middle East and South-east Asia. Recent surveys found out that only one percent of Muslims in Azerbaijan and five percent in Albania go to the mosque regularly. Only two percent of Muslims in Kazakhstan and 14 percent in Bosnia-Herzegovina perform all five of the daily prayers. In the USA, where one percent of the population is Muslim, 64 percent of them say that religion is very important to them. About the same percentage of Christians say that too.

**What is the difference between a cultural Christian and a real follower of Jesus? Underline the most important things and decide what kind of Christian you want to be.**

- 1. Doing the thing that Jesus says to do**
- 2. Praying long prayers**
- 3. Knowing all the stories about Jesus**
- 4. Loving others**
- 5. Knowing many Bible verses**
- 6. Celebrating Christmas**
- 7. Believing in Jesus**
- 8. Going to church every Sunday**

DAY

25

MAY 18



## Let's pray!

- 1 Pray for Kyrgyz believers to share their faith with their neighbors wisely.
- 2 Pray for the Kyrgyz and get ideas from Isaiah 58.
- 3 Pray for many in Kyrgyzstan to become followers of Jesus within their culture.

## Let's go!

**In Isaiah 58:6–7 God speaks about things he has chosen instead of fasting. Read it together and discuss what God wants you to do. You will also pray that for the Kyrgyz.**

# Fasting in Kyrgyzstan

**W**hile visiting friends in a Kyrgyz village, we passed the bowls of tea as usual. But our friend, Azim, refused. “Not for me,” he said. “I’m fasting.” Of course, we all know that every good Muslim fasts during Ramadan. But Azim is the only Christian in the village. Why is he fasting?

The Kyrgyz people are proud of their traditions. They identify first as Kyrgyz and then as Muslim. When Kyrgyzstan became independent from the Soviet Union the people remembered that they were Muslims and took up their Muslim traditions again. Although only a few people in the village fast properly or attend mosque regularly, the whole village meets in one another’s home to break the fast during Ramadan, because for them Ramadan is about community.

So why is Azim fasting? For many years, after Azim had become a Christian, he did not want to be with Muslims. They had done bad things to him and his family because of his beliefs. But growing in his faith, Azim asked God for wisdom and understood that he could live as a Christian within his own culture, and that this could still include fasting. Now he has opportunities to break the fast with his neighbors and explain to them what it means to follow Jesus.

**The Kyrgyz people are proud of their traditions.**

# Laylat al-Qadr (Night of Power)



This event is very sacred to Muslims around the world.

## Let's pray!

**1** Pray for those Muslims who are seeking God for revelation on this night. Pray that Jesus will reveal Himself in supernatural ways.

**2** Pray that Christians in Muslim communities will boldly share the good news of salvation in this time when their friends are more aware of their sin and their lack of holiness.

**3** Pray for Muslims who are unsure about their faith, trying to decide what to believe and whom to follow, that they realize that Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Life.

## Let's go!

**Ask your parents to wake you up at midnight, then pray together for Muslims (maybe you know some by name) to have a vision of Jesus and for their hearts to be open to receive the message of Jesus.**

**A**round 1,400 years ago, a young Arab man took some time to be alone in the desert. He hated the injustice he saw in society and even more that people all around him worshiped idols. He wanted to meditate in the caves in the hills near his hometown of Mecca. This man was Muhammad. One night during his time of meditation he had an encounter he didn't expect. Later he told how an angel had appeared to him and given him the first portion of the revelations that later became the Quran.

*Laylat al-Qadr*, also known as the "Night of Power", remembers this night. This event is very sacred to Muslims around the world. They may pray all night or read through the whole Quran. Some spend the night in the mosque. They believe that worship on this night is much more valuable than a thousand months of regular worship. They also believe that God is writing their destiny for the coming year during this night.

While Muslims are focusing on pleasing God this night we will pray that He will make Jesus known to them.

**Jesus says in Mark 11:24 "tell you in that received it yours. Therefore you, ask prayer, you it, will I whatever for believe have and be"**

**Put the words in the correct order and write them on a piece of paper and pin it over your bed.**

**Answer on page 32**

DAY

27

MAY 20

## Let's pray!

- 1 Pray that more and more Mbojo start to follow Jesus.
- 2 Pray for education and for good employment opportunities for the Mbojo.
- 3 Pray for more missionaries to go out and tell about Jesus to those who don't know Him yet.

**She shares that for a long time there were only a few Christians in the villages where she lives.**

# The Mbojo (or Bima) of East Sumbawa

## Let's go!

**Shared and her family have found out that the Bible teaches who Jesus really is. Get your Bibles and share something about Jesus with each other. You can read it or tell it. Hold your Bibles in your hand when you pray.**

Shared is excited. She is a young woman from the Mbojo or Bima community in East Sumbawa, an island in Indonesia where most people are Muslim. She is wearing a *jilbab*, the traditional headcovering for women.

Shared is a follower of Jesus and has just been able to baptize her own mother. She shares that for a long time there were only a few Christians in the villages where she lives. Over the past five years God has been showing Shared and the people in her village that Jesus is not only a prophet but the Son of God. Some Christians visited their village to explain the gospel to them. The people in the village realized that they did not need to change their culture or leave their community—they can follow Jesus wherever they are and tell others in their families about Him.

There are about 800,000 Mbojo, many of them are farmers and they are not well educated. They already have the New Testament and the *Jesus* film translated into their language and there are Christian radio programs available as well.





## Let's pray!

**1** Pray that those Muslims who don't feel at home anywhere will find belonging in Jesus.

**2** Pray that Christians in London will be friends with Muslims and tell them about Jesus.

**3** London is a city with great influence in the world. Pray that many Muslims in London find Jesus and that from there it will spread to other countries.

## Let's go!

London has become home for many Muslims. Today, some of your family should form a house with their hands and the others should stand (or sit) in the house. Pray for Muslims who are living in London, both those who are born there and those who moved there.

Everyone in London is riding the bus. Can you find the differences?

*Answer on page 32*

# Muslims in London

**D**id you know that one in every six people who live in London, UK, is a Muslim? That's about 1.5 million people. Many of these Muslims were born in the UK, but their parents came from a Muslim country either in Asia or in Africa. Among the Muslims in London we can see three different movements.

- Some become much more religious. This is especially so for Muslims who are born in the UK but who sometimes don't really know where they belong anymore. They don't really know the country their parents are from and they don't really feel like they fit in the UK culture either. So they choose at least to become good Muslims. Some might become radical Muslims.
- Other Muslims say that they don't believe in God anymore and follow no religion.
- There are Muslims who say that it is not important what you believe, it is far more important to be a good person and to be kind to others.



DAY

29

MAY 22

### Let's pray!

**1** Pray that Somalis who are leaving Islam will be able to find Jesus and become His disciples.

**2** Pray that Somalis will know that Jesus can give them peace, and that they will bring this peace to their country.

**3** Pray for the churches that are starting everywhere in Somalia, that they will understand what it means to be a disciple.

### Let's go!

Start by asking one another, "*Iska warran?*"

Now get your Bibles. Who can be the first to find the book of the Acts of the Apostles? Read Acts 2:47 together as a family and then pray that this will continue to happen in Somalia.



## The Somalis of Somalia

**W**hen Somalis meet each other, they say "*Iska warran?*" This means: "Tell me what is new with you." Somalis become friends with each other very fast and so always have a lot to tell each other about what is new in their lives. Somalis trust each other more than they trust foreigners, even if they have only just met.

There has been war and violence in Somalia for many years now, and some Somalis are so fed up with the violence that some Muslims commit towards other Muslims that they have given up on Islam. Some don't want to have any religion anymore, but many more Muslims are now becoming Jesus-followers.

Pastor Fatima says that what is happening in her country is similar to what is written in the Acts of the Apostles. In Pastor Fatima's region, 21 new house churches have recently started in only six months.

Many Somalis when asked "*Iska warran?*" can now say: "I have become a Jesus-follower."

**Many more Muslims are now becoming Jesus-followers.**



Photos © Aweis A Ali

# Muslim-background believers



Photo © Flickr, CC Steve Evans

## Let's pray!

- 1 Pray for existing churches to welcome MBBs into their fellowships.
- 2 Pray for MBBs to connect with mature Christians who will help them to grow as followers of Jesus.
- 3 Pray for new churches where Christians from different backgrounds and MBBs can meet and become one family.

## Let's go!

**When you pray today, stand close together and hold your arms around the people next to you, so that everyone is included.**

**When Paul the Apostle became a believer, he too was not welcome in the Church. Can you find out why? Read Acts 9:1-2.**

**I**t happened during Ramadan. Fatima suddenly had a vision of Jesus. She has never forgotten how lovingly He looked at her and said: "Come, follow me!"

She had never before experienced such a deep sense of peace. Secretly she began to do some research, and this young woman from a strict Muslim family in Saudi Arabia discovered that she was not the only one who had experienced such a change. She also found out that there were even Saudis who were not ashamed to appear on television and say that they were Christians.

Believers like Fatima who are from a Muslim family and faith background are called "Muslim-background believers" or just MBBs. There are more and more of them in the Middle East. They don't like the extremism or the religious pressure and only long to know God and find Jesus. It is not always easy to follow Jesus where they are but in spite of threats they continue.

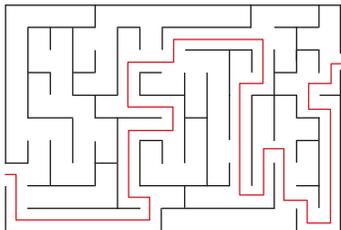
Sometimes Christians do not trust fellow believers coming from Muslim backgrounds. They do not want them in their churches because they don't trust them. Many MBBs find it is helpful to have their own fellowships together.

# Answers

## Day 1

Hand, foot, head, eyes ... and by what we do with it: ear (hear) and nose (smell)

## Day 5



## Day 6

They are people with a *heart of stone*.

What does God want to do? Replace them with a *heart of flesh and put His spirit into them*.

## Day 7

There are 14 items

## Day 9

Matthew 16:15–16: “He said to them, ‘But who do you say that I am?’ Simon Peter replied, ‘You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.’”

## Day 12

A beautiful pearl

## Day 13

T	W	C	R	T	Z	U	I
R	L	O	V	E	O	P	Y
A	J	U	S	T	I	C	E
D	A	N	A	T	I	O	N
I	S	T	D	F	S	G	O
T	H	R	J	K	L	L	M
I	X	Y	C	V	A	B	N
O	Q	Y	L	I	M	A	F
N	W	E	R	U	P	U	I

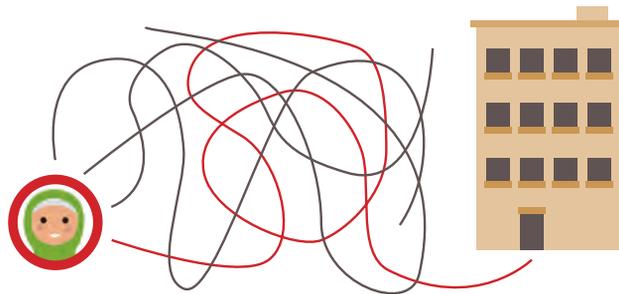
## Day 16

Pakistan, India, South Africa, Bangladesh, Canada, Australia

## Day 17

Matthew 7:7: “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.”

## Day 19



## Day 22

Hebrew 13:2 reminds us to *entertain strangers*. Find out what has happened sometimes by doing this: *they have entertained angels without knowing*. (NIV)

## Day 24

1 – 4 – 7

## Day 26

“Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.”

## Day 28



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