

Pray for the Nations

Prayer Cards

As a global community of Jesus followers, we know we are called to the ends of the Earth to share God's plan for redemption. Many of the more than 3 billion people who don't know God are concentrated across **five geographic areas**: the Sahel (1), the Arabian Peninsula (2), the North Caucasus (3), South Asia (4) and the Mekong (5).

These prayer cards focus on Jesus followers living in these regions, who are boldly sharing Christ's love with people who don't know Him.



Use these prayer cards by yourself or with a group to lift up our brothers and sisters in these areas and ask God for more people to join them in reaching those who don't know Him.

1 JOHN 5:14 (NIV)

“This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us.”

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Images are for illustrative purposes only and may not provide an exact representation of the country or region.

PRAY *for the* NATIONS



MYANMAR
LAOS
THAILAND
CAMBODIA
VIETNAM

→ **Cambodia**

POPULATION
16,713,015

MAIN RELIGION
Buddhism

FOCUS REGION → **MEKONG**

Testimony of transformation

From tiny spirit houses adorning homes, hotels and businesses to Angkor Wat's sprawling temple complex attracting tourists from around the world, Buddhist buildings cover Cambodia's landscape. "The belief in Buddhism is passed down through generations, and people just follow what their parents followed," explains Chham*, a Cambodian Jesus follower.

Of the nearly 17 million people in Cambodia, fewer than five per cent of the population are Christians. "Many places have still not heard about the gospel," Chham emphasises. Her own transformation drives her to share God's love with those who have never heard about it, particularly people living in slums, who are most vulnerable to drug addiction and human trafficking. "God changed my life, and I want other people to know this and experience this, too," she says. "He is a God who can do everything."

Fellowship often goes hand-in-hand with food. "When we have meals with them or drink tea with them, we can get to know them, their worries and cares. We can then encourage them or pray for them," Chham shares. •

"Many places have still not heard about the gospel."

WAYS TO PRAY for CAMBODIA

- ➔ **Pray** for more Jesus followers to share God's love with people across the country.
- ➔ **Pray** that people in all 25 provinces of Cambodia will hear about Jesus, and their lives will change.
- ➔ **Pray** for people in drug addiction to find and receive help to break the habit.

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PRAY *for the* NATIONS



MYANMAR

CHINA

LAOS

THAILAND

CAMBODIA

VIETNAM

FOCUS REGION → **MEKONG**

→ **Myanmar**

POPULATION
57,526,449

MAIN RELIGION
Buddhism

Statistics taken from The World Factbook (cia.gov)

Washed with Living Water

As a country, Myanmar (Burma) has faced many ups and downs in its quest for democracy. Most recently, a military coup in 2021 plunged the nation back into political and economic insecurity. Nearly 88 per cent of the population believes in Buddhism, as evidenced by the elaborate gold pagodas glittering across the country's skylines.

One of the most important cultural celebrations is the Myanmar water festival, which commemorates the new year. Burmese people believe that bad things that happened in the past are washed away with water, explains local Jesus follower Denpo*. Through education projects, medical outreach, sports initiatives and more, Christ followers like Denpo seek to share the message of Jesus, the Living Water, who is able to permanently wash away shame and bring hope to those who are suffering.

Despite the difficulties of the past years, "I serve because I was called by His grace," Denpo shares. •

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WAYS TO PRAY for MYANMAR

- **Pray** for political stabilisation and economic recovery.
- **Pray** for provision for Burmese living in camps for internally displaced people.
- **Pray** for revival in Myanmar.

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Statistics taken from Britannica (britannica.com) and The Joshua Project (joshuaproject.net).

Proclaiming the good news in the mountains

Europe's tallest peak, Mount Elbrus, punctuates the beautiful mountainous landscape of Kabardino-Balkaria, drawing tourists from other parts of Russia and beyond. Alongside the two main people groups, the Kabardians and Balkars, a significant population of Meskhetian Turks also inhabit this region.

When George*, a Russian Jesus follower, asked God where he could best serve Him, he felt drawn to the ethnic groups living in Kabardino-Balkaria. Known as a highly qualified specialist in his field, he has open conversations about his faith through his area of expertise. Since Kabardino-Balkaria is an Islamic region, George looks for cultural bridges, like the celebration of Eid al-Adha, which commemorates Abraham's sacrifice, to tell his local friends about the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

Bible stories are being translated into the local languages, and George sometimes has opportunities to give the Gospel to his friends. "My biggest passion and desire is that many people in Kabardino-Balkara come to know Jesus Christ," he shares. •

"My biggest passion and desire is that many people in Kabardino-Balkara come to know Jesus Christ."

WAYS TO PRAY for KABARDINO-BALKARIA

- **Pray** for God to raise new strong Christian leaders from the Balkar people.
- **Pray** for national Churches to be established amongst Kabardians.
- **Pray** for God to provide all needs for Jesus followers, like George and his family, who live in Kabardino-Balkaria.

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PRAY *for the* NATIONS



Statistics taken from Britannica (britannica.com) and The Federal State Statistics Service in Dagestan.

Struggling to share truth

Dagestan is a very diverse region, with many people groups and cultures co-existing in the Russian republic bordering the Caspian Sea. Despite their mix of languages and ethnicities, the inhabitants of Dagestan are primarily Muslim.

Familial ties are important in Dagestan, and people enjoy coming together to celebrate, including on Islamic holidays like Eid al-Fitr, when Muslims break the fast with each other after finishing Ramadan. Weddings, too, provide a reason for sometimes hundreds of people to gather and celebrate.

Nonetheless, this collectivist mentality often prevents people from accepting new acquaintances, and many people are closed to communication with people outside their existing circle of trust. Even those who are part of this extremely close-knit familial society struggle to share new ideas. When Nadia*, a Jesus follower from Dagestan, told her relatives about the healing, love and support she had found in Jesus, they instead deepened their belief in Islam. •

...those who are part of this extremely close-knit familial society struggle to share new ideas.

WAYS TO PRAY for REPUBLIC OF DAGESTAN

- ➔ **Pray** that the hearts of people in Dagestan will be open to accepting God's love.
- ➔ **Pray** against the stronghold of Islam, which prevents people from listening to the good news.
- ➔ **Pray** for natural pathways into closed communities that allow Jesus followers to communicate with people and build trust.

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PRAY *for the* NATIONS



Statistics taken from The World Factbook (cia.gov).

Praying in the centre of Islam

The conservative desert kingdom of Saudi Arabia has long attracted Muslims from around the world visiting its two holiest cities—Mecca and Medina—during Hajj, a pilgrimage required by Islam and believed to achieve forgiveness of sins. As the country has recently begun developing infrastructure and offering visas for international tourism, Jesus followers, too, have opportunity to pray on Saudi sands.

“When Jesus followers visit, and they spend a week going through our city and our neighbourhoods and our country praying, then we absolutely believe that at the end of that week that the places that they prayed are different,” shares Phillip*, a Jesus follower who lives in Saudi.

For Saudi citizens, following Christ comes at great cost. Amir*, a young believer who is friends with Phillip, faces persecution and an uncertain future since family members have discovered his new faith. Still, “he’s found peace and he’s found joy,” Phillip describes. “Even in the midst of a situation where he’s afraid, he realises that Jesus is that pearl of great value.” •

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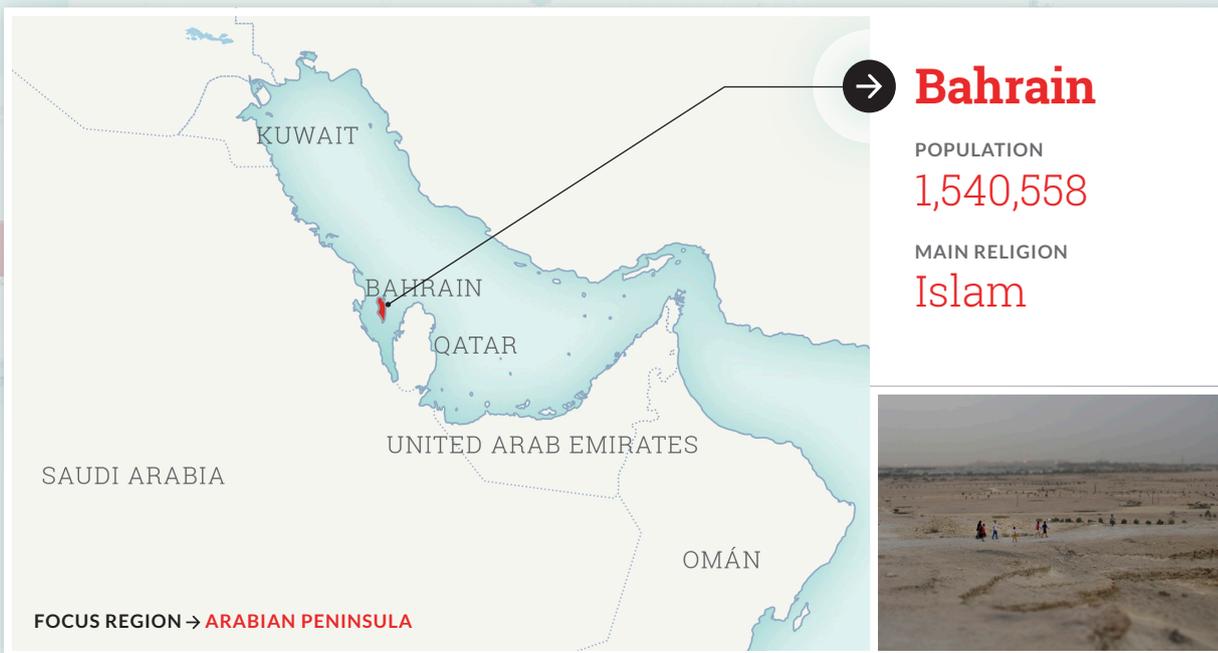
WAYS TO PRAY for SAUDI

- ➔ **Pray** for more Arabic speakers to move to Saudi who have a desire and time to sit down with people, answer questions and provide discipleship.
- ➔ **Pray** for Jesus followers to use their vocation in the Gulf to impact businesses and communities for Christ.
- ➔ **Pray** for new Arab believers to withstand persecution, grow in their faith and find ways to meet with other Jesus followers as part of the emerging Church.

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PRAY *for the* NATIONS



Statistics taken from The World Factbook (cia.gov).

A spiritually strategic island

The smallest country in the Arabian Peninsula, Bahrain also enjoys the greatest amount of religious freedom. Though Bahrain is an Islamic nation, Christian, Catholic and Orthodox churches, as well as Hindu temples and a Jewish synagogue, have all been present for many years on the island. With 46 per cent of the population consisting of immigrants, Bahraini citizens are ethnically and culturally diverse. Gulf Arabs from neighbouring countries often visit Bahrain to enjoy its relaxed and cosmopolitan atmosphere.

Many Christians in Bahrain work full-time jobs, with regular opportunities to start spiritual conversations with colleagues. Other believers look for creative ways to share biblical values and truth with both ethnic and immigrant Muslims.

Priscilla* and Aquilla*, two Jesus followers who have lived in Bahrain for many years, rejoice over recent opportunities they have had to point locals to God's Word, share Scripture and pray with people to receive Christ. The saying 'one sows and another reaps' is true, they explain: "We learn to sow diligently and know that both the sower and the reaper rejoice!" •

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WAYS TO PRAY for BAHRAIN

- ➔ **Pray** for unity among Jesus followers in Bahrain, including the expatriate churches, and for them to have a burden to share the good news with Muslims.
- ➔ **Pray** for the handful of Bahraini believers to be disciplined effectively and to be bold in sharing the gospel with their own people.
- ➔ **Pray** for continued peace and religious freedom.

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PRAY for the NATIONS



Statistics taken from The World Factbook (cia.gov) and <https://m.timesofoman.com/article/112577-omans-population-crosses-45-million>.

They know Jesus' name, not His love

From dramatic fjords in the northern enclave of Musandam, towering 3,000-metre mountains in the interior, scorched desert in the southwest, beautiful beaches along its eastern border and green plains in Salalah in the summer, Oman is one of the most geographically diverse countries on the Arabian Peninsula. This beautiful country is also well known for its high-quality frankincense, which is exported across the world.

With a strong cultural value of hospitality, Omanis quickly invite guests into their homes, where they serve dates and small cups of lightly roasted coffee. Immigrants make up just under half of the population, but ethnic Omanis are Muslim. Many people recognise the name *Isa* (Jesus) from the Qur'an, but "most people have not heard the truth about Jesus; maybe they only know what Islam is teaching about Him," explains Maximus*, a Jesus follower living in Oman.

This starting point, however, can open the door for spiritual conversations and allow Maximus and other believers to share Bible stories during house visits and pray for their hosts in Jesus' name. •

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WAYS TO PRAY for OMAN

- ➔ **Pray** for the few Omani believers to grow in faith and share God's love with their families and friends.
- ➔ **Pray** for more Jesus followers to spread to places across the country, where people have little opportunity to encounter Christians.
- ➔ **Pray** for the Sultan of Oman to have wisdom in how to lead his country well.

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PRAY *for the* NATIONS



SAUDI ARABIA

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

OMAN

Yemen

POPULATION
30,984,689

MAIN RELIGION
Islam

FOCUS REGION → ARABIAN PENINSULA

Statistics taken from The World Factbook (cia.gov).

A land of suffering

At the southwest tip of the Arabian Peninsula, Yemen is a land with old customs and a rich past. However, the nation's true gem is its people, shares Peter*, a Jesus follower who grew up in Yemen. Yemenis are generous and hospitable—going the extra mile to provide for their guests. “You can experience top-notch hospitality from the local people, whether you're in the city or the countryside,” Peter says.

“I do love the people there, and I know that Jesus loves them as He gave His life for them,” Peter shares. “As many of them have never heard the gospel, they have no idea of the true love of God.”

Sadly, Yemen today suffers from a tremendous amount of crisis: armed conflict, famine, poverty, inflation and lack of health care. “All of this is worsening, with no hope for solution in the near future,” Peter describes. Still, reports of secret believers and small groups of Jesus followers have emerged. May the Prince of Peace move mightily in this land of suffering. •

**“As many of them
have never heard
the gospel, they
have no idea of the
true love of God.”**

WAYS TO PRAY for YEMEN

- ➔ **Pray** for peace and for the war to end.
- ➔ **Pray** for forgiveness and reconciliation amongst the various tribes.
- ➔ **Pray** for God to open more Yemeni people's hearts to the gospel message.

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PRAY *for the* NATIONS



Mali

POPULATION
20,741,769

MAIN RELIGION
Islam

FOCUS REGION → SAHEL

Statistics taken from The World Factbook (cia.gov).

Helping Malians discover Jesus

In the large desert nation of Mali, “we can say that there is religious freedom,” explains Ousmane*, but there is also resistance to Christianity. For the 88 per cent of the population who adhere to Islam, “religion is part of their identity,” Ousmane says. “Being Muslim is part of their culture.”

As the first Jesus follower in his family—and in his village—Ousmane understands this mentality. When he was a teenager, he started looking for hope beyond what Islam could offer and began reading the Bible, where he discovered Christ. He kept his new faith to himself for a while, but when he started sharing the good news with others, Ousmane’s parents withdrew their financial support for his studies and their promise to help him start his own medical clinic.

Nonetheless, Ousmane persevered and, today, uses his medical knowledge to help others and demonstrate God’s love to those who do not know it. “For me, I see it as a calling, and I see it as privilege to bring hope to those who don’t have any hope,” he says. “Since they need Jesus, I have to do whatever I can to help them discover Jesus.” •

“Being Muslim is part of their culture.”

WAYS TO PRAY for MALI

- ➔ **Pray** for security issues in Mali to be resolved and for Jesus followers to have safe access to villages they are visiting.
- ➔ **Pray** for medical clinics, like Ousmane’s, to have the resources they need to operate and continue providing healthcare for Malians across the country.
- ➔ **Pray** for young people to find vocations in their villages, so they can invest in their country’s future instead of looking for work abroad.

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PRAY *for the* NATIONS



Mauritania

POPULATION
4,161,925

MAIN RELIGION
Islam

FOCUS REGION → SAHEL



Statistics taken from The World Factbook (cia.gov).

Dry as the desert

Located on the edge of the Sahara Desert, Mauritania is “a country that is as dry spiritually as the climate,” describes Jesus follower Paul*. In the conservative, traditional, and family/tribal-oriented society, an important cultural ritual is drinking small glasses of sweet tea with one’s neighbours, Paul explains. The tea is served in sets of three, and important questions must wait until after the second cup.

Although he has heard of some of the younger generation expressing openness to the gospel, “the group we are working with are not quite ready to hear the truth,” Paul says. In fact, his local friends often urge him to become a Muslim “so that I would not go to hell as I am a nice person and they don’t wish such a fate on me,” he says. Most Mauritians are proud of their 1,000-year alliance to Islam, which is the country’s official religion.

Paul is one of very few Jesus followers serving in Mauritania, “but Jesus did say, ‘Go into all the world,’ not just places where it is easy,” he emphasises.

Jesus did say, ‘Go into all the world,’ not just places where it is easy.

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WAYS TO PRAY for MAURITANIA

- ➔ **Pray** for God to open hearts and draw people to Him. Pray that people would dare to ask questions about their long-held beliefs.
- ➔ **Pray** for Jesus followers to have divine encounters with Mauritians seeking truth.
- ➔ **Pray** for the few local believers to have boldness and wisdom in sharing their faith.

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PRAY *for the* NATIONS



WESTERN SAHARA
MAURITANIA
MALI
NIGER
SENEGAL

→ **Senegal**

POPULATION
17,923,036

MAIN RELIGION
Islam

FOCUS REGION → SAHEL

Statistics taken from The World Factbook (cia.gov).

Embracing culture to share God's love

A warm welcome awaits visitors who travel to the westernmost country in Africa, Senegalese Jesus follower Moussa* says. In particular, Senegalese love to share food. Although populated by diverse tribes, with 95 per cent of its inhabitants adhering to Islam, the strategically located country has remained mostly stable and peaceful.

Religious celebrations are a time when Christians can use the cultural value of sharing to engage with their neighbours. During the annual feast celebrating Abraham's sacrifice of his son, Muslims go house to house to visit neighbours and share food. At Christmas and Easter, Christians have the same opportunity to share their own traditional food and build relationships.

Sharing the gospel in Senegal requires patience and practical demonstration of God's love, Moussa explains. From teaching women about how to improve their marital relationships to praying for healing and miracles in Jesus' name—"it's those kind of things that can make people interested in the Bible," Moussa says. "They want to see to believe." •

"They want to see to believe."

WAYS TO PRAY for SENEGAL

- ➔ **Pray** for Jesus followers like Moussa to have wisdom in carrying out their work to spread Christ's love amongst the diverse tribes in Senegal.
- ➔ **Pray** for the stronghold of Islam to be broken.
- ➔ **Pray** for unity among Christians, including those from different tribes, so they may live out Jesus' words in John 13:35.

➔ OM.org/pray



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