

## An Appeal For Long-Term Intercessors



*This may be the most important section for you to read.* From the introduction and through these stories we have seen people who are without hope. They are living in one of the most unreached countries in the world. They are rejected, despised people, often considered the scum of the earth, so low they

don't fit in the caste system and are often not even counted in census reports. They are often denied a place in schools, jobs, or treatment in a hospital.

In Isaiah, God looked at His lost people, just as he looks at these rejected people, and said, "Whom shall I send? Who will go?" Will you, as Isaiah, respond, "Here am I. Send me."

*Will you pray? That is the biggest need.* We cannot succeed among these people without prayer support.

During the years we worked with these groups, we counted on the faithful prayers of people like you. Many prayed daily for us. But we learned through some difficult experiences that we needed people who would also pray for the people with whom we worked, and God gave us such people. What a difference when people began praying earnestly for the people in a particular group. We had previously raised up leaders only to see them go astray or die. People's prayers for them were powerful.

—Through prayer, ears that were closed were opened to the gospel. Through prayer, idols were demolished and Christ was exalted. Through prayer, people realized their worth and how God loves them.

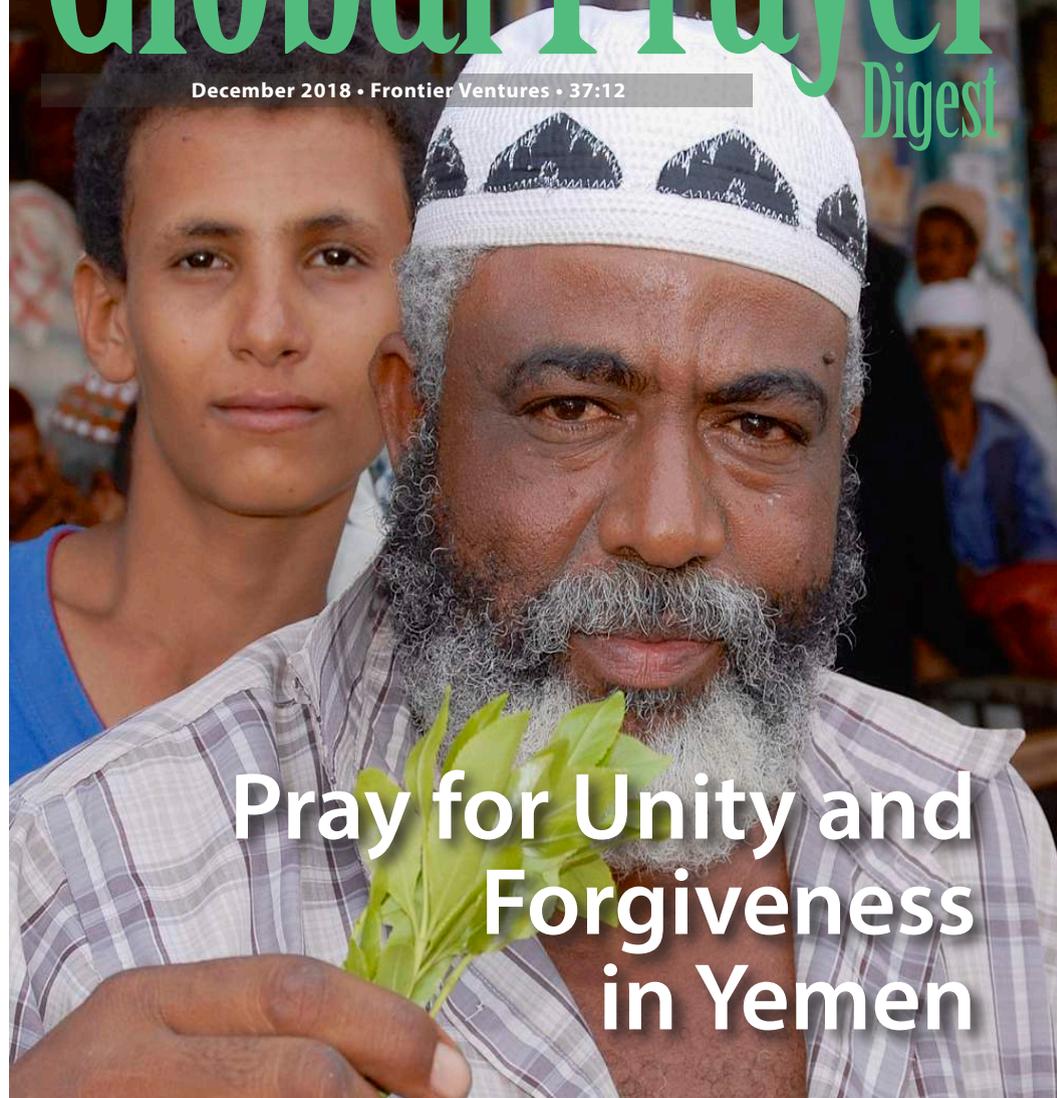
Would you covenant to be a person God can use to bring these unreached people to Himself? Prayer knows no geographical barriers, no language barriers, no cultural barriers. Right where you are, you can become a prayer warrior to see people brought into the Kingdom. If so, contact me through the *GPD* editorial office:

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# Global Prayer Digest

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## Pray for Unity and Forgiveness in Yemen

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Dear Praying Friends,

The country of Yemen has wavered between an uneasy peace and civil war for years. Right now, a civil war is going on between the southern Sunni Muslims and the northern Shi'ite Muslims. To make matters far worse, Yemen is the site of a proxy war between these hostile rivals and their allies resulting in foreign powers bombing Yemen. As you will see in this prayer guide, it's innocent women and children who suffer the most.

Yemen needs unity! However, the "unity" that they have had in the past will at best delay more fighting. Without repentance before a holy God and a willingness on the part of the strong to take care of the needs of the weak the problems will surface again in a couple of years. Let us not forget that Yemen is a land where Islam has dominated for centuries. But we worship the God of the impossible! As 2018 gives way to 2019, let's pray for spiritual transformation that will affect all the peoples of Yemen. Next month we will continue to pray for this general region when we lift up Somalia.

Merry Christmas,

Keith Carey

Editor-in-chief, GPD

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## PRAY FOR

*A Disciple-Making Movement  
for Every People group in Yemen*



# PRAY FOR UNITY IN YEMEN!

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*Mark 10:42-45, NLT  
Jesus called them to Him and said, "You know that those who are made leaders over the nations show their power to the people. Important leaders use their power over the people. It must not be that way with you. Whoever wants to be great among you, let him care for you. Whoever wants to be first among you must be the one who is owned and cares for all. For the Son of Man did not*

*come to be cared for. He came to care for others. He came to give His life so that many could be bought by His blood and be made free from sin."*

—Keith Carey,  
editor-in-chief,  
GPD

People remember certain countries for certain things. Sometimes they are positive; for example, people usually think of South Koreans as overcomers. Sometimes there are negative things people associate with a country. Last December we prayed for Libya, a country that brings to mind long-standing dictator Muammar al-Gaddafi.

This month we are praying for another Arab country that is gaining a reputation for a devastating civil war that has many similarities to what is still happening in Libya. That country is Yemen, one of the first nations to embrace Islam in 630 AD.

Many things that you read in the news about Yemen sound just like their history. There was such division between the Sunni Muslim south and the Shi'ite Muslim north that Yemen did not become a unified nation until 1990. Before and after that time, Yemen has been ready to fall apart. Since 2015, the division has left the country especially vulnerable.

There is currently a proxy war between Sunni Muslim Saudi Arabia and her sponsors and Shi'ite Muslim Iran. The Shi'ite faction is officially called the Houthis. The two Islamic factions have been trying to gain absolute power at the other's expense for decades.

To make matters worse, there are internal divisions based on clan and tribal affiliations. Yemen is no longer one state, but numerous "statelets." In February of this year, a 329-page report by the United Nations experts on Yemen says that this country has ceased to exist as a nation!

Yemeni factions and their "statelet" regions of influence sometimes ally themselves with outside forces like Al Qaeda, which has caused the United States and Great Britain to get involved. One of the things these Western powers have done is to arm Saudi Arabia, a nation that has bombed areas held by Shi'ite factions. The Shi'ites have retaliated by sending missiles to hit Saudi Arabia. From there, the Saudis retaliated even further in an effort to crush the Houthis. Schools and hospitals have not been spared, and now the infrastructure of Yemen is in shambles.

Needless to say, Yemen's economy is also a wreck. There are competing central banks, one in the north run by the Shi'ite Houthis, and the other one in the south run by the Sunnis. Since the government is so widely divided, they cannot collect revenue, though the Houthis are famous



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for extorting money from businessmen (which causes the economy to weaken even further). Businesses cannot pay employees, who are now desperate to earn enough for food, water, and medical supplies. In this way, the misery of the Yemenis extends from business communities to the common people.

Yemen is heavily dependent on the outside world for food and medical supplies, but the ports are commonly controlled by militant factions. The results are starvation and disease.

We can pray about specific situations, but the root issue is a spiritual problem. Whether they are Sunni, Shi'ite, or belong to an Al Qaeda militia, Yemeni people believe that Islam holds the answers to their spiritual problems. There are only about 500 followers of Christ in this Islamic nation, and they are persecuted and marginalized by all sides. As it stands now, Muslims will not listen to those who follow the Prince of Peace, and each Islamic faction strives to become the overlord of all the others.

- Pray for members of all Yemeni factions to understand from the head and the heart that God wants leaders to be the servants of all.
- Pray that they will give up the right to rule by the barrel of a gun and take up a washbasin to wash the feet of those they have victimized.

*Please pray for the peace and rebuilding of  
Yemen in these seven key areas:*

<http://www.pray-ap.info/yemen.html>

**Hunger:** The humanitarian crisis in Yemen is severe as many are starving or on the verge of having nothing to eat. Malnutrition and infant mortality is becoming normal. Pray that food will be sent and arrive for those who must have it to survive. Pray that ships, airplanes and trucks will be given permission to bring an abundance of food and supplies into Yemen. Pray that those who seek to exploit others due to high prices will be led by God to put aside greed and help the many who are battling poverty.

**Cholera:** Yemen currently has one of the world's largest widespread cholera epidemics. Pray that this illness will not spread further in the country and that medicines to help those suffering will become available. Pray that people suffering from it will get well. Pray that garbage will be picked up, and that there will be fuel to boil water, so that the people will have clean food and water.

**Bombings:** Pray that those who are fighting one another will put aside their differences and go to the negotiating table. Pray that they will agree to work together for peace. Pray for the violence to cease!

**Infrastructure:** Roads, houses, schools, factories, oil fields, and hospitals have been destroyed. Pray that the generosity of others will flood this nation. Pray that peace will come so that rebuilding can begin.

**Displaced people:** There are about three million displaced people in areas of the country which are relatively peaceful. Displaced families have moved there. Pray that those who are hosting them will have enough to meet their own needs as well as the needs of others.

**Trauma:** Years of war have created a nation of people who have buried family, been injured physically, and have suffered extreme mental trauma.

**Praise Him for bringing many Yemenis to Himself!** Pray that God will provide for their needs during this time of war and economic disaster. Pray that their numbers will increase and that they would be able to worship together. Pray that they would be mobilized to serve their communities and be a light that shines brightly in the darkness of this war. So not only is there a physical war, but a spiritual one as well.

## PRAY FOR PEACE IN YEMEN

## MATT 5:7-9, NLT

God blesses those who are merciful, for they will be shown mercy. God blesses those whose hearts are pure, for they will see God. God blesses those who work for peace for they will be called the children of God.

*Pray for God to raise up merciful peacemakers in Yemen who will lead others to become part of God's family.*



*(This story illustrates real situations in Yemen.)*

Bob, a Canadian, was sending an email to his

Yemeni Arabic teacher and friend. “Dear Asiel, I often think of you and the warm hospitality of your family and the Yemeni people. I was sorry to hear about the ongoing suffering in Yemen and the bombing in Sana’a. I hope that you and your family have not suffered in this tragedy. Please let me know that you are okay.”

Asiel responded, “Hello, Bob, my family and I are safe, but my children are afraid. The war is making life more difficult each day. There is no electricity and clean water. Food is becoming scarce. Many of us have not been able to earn money for months. People are dying. We need a miracle, so would you ask the church to continue to pray for peace in Yemen? Thank you for the Bible Scriptures you gave me when you were here. God’s word is bringing comfort and hope to me and my wife through these hard times. Pray for Yemen. God bless you!”

*Pray that Jesus will bring hope and a final peace that can only come from Him to the people of Yemen.—PD*

## CHILDREN IN YEMEN

*(This story illustrates real situations in Yemen.)*

Alida, a Yemeni journalist, had made the treacherous walk through the Sabr Mountain Trail to the besieged Yemeni city of Taiz which was under attack by Houthi (Shi’ite Yemeni fighters). The mountain trail was the only way that pack animals and people could bring medical supplies to help those in desperate need. In her report Alida wrote, “I walked for hours with women who carried large bundles on their heads filled with medicine and foods. Donkeys and camels carried oxygen tanks and medical equipment. When we arrived, we were told that two doctors and others were killed at one hospital by Houthi fighters. Many children are dying from starvation, cholera and wounds. Many times, the doctors and staff have to make hard decisions on whom to help because they have so few medical supplies to work with.”

According to a 2017 UNICEF report, 1.8 million children under age five are acutely malnourished and 400,000 are so severely underfed that they are 10 times more likely to die than those who have enough food. Before the war Yemen heavily depended on imports for its food supplies. Fresh water for crops was scarce.

*Pray that the starvation and spiritual needs will end in Yemen. Pray that the people will turn to the Living Lord to find their strength and hope.—PD*



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## DEUT 10:18, NLT

He ensures that orphans and widows receive justice. He shows love to the foreigners living among you and gives them food and clothing.

*Pray for fighters in Yemen to have a genuine fear of the sovereign Lord who offers protection for vulnerable widows and orphans. Pray for the Lord to supernaturally show mercy and kindness to those who suffer in Yemen.*

**COMFORT IN GOD'S WORD**

**2 KINGS 3:15B, NLVT**

While the harp was being played, the power of the Lord came upon Elisha. . .

*Pray that soon many Yemeni musicians will use their talent to usher in the presence of the Holy Spirit.*



*(This story illustrates real situations in Yemen.)*

**N**oor, a Yemenite girl, was listening to some beautiful music being played

on a guitar by a younger girl. “Matria, where did you learn to play like that?” She responded, “I received free lessons from music teachers. It helped me get my mind off the fear and pain of the war.”

Noor replied, “The music is soothing! I have found something too that is calming my heart each day. A friend gave me some verses from the Bible. One was from Psalm 25:5, ‘Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long.’ Whenever I am angry, sad or afraid, I recite this verse. There is another verse about Isa, Jesus, that says...”

Matria cut her off. “I do not want to hear this kind of talk! Things are hard enough here in Yemen, and if people read the Bible rather than the Qur’an, it will get even worse!”

The ongoing war has left many Yemenis disenchanted with Islam. It is true that some Yemenis are now finding hope in God’s word.

*Pray that the Bible will become available to everyone in Yemen. Pray that new Yemeni believers will remain strong in faith, patience and love. Pray that many will be willing to give up Islam in order that others will know that God offers them freedom from fear and death in Jesus.—PD*

**SAT-7 ARABIC WOMEN**

**S**peaking at the 2018 International Women’s Day conference in London, the SAT-7 representative stated, “In some ways, the situation for women in the Middle



East and North Africa (MENA) has improved in recent years. Girls’ access to education has increased, as has women’s political representation in select countries. But in many places the situation remains dire. Women continue to endure gender-based violence and a lack of freedoms. The conflicts that have engulfed Syria, Iraq, Libya, and Yemen have shattered the lives of many women. In some cases, it has reversed years of progress. Refugees are extremely vulnerable to violence from both outside and inside their families. Displacement can cause domestic violence to escalate. Women who have lost their husbands to violence often find themselves the sole parent and provider at a time of severe poverty.”

“Satellite television is an extremely effective way of reaching women, especially those who are isolated and illiterate. When women rarely leave the house in dangerous parts of the world, they often spend a lot of time watching television. SAT-7 has many programs for women that raise awareness of issues and offer hope in hopeless situations.”

*Pray that programming by SAT-7 and others will lead in giving hope and courage to women. Pray for lasting spiritual transformation for all. Pray that women will gather around the TV, learn of the ways of God, and teach them to their children.—PD*

**ACTS 16:40, NLT**

When Paul and Silas left the prison, they returned to the home of Lydia. There they met with the believers and encouraged them once more. Then they left town.

*Pray that Yemeni refugee women will be used by God to offer hospitality to God’s servants, and to help them to tell others of His glory, love, and might.*

## DEAF PEOPLE IN YEMEN

### IS 29:18A, NIV

In that day the deaf will hear (see) the words of the scroll...

*Pray for the Lord to do the impossible, and make sure the deaf people in Yemen can “hear” about Jesus in a way that they can understand.*

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Seventy million people in the world use sign language as their primary language. Eighty percent of them do not have a good formal education available to them in their area of the world.

Ninety-five percent of the deaf world does not yet have a Bible accessible in their sign language. Imagine how difficult it would be for deaf people to communicate in a solidly Muslim country like Yemen, where even hearing people seldom have access to the truth of Jesus!

Deaf people are in every country, including Yemen, yet their language is not the same as that of the majority language speakers there. Often their own family members do not use their sign language and cannot communicate with them.

The deaf world needs Jesus, and the best way to equip pastors, other workers, and those who are believers is to give them the Word of God in the sign language of their community. God has raised organizations that work with local deaf translation teams who are developing Bible translations that are clear, accurate, natural, and acceptable in their own sign languages.

*Pray for the Lord to raise up the right people to produce these special Bible translations. Pray for someone to overcome the humanly impossible task of reaching the deaf in Yemen, so they can enjoy fellowship with the king of Kings.—Guest writer*

## CHURCH PLANTING MOVEMENTS

One of the fastest ways to spread the gospel is not to rely on seminary-trained pastors to lead a church. It involves meeting in homes, businesses or even



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under trees—wherever people normally gather in a given culture. Their goal is to model Christ, share the word, teach, and equip the new believers to do the same and quickly reproduce themselves. This is called a Church-Planting Movement, or CPM for short, and some of their congregations could be composed of only 10-30 people. To be effective in taking this good news to “the ends of the earth” as Jesus commanded, CPMs must grow faster than the birth rate, and this type of growth is happening in many parts of the world, including the Middle East.

Older believers in the faith model themselves after Christ-like behavior. It is not a natural response to “turn the other cheek” when offended or insulted, but doing so will often compel the unbeliever to become a “seeker” when they see behavior that only the Holy Spirit can produce.

*One church planting movement in the Arab World is asking God to lead them to new relationships with those who are hungry for God and studying the Bible. Pray for local Arab believers to be passionate about Jesus and long to share their faith with others. Pray for those discontented with Islam to be drawn to the person of Jesus Christ.—JS*

### ACTS 5:42, NLT

And every day, in the Temple and from house to house, they continued to teach and preach this message: “Jesus is the Messiah.”

*Pray for house churches to spread far and wide, even in the hardest to reach parts of the Arab World.*

## DISCIPLESHIP NEEDS

### 1 TIM 1:5, NLT

The purpose of my instruction is that all believers would be filled with love that comes from a pure heart, a clear conscience, and genuine faith.

*Pray that Muslims will be disciplined to love and have faith in Jesus Christ.*



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If you are reading this article, you probably live in an area where you have the freedom to openly confess Jesus as your savior

without fear of imprisonment. Do you realize how fortunate you are? Believers in many parts of the world are forced to worship in secret.

One missionary team works among a large people group in the Middle East that has no country. They are weathering a season of political upheaval which has had a huge impact on the entire region. Some of the team's national partners are seriously considering leaving the country permanently.

“With God nothing is impossible” (Luke 31:7). Our God is able to work in the darkest times, in the darkest areas of the world. This is a very dark time for the national partners and the believers living in this region. The Bible says, “All the nations You have made will come and worship before you, Lord; they will bring glory to your name” (Ps 86:9, NIV).

*Pray for the people groups of Yemen to understand that they do belong; that they can be part of the very best kingdom! Pray that believers among them will remain faithful and share Jesus with others. Pray that this will become a season of great growth and spiritual maturity for this unreached people group.—JS*

## ARABIC POETRY AND MUSIC

Worship is a very personal experience and often one that stirs the emotions. This is true in all cultures.



Drummers

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Adapting music that extols and praises our savior to the familiar rhythms and styles of a culture enables them to worship in a way they find meaningful.

Poetry is very significant in the Arabic culture, and believers in the Arab World are using it to reach out. Local believers from a Muslim background are writing films using poetry to communicate the life-changing power of Jesus.

Many Arab Muslims view local believers as being from a foreign, Western culture, but when they hear music or poetry that is familiar to them, they realize that they do not need to abandon their cultural heritage to worship Jesus Christ. Basma, a local believer commented, “historically, when Arabs lived in other lands, they didn’t know if someone was a true Arab. When in doubt, they would often test someone by asking him to recite poetry. If his poetry was good, they knew he was a true Arab.”

*Pray that music and poetry that magnifies Christ will be created in Arab cultures that will enable Muslim background believers to truly worship their savior in a way that they find meaningful. Pray that Arab believers will find ways to take Christ to others through music and poetry.—JS*

### JUDGES 5:3, NLT

Listen, you kings! Pay attention, you mighty rulers! For I will sing to the Lord. I will make music to the Lord, the God of Israel.

*Pray that Arab rulers and common people alike will sing to the Lord from the heart when they hear of His greatness!*

## MAN IN WHITE

### ACTS 15:8, NLT

God knows people's hearts, and He confirmed that He accepts Gentiles by giving them the Holy Spirit, just as He did to us.

*Thank God that He knows the hearts of men!*

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Only God knows the heart of a man and whether he is ready to hear about Him; thus He is winning some to His kingdom!

Nabil (name changed for protection) and his family of Muslim refugees settled in a small apartment that happened to be near a believer named Greg. Nabil found a job as a common laborer, but one day suffered a debilitating ankle injury. He was unable to work. His new friend, Greg, stopped in as often as he could to help him rehabilitate, but Nabil's ankle did not respond. One day Nabil called Greg and almost pleaded, "Greg, I need to see you immediately! Come over now and bring your Bible." When Greg arrived, Nabil excitedly said, "A man in white came to me in a vision and told me to get a Bible." Greg noticed that Nabil was not limping and asked, "What happened to your ankle?" Nabil excitedly responded, "The man in white healed it!" He then recounted a dream he had where this man led him into a beautiful garden, and at the entrance, he told Nabil that he must read the Bible and that it would lead him to life."

*Pray for believers to pray for and expect God to hear their pleas for salvation for their lost Muslim neighbors. Pray that holy visitations will lead to hundreds of Muslim families devoting their lives to Jesus Christ.—JS*

## HOBYOT OF YEMEN AND OMAN

In Revelation we read of people from every language worshipping Jesus. What will He do about people who speak languages that die out? We don't have an answer for that, but we know that many of the world's languages are dying. Today and tomorrow, we will pray for people whose languages are being replaced by others.



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Hobyot speakers number between 100 and 1,000; most of those who speak this language are elderly, and only speak Arabic as a second language. They are one of six groups speaking a modern south Arabian language. It is sad that the Hobyot language is dying since it has a rich oral poetry.

Only about one in 500 follows Christ. This is out of a total Hobyot population of some 35,500. Although Christian resources are available in Arabic, it is only a second language to those who speak Hobyot.

*Pray for every Hobyot family and clan to accept blessings of the Lord. Pray that Hobyot believers will reach out to their Muslim kinsmen whom God has prepared to receive their witness favorably. Pray for resources to become available in Hobyot. Pray for a people movement to Christ among this group that will result in many being disciplined. Pray for them to come together in Christ-centered fellowships and go out to those who do not know of His sovereign grace.—TP*

### PROV 8:20, NLT

I walk in righteousness, in paths of justice.

*Pray for many from the Hobyot people to walk in Christ's righteousness.*

## MAHRAS OF YEMEN AND OMAN

IS 32:17, NLV

And this righteousness will bring peace. Yes, it will bring quietness and confidence forever.

*Pray for this kind of righteousness and peace to come to the Kapadi people.*

iStock/Dmitry Chulov



A Yemeni coffee grower

Do you like to drink coffee? There is a reason why one of the main types of beans are called “Arabica.”

Parts of the Arab world, especially Yemen, were among the first places where coffee was grown. In Yemen, some of the Mahras people grow coffee, and you might have been drinking some of their harvest this morning. Some Mahras people live in one place and tend to farmland, while others are semi-nomadic herdsman. They are viewed as low class and conservative by others in Yemeni.

Muslim Sheiks control Mahras society and communities. They are both the religious and political leaders. They control commerce and territorial integrity. Sheiks also act as brokers with the outside world. They are the leaders among this people group, and no one but a real rebel would dare to stand against their wishes. However, as infrastructure improves, Mahras communities are becoming open to the outside world regardless of what their Sheiks tell them.

The Mahras people are solidly Sunni Muslim, so there are very few followers of Jesus (Only about 57 in a population of 57,000).

*Pray for increasingly improved infrastructure. Also pray that believers will take advantage of new opportunities to take Christ to this unreached people group. Pray for intercession and availability of Bible resources in their language.—TP*

## SOCOTRAN PEOPLE IN YEMEN

Between the Horn of Africa and the Arabian Peninsula exists a dry, wind-swept island that presents one of the most daunting challenges for the spread of the gospel. Socotra is an island that is home to nearly 130,000 inhabitants that are more than 99 percent Muslim.



A dragon tree on Socotra Island

iStock/Zanskar

Isolated from the world by monsoonal storms for four months out of the year, this island holds some of the rarest species of trees and plants on Earth. Located in shark infested waters, the island has been dominated by Islam since the 1600s. Tradition reports that the Apostle Thomas originally brought the message of the cross, although much of the witness was eventually lost. Today believers constitute about 0.4 percent of the population.

There is little water for vegetable gardens. The only hospital is currently run by Russians and, due to a lack of money, it is always short of supplies. There is a need for English teachers for the lucrative tourist industry. There is also a need for speakers versed in the Socotran language to help create Christian radio broadcasts. Getting permission to visit the island has been difficult as the local government is controlled by the Yemeni military.

*Pray to the Lord of the Harvest to send the needed laborers. Pray that local believers will have the boldness to share their faith in the face of Muslim opposition.—JY*

HEB 9:22, NLT

In fact, according to the law of Moses, nearly everything was purified with blood. For without the shedding of blood, there is no forgiveness.

*Pray that the message of salvation by the blood of Christ will spread throughout Socotra Island.*

## RAZIHI PEOPLE IN YEMEN

**JN 4:14, NLT**

But those who drink the water I give will never be thirsty again.

*Pray not only for clean drinking water for the Razihi people. Pray that they will drink of Christ's spiritual water and live forever with God.*



Gathering water

thefinalmiracle/StockPhotos

Numbering about 67,000, Yemen's Razihi people speak an endangered language, believed to be a descendant of the Old South Arabian languages. Though they speak a language that can't be understood by other Yemenis, the Razihis have a similar lifestyle to others in Yemen. With the dry climate, most Razihis earn their living through livestock herding. Some work in the oil industry.

The Razihis live in the highlands on Mount Jabal Razih in the far northwestern corner of Yemen. Yemen is marked by serious food and water shortages, which includes dwindling access to clean water. The water shortage is partly due to growing qat, a plant that when chewed is a mild stimulant. Qat growth uses more than half of Yemen's water supply.

The Razihi people are 100 percent Muslim, though with Yemen's high substance abuse from qat, most likely they do not seriously follow the Qur'an. Few can read classical Arabic and so they depend on their spiritual leaders, imams, to teach them. In addition, there are no Christian resources available in the Razihi language, including no Bible portions or gospel recordings.

*Pray for Bible translation and gospel recordings for the Razihi language. Ask that Razihi people will hear and receive spiritual truth that leads them to Christ. Pray for a Disciple-Making Movement to begin among Yemen's Razihis.—CR*

## NORTHERN YEMENIS (A FRONTIER PEOPLE GROUP)

Coffee used to be a main trade among Northern Yemenis, and it is still an important part of social life. Northern Yemeni men like to drink communally, sitting on the floor and drinking from glasses or cups without handles. Unfortunately, coffee has been overtaken by a stronger stimulant, qat. For every coffee farm, there are seven qat farms in Yemen. Qat is a mild narcotic that has become the mainstay of rural life among Northern Yemenis. According to *The Economist*, one of the biggest causes of hunger in the country is addiction to qat. Valuable fresh water is used for qat rather than nutritious foods.



Preparation of qat

Create International

Qat used to be grown primarily in the northwest mountains of Yemen, home of the Northern Yemeni people. Now it is grown all over the country. The people of northern Yemen are also known as the Sanaani Arabs. Numbering around 11 million, they live in the northern mountains, the north-eastern deserts, and the capital city of Sana'a. There are no followers of Christ among them, and they are among the highest priority "frontier" people groups.

*Pray for the Northern Yemeni people, who hunger for truth but are mistakenly feeding that hunger with qat. Pray that they will long for truth and righteousness and find it in Jesus Christ. Pray for disciples to make more disciples among the Northern Yemenis. Pray that there will be ongoing efforts to pray for them.—CMW*

**JN 8:10-11, NLT**

Then Jesus stood up again and said to the woman, "Where are your accusers? Didn't even one of them condemn you?" "No, Lord," she said. And Jesus said, "Neither do I. Go and sin no more."

*Pray that Yemeni peoples caught up with drug addictions will understand and accept the forgiveness and grace offered by Jesus Christ.*

## SOUTHERN YEMENI ARABS

**JN 1:4-5, NLT**

The Word gave life to everything that was created, and His life brought light to everyone. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it.

*Pray that the Southern Yemenis will be drawn to the Lord of Light and give Him thanks for giving them abundant life.*



Let the wedding feast begin!

*(This story illustrates aspects of Southern Yemeni culture.)*

**Y**asmin awoke early, knowing she faced another

hot day, but hot or not, she donned her all-black balto. This is the long flowing gown that all the women wore over their other layers. She combed her hair then proceeded to cover her head with a headscarf. This was required by Islam. Finally, she put on her face veil. This was not required by Islam, but her husband insisted on it. He wanted her to protect her dignity whenever she left home.

Today Yasmin would be leaving the house at an early hour to purchase food for her son's wedding. She had picked the bride for her child-bearing potential, and the young people had been agreeable to the match. In a couple of hours, Yasmin's women friends would come to her house to help prepare the wedding meal. She looked forward to their company. Being with friends would help pass the time while fixing all that food for the men. The mother-of-the-groom smiled at the thought of one more benefit from the wedding: she wouldn't have to do the laundry today!

*Pray for God to send courageous believers to reach out to the six million Southern Yemeni Arabs. Ask Him to open their hearts to Jesus, the only one who can satisfy their spiritual needs.—CMW*

## HADRAMI ARABS (A FRONTIER PEOPLE GROUP)

**I**f you picture Yemen as a lengthwise brick that you slice vertically into thirds, the middle third is where the Hadrami Arabs

live. In a country of some 28 million, the Hadrami number 1.5 million. One household name of Hadrami descent is Osama bin Laden, who was not from Yemen, but whose father was Yemeni.

The Hadramis used to be nomads, but now, half of them live in towns scattered throughout the region. There are distinct social differences among the people. The wealthy Sadahs claim to be descended from Mohammed. Hadramis usually marry within their own social class, and they are segregated in their communities. On special days, Hadramis will gather to dance under a shady tent. On these occasions, the women can dress up in colorful clothes but still cover everything except their hands and eyes. Music is provided by one or two simple wind instruments and drums.

Referring back to the “brick” map, you will notice that the area that the Hadramis inhabit borders the Gulf of Aden, which leads to the Arabian Sea. It takes but a small leap of logic to understand that the Hadramis were once a seafaring people. Today there are no believers among the Hadramis, nor is there any witness among them. They are 100 percent Muslim.

*Please pray that God will send people to tell them about the savior. Pray that they will respond by forming discipleship groups.—CMW*



See the orange section in central Yemen

**LUKE 1:77-78, NLT**

You will tell his people how to find salvation through forgiveness of their sins. Because of God's tender mercy, the morning light from heaven is about to break upon us...

*Pray for Hadrami Arabs to embrace and accept the forgiveness of Jesus, and spread His forgiveness to others throughout the Arabian Peninsula.*

## TIHAMI ARABS IN YEMEN

**PS 98:2, NLV**

The Lord has announced His victory and has revealed His righteousness to every nation!

*Pray for the Lord almighty to reveal His righteousness to the Tihami Arabs of Yemen.*



Selling qat

Sweet-smelling herbs around the “flower men’s” necks wafted through the thick, hot air, smoky with qat, a mildly narcotic leaf that is chewed for hours at a time. Tihami celebrations are elaborate, involving much dancing and music. Their folklore dance is just one demonstration of their dedication to maintain and preserve their ancestral traditions.

Tihama is the narrow western coastal region of Yemen on the Red Sea. It is made up of sand dunes and plains and is largely arid except for a few oases. The Tihamis are fiercely independent, shunning modern ways. Tihami people are nomadic, having resisted efforts by governments to settle them into permanent homes and cities.

Marriage comes early, and families are large. Most Tihamis are dependent on each day’s wages to provide for the next day. The majority depend on agriculture and sea resources to provide their daily needs; they often have barely enough to feed their families. In some villages there is little more schooling than Qur’an memorization. Tihami people are 100 percent Muslim.

*Pray that audio Bible resources will soon be available in an understandable dialect for Tihami people; theirs is different from other Arab dialects. Pray that political change will result in more openness to the outside world. Pray that broken disciples will do what is needed to see to it that the Tihami people are discipled in the ways of Jesus Christ.—KH*

## ARABIZED BLACKS (AKHDAM)

Can you imagine what it would be like to have been born at the bottom of the social, economic, and religious order of your country? People would refuse to touch you or be touched by you. You would not be able to find sufficient work to support your family and yourself. You children would search for cans and bottles and beg for enough to buy food for their hungry stomachs. Can you imagine what it would be like to have to worship a false, unloving, and harsh god? Can you imagine never having heard about the work of Jesus?



Arabized Blacks in Yemen, also known as “Akhdam,” are these people. They live on the bottom rung of a supposedly abolished caste ladder. They are shorter and darker than typical Yemenis, making them stand out. Akhdam people mostly live in slums in big cities, primarily in Sana. They desperately need better living conditions, clean water and sanitation, education—and the Lord Jesus Christ, who loves them and paid the penalty for all their sins.

Written, audio, and visual resources are available in Arabic; however, the distribution and use of these materials is difficult and dangerous in this Muslim society.

*Pray that long-term “tentmaker” believers will befriend and reach desperate Akhdam people with the help they need now and in eternity. Pray for them to have the chance to study the Bible, and find hope and joy as they become His disciples.—KH*

**IS 33:5, NLV**

Though the Lord is very great and lives in heaven, He will make Jerusalem His home of justice and righteousness.

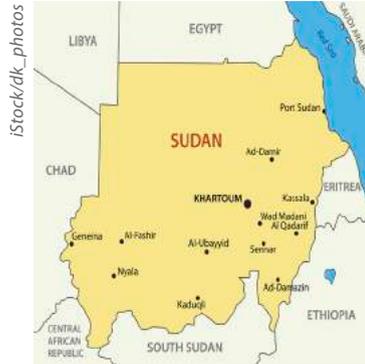
*Pray that the Lord will make Yemen a place of justice and righteousness and use the Akhdam people as an example of how He can lift a people group up when they obey Him.*

## SUDANESE ARABS IN YEMEN

**IS 62:1-3, NLV**

Because I love Zion,  
I will not keep still.  
Because my heart  
yearns for Jerusalem,  
I cannot remain silent.  
I will not stop praying  
for her until her  
righteousness shines  
like the dawn, and her  
salvation blazes like  
a burning torch. The  
nations will see your  
righteousness. World  
leaders will be blinded  
by your glory. And you  
will be given a new  
name by the Lord's own  
mouth. The Lord will  
hold you in His hand for  
all to see—a splendid  
crown in the hand  
of God.

*Make this your prayer  
for the Sudanese Arabs.  
Pray that even the most  
violent and wicked  
among them will become  
tools of the Lord to  
disciple others in new  
ways that bring justice  
and peace.*



There is a country that rivals Yemen for the brutality of their civil war: Sudan. Sudanese Arabs in Yemen hope to find a place where they can raise their families in peace, but they have gone to the wrong country for that basic need. Largely because of the ongoing civil war, Yemen is the poorest country in the Arab world.

Sudanese Arabs in Yemen are a people with a mixture of diverse blood and cultures. They straddle the cultures of Africa and the Arab world. Rigid codes of honor, loyalty, hostility, and hospitality are among those values that have remained strong among them throughout the centuries.

Sudanese Arabs have seen what religious violence and brutality can do to a nation. Whether they are in Sudan or Yemen, they are almost entirely Sunni Muslim. In Yemen there is very little religious freedom; open belief in the Lord Jesus Christ is very dangerous. The worst persecution comes from families. Written, audio and visual Bible resources are available in Arabic, but not easily accessible in Yemen.

*Pray that Sudanese Arabs will wake up spiritually and realize that only Jesus can provide peace and spiritual safety. Pray for natural and spiritual peace to come to Yemen. Ask the Lord to call out prayer teams to go and break up the soil through worship and intercession.—KH*

## EGYPTIAN ARABS IN YEMEN

Egyptian life and culture have undergone very little change in hundreds of years, even among those who now live in Yemen. Egyptian Arabs are known for their music, which is popular in Yemen.

According to legend, music in Egypt originated by a god as an effort to civilize the people.

Egypt's population is the most rapidly growing of any country in the Arab world. With limited arable land, overtaxed resources, and societal problems, many Egyptian Arabs have migrated to Yemen. However, Yemen's economy is in even worse condition than Egypt, so it's hard for Egyptians to find good jobs.

As Yemen degenerated into civil war, Egyptian military forces entered the country to protect the Sunni Muslim dominated leaders from a possible Shi'ite takeover. Egyptian forces have entered Yemen on many occasions.

The majority of Egyptian Arabs in Yemen are Sunni Muslim. Most speak Egyptian Arabic, because most broadcasting originates in Egypt. Scripture resources, written, audio, and visual are available in Egyptian Arabic, but not accepted because the people are 97 percent Muslim.

*Pray that there will soon be a Christ-centered church planting movement among Egyptian and Yemeni Arabs in Yemen. Pray for sincere, seeking hearts and minds among Yemeni Egyptian Arabs. Pray that persecuted Egyptian believers will soon become a mighty missionary movement to Yemen.—KH*



**MATT 2:13-15, NLT**

After the wise men were gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. "Get up! Flee to Egypt with the child and his mother," the angel said. "Stay there until I tell you to return, because Herod is going to search for the child to kill Him." That night Joseph left for Egypt with the child and Mary, his mother, and they stayed there until Herod's death. This fulfilled what the Lord had spoken through the prophet: "I called my Son out of Egypt."

*Pray that the Lord will raise up many Egyptian Muslims to remember their connection with the Savior and put their trust in Him alone.*

## GULF ARABS IN YEMEN

### JAMES 3:18, NLV

And those who are peacemakers will plant seeds of peace and reap a harvest of righteousness.

*Make this your prayer for the Gulf Arabs in Yemen.*

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*(This fictional account is meant to portray the challenges facing this people group.)*

**K**haled was certain something was wrong with his friend Yasser. Yasser was usually happy and loud, especially right after their prayer time at the mosque. He asked, “What’s the matter, Yasser?”

“I met someone today,” Yasser answered. “Oh...! A girl!” “No. Not a girl.” “Then who?”

Yasser paused, face to the ground as they continued their walk home. Finally, he said, “Do you really believe that there is no God but Allah and that Mohammed is his prophet?”

“What?! Of course! I’m an Arab!” “I met someone today who told me something different. And it is troubling me.” “What did they tell you?” “You have to promise not to speak a word of this to anyone.” “Promise.” “He told me about the prophet Isa...”

Choosing to trust in Isa (Jesus) in Yemen is very dangerous. The few Gulf Arabs who are following Jesus must do so in secret, and they can potentially face death if others find out.

*Pray for the Lord to use the internet and digital technology to reach the Gulf Arabs of Yemen with His message of love and salvation. Ask the Lord to give Yemeni believers boldness and opportunities to share their faith with their Muslim friends and families. Pray for disciples to make other disciples until the Holy Spirit transforms Gulf Arab communities in Yemen and beyond.—CL*

## OMANI ARABS IN YEMEN

**C**ould the key to evangelizing the Omani Arabs of Yemen involve reaching a member of a terrorist group? Scripture tells us that “God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong.” He seems to delight in confounding human wisdom.



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The Apostle Paul is a great example. Known for zealously persecuting Christ’s followers, Paul had a radical encounter with God and became a powerful tool in the hand of the Almighty. God used him to write much of the New Testament and to jumpstart the spread of faith in Jesus Christ. Human wisdom would have said that Paul was a terrible choice to be God’s ambassador. But God had other plans.

Human wisdom might also say members of extremist groups would be terrible choices to preach the gospel. Yet imagine an Islamic terrorist having a radical encounter with God and then zealously sharing his faith with Omani Arabs! Perhaps that’s what it will take to introduce this people group to their Savior.

*Pray for God to use whatever means necessary—no matter how unlikely or unorthodox—to get the gospel to the Omani Arabs in Yemen. Pray for the safety of those who carry this message and for the successful birth and growth of God’s church among them. Ask for many Omani Arabs to put their faith in Christ and disciple others.—CL*

### ACTS 9:3-6, NLT

As he was approaching Damascus on this mission, a light from heaven suddenly shone down around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, “Saul! Saul! Why are you persecuting me?” “Who are you, lord?” Saul asked. And the voice replied, “I am Jesus, the one you are persecuting! Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.”

*Pray for many zealous Muslims who think violence will increase spirituality to encounter the Prince of Peace who transforms hearts.*

## IRAQI REFUGEES IN YEMEN

GEN 45:20, NLT

Don't worry about your personal belongings, for the best of all the land of Egypt is yours.

*As we approach Christmas, let's remember to pray for abundant blessings for suffering people like today's Iraqi refugees, so that they will not lack food or shelter this winter.*



Iraqi refugees

*(This story illustrates things that can happen to this people group.)*

Little Ammar ran home, proud of his gift. He burst through the tent to find his mother lying motionless. “Momma!” he shouted, “I found bread for you!” He thrust the local Yemeni bread at her parched lips. The Iraqi refugee weakly opened her eyes. Her starving mind was so cloudy she thought she was preparing a return to her homeland, instead of the impending flight from Yemen to yet another country.

The Iraqi refugee crisis is the largest in Western Asia in 60 years. Iraqis fled everywhere, even to crisis countries like Yemen. In Yemen there is little clean water, not enough food or medicine, and no stability. In 2016, humanitarian aid agencies estimated that 21.1 million people in Yemen—80 per cent of the population—required some form of humanitarian assistance. Overwhelmed UN agencies do not screen Iraqis for refugee status nor process them for resettlement. Last year, nearly 50 percent of the total civilian casualties reported worldwide came from Iraq, Syria, and Yemen. And so, the Iraqi refugees’ flight continues.

While the majority of Iraqi Christians fled to friendly countries like Jordan, still nearly 39,000 Iraqi Muslim refugees fled to Yemen.

*Pray for the Lord to move on behalf of suffering Iraqis. Ask the Lord to call Iraqi believers to take His gospel to Muslims in Iraq, Syria, and Yemen.—LR*

## PALESTINIAN ARABS IN YEMEN

“May they have courage!” Struggling to stand from her prayer mat, the faithful intercessor wipes tears from her eyes. The Lord had given her an important mission—to intercede for the Palestinian Arabs in Yemen. She knows there are very few Christ-followers among them; these Arabs resist the gospel due to societal restrictions and antagonism. She understands that intercession is the key to reaching them.

Meanwhile in Yemen, Abdel wakes in a sweat, wiping the tears from his eyes. He’s had another dream about Jesus! He is convinced by his dreams that Jesus is the savior, but he knows there are serious consequences for following Jesus in his Muslim culture. Social life is extremely important to him, and he knows he could be ostracized if not killed. He needs courage!

Abdel represents the 30,000 Palestinian Arabs living in Yemen. They were displaced in the 1948 Palestine war, and dispersed from the West Bank to Yemen. Those in Yemen have settled in villages but are still tribal in their mindset. Ruled by sheiks (experts in Islam and foreign relations), their fortress-like villages keep out unwanted people. Even their houses are built facing the outside to strictly control visitors. They maintain strict customs and social rules.

*Pray that the sheiks will soften their stance on followers of Christ and the message they bring. Pray that courage fills both those who have professed Christ, and those whom the Lord is calling.—LR*



DEUT 31:6, NLT

So be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid and do not panic before them. For the Lord your God will personally go ahead of you. He will neither fail you nor abandon you.

*Pray that Palestinian Muslims who consider following Christ will understand that God will be with them in their difficult journey.*

**SOMALIS IN YEMEN**

**PS 147:14, NLT**

He sends peace across your nation and satisfies your hunger with the finest wheat.

*Pray this Christmas day that the Somalis will be blessed with both physical and spiritual sustenance.*



A group of Somalis got into a boat and set off from the shores of Yemen into the Red Sea. They were headed for Djibouti. In the distance they heard gunfire. The fighting in Yemen raged on, and they needed to get away. The boat slowly moved away from shore and day eventually

became night. Then they could hear the putt-putt of a helicopter, and everyone in the boat cringed. The choppers fired machine guns and people aboard the boat died.

The above tragedy is often repeated in both Yemen and nearby Somalia. Many Somalis have been trying to flee from Yemen ever since the chaos began, but their own country is also in turmoil, as you will see when we pray for Somalia next month.

Almost all Somalis are Sunni Muslims, who look to the prophecies of Mohammed to bring them peace in a land of war. Almost none of them have heard that Jesus Christ can give them inner peace and life to the full.

*Ask God to open the spiritual eyes of the Somalis in Yemen to the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ. Ask God to break the hold that Islam has on this people group and replace it with a desire to do whatever it takes to find inner peace and the joy that comes from spiritual truth. Pray that someone will disciple the Somalis so that they can obey Christ.—WK*

**IRANIANS IN YEMEN**

*(This story illustrates things that could happen among this people group.)*

The Iranian family hid in the apartment building in Yemen, trying to stay away from the windows. Day became night and the gunfire died down. “I’m going out to get food,” said the father to his wife and children. He dashed out the door, into the debris ridden street. The man reached the dimly lit store and found the shelves empty. There would be no food for his family today.



Two factions fight for control of Yemen, one backed by Shi’ite Muslim Iran and the other backed by Sunni Muslim Saudi Arabia. In recent years the world community has imposed a blockade on Yemen to stop the flow of arms into that country. Unfortunately, that blockade has also stopped the flow of food into Yemen. The Iranian community in Yemen has been especially hard hit by the food shortage, and starvation is now a real danger.

*Pray for the restoration of food shipments to Yemen. Ask God to raise up faithful workers to take food and the message of salvation to the Iranians in Yemen. Pray that they will be disciplined by those who love them and want them to experience the peace that transcends all understanding.—WK*

**I PET 2:23, NLT**

He did not retaliate when He was insulted, nor threaten revenge when He suffered. He left His case in the hands of God, who always judges fairly.

*Pray that Yemen will be the land where many Iranians and other Shi’ite Muslims learn forgiveness and reconciliation from Jesus Christ.*

## SOUTH ASIAN MUSLIMS IN YEMEN

EPH 4:17-18, NLT

With the Lord's authority I say this: Live no longer as the Gentiles do, for they are hopelessly confused. Their minds are full of darkness; they wander far from the life God gives because they have closed their minds and hardened their hearts against Him.

*Pray for South Asians in Yemen to "learn and do" holy living as they hear of the Holy Lord.*

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*(This story illustrates things that could happen to this people group.)*

Amir, a young Indian man, ran to the door of the Indian Embassy in

Yemen. All of the windows had been shattered and there was broken glass everywhere. A sign on the door told Amir that the last boat had left Yemen for Djibouti days ago. He wept, knowing that he'd lost his last chance to escape the civil war in Yemen. That fighting has killed thousands of people, some of them South Asians from India. During April of 2015 India launched Operation Raabat, a boat evacuation of South Asians from Yemen to Djibouti, located just across the Red Sea from Yemen. India evacuated 4600 people during that operation, just before they closed their embassy in Yemen. But some South Asians were left behind, many of whom were married to Yemeni women. Others have taken their chances by taking high paying jobs in this war-torn country. Most of these Indian nationals are Sunni Muslims who do not look to Jesus for answers in this life and the life to come.

*May the South Asians of Yemen find safety for their bodies and salvation for their souls. Pray that they will understand that only Jesus can pay for their sins, and that they owe Him their everything. Pray that they will learn His ways and take them back to India when they leave Yemen.—WK*

## MALAYS IN YEMEN

*(This story illustrates things that could happen to members of this people group.)*

The Malay man

stared at the ruins of his large house in Yemen. He hadn't been home when the artillery shell hit the house. He didn't know which faction had destroyed his house and he didn't care. Perhaps he should return to Malaysia, the land of his ancestors. Then he shook that thought out of his head. He'd been born in Yemen and knew no one in Malaysia. The sound of gunfire caused the man to flee into the rubble that had once been his home. The piles of concrete would at least shield him from the soon coming bullets.

There have been Malay merchants in Yemen since the 1800s when both Malaysia and Yemen were British colonies. Most Yemeni Malays alive today have never been to Malaysia. They'd been born in Yemen and would feel very out of place in Malaysia or Singapore. Going to Malaysia is not an option for them.

Malays are Muslims who consider Jesus Christ to be a prophet, but not the only way to the Father.

*Pray that a mission agency would send believers to the Malays in Yemen. Such people can provide spiritual and physical refuge for those who have lost their homes. Pray that the Malay people in Yemen would come to see Jesus Christ as the true source of salvation.—WK*



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EPH 4:21-24, NLT

Since you have heard about Jesus and have learned the truth that comes from him, throw off your old sinful nature and your former way of life, which is corrupted by lust and deception. Instead, let the Spirit renew your thoughts and attitudes. Put on your new nature, created to be like God—truly righteous and holy.

*Pray that Malay Muslims will "throw off" sinful behavior and allow their thoughts and attitudes to be renewed by a relationship with Jesus Christ.*

## ARAB PORT CITIES

**HOS 2:19, NIV**

I will make you my wife forever, showing you righteousness and justice, unfailing love and compassion.

*Pray that this effort by Christ's ambassadors will result in many understanding that they can have God's undying and perfect love just for the asking. Pray that many will!*



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**R**eaching Muslims for Christ can be difficult and even dangerous—not only for the missionaries, but also for Muslim

background believers. There are harsh penalties, even death for those who stray from what the local community considers to be proper Islam. Even in the relatively liberal port cities, Christ cannot be proclaimed publicly without serious consequences, so workers must be discreet about what they share.

There is a team working in an Arabic-speaking port city that aims to see a church-planting movement established. Their method is to sow broadly, invest deeply, and seek people they can disciple to become church-planting leaders. This can potentially take off, and morph into a church planting movement, that will produce more and more disciples and fellowships. An ambitious but worthy goal!

*Ask God to give team members breakthroughs in speaking a difficult language, insight into learning a different culture, and favor with local people. Pray for entire families to come to Christ together, since individual decisions are viewed as rebellion by decision makers. Pray that as the team shares the gospel, God will confirm their message to many Muslims with dreams and visions, and open people's minds to the truth of who Jesus is. Pray that soon entire families and clans will decide together to follow Jesus Christ.—AHS*

## MEDIA TOOLS FOR MUSLIMS

**I**n much of the Arab World, there is Arabic, the trade language, and also a heart language which they grew up with.

In one country there is a team of workers who are developing an effective media tool to broadcast the gospel in a local dialect to millions who have never heard. They wish to use this tool to find people and families of peace who can introduce team members to spiritually hungry Muslims. This team ran several video ad campaigns sharing the good news. Almost 200 Muslims responded, wishing to meet personally with someone who follows Christ!

Many new believers are isolated. They don't know any others who follow the Lord and they don't know who is trying to trap them and force them to recant their new faith. As a result, many churches in the country don't have a place to meet.

*Pray for entire families to follow Jesus and open their homes to the church without fear. Praise God that new believers are becoming bolder and are openly sharing their stories and their faces on social media. Pray that new believers and team members will be able to use and distribute these new tools to spread the blessings of Jesus. Pray for their protection as they are sometimes being harassed by the police. Pray that team members and Muslim background believers will be protected from sickness, injuries, and spiritual attacks.—AHS*



**REV 14:6-7, NLT**

And I saw another angel flying through the sky, carrying the eternal good news to proclaim to the people who belong to this world—to every nation, tribe, language, and people. "Fear God," he shouted. "Give glory to Him. For the time has come when He will sit as judge. Worship Him who made the heavens, the earth, the sea, and all the springs of water."

*Pray that these media tools will result in many from the Arab World deciding to follow the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.*

**COMPLETED SORANI KURDISH BIBLE**

**HEB 12:24, NLT**

You have come to Jesus, the one who mediates the new covenant between God and people, and to the sprinkled blood, which speaks of forgiveness instead of crying out for vengeance like the blood of Abel.

*Pray for the Kurds, who have been wronged by so many, and often crave revenge on their enemies. Pray that the word of God will give them the power to forsake revenge and forgive as Christ forgave them.*



What would you dedicate 28 years of your life for? Do you think it's worth 28 years of effort to translate the Scriptures for a language group of 3.5 million like

the Kurdish Sorani speakers? Not all of these 28 years were spent doing translation, however. Most Sorani speaking Kurds live in Iraq where war has interrupted their daily lives off and on for years. Other Sorani speakers live in Iran, a more peaceful country where the gospel is forbidden by the Islamic government.

Hans Combrink of an International Bible society called Biblica describes the new Sorani translation as being both contemporary and accurate. It is a complete translation, including everything from Genesis to Revelation.

What happens next? Though Sorani speakers are Muslims like almost all Kurds, there are Christ-worshipping fellowships among them that need the Scriptures in their heart language. Since the Kurds live in a land that straddles the Arab, Iranian and Turkish world, they have the potential to be salt and light to all three of these major Muslim blocs!

*Pray for the Holy Spirit to thrust out hundreds of Kurdish believers to be salt and light to Arabs, Iranians, and Turks. Thank Him for providing the Scripture to this Muslim people group. Pray for Sorani speakers to disciple others until there is an unstoppable Disciple-Making Movement among Kurds.—KC*

*More than half of the globe's seven billion human beings now live in cities.*

**REACHING THE CITY (EMS 20)**

Reflections on Urban Mission for the Twenty-first Century

*Gary Fujino, Timothy R. Sisk, Tereso C. Casion, editors*

Rapid urbanization and globalization processes worldwide have changed the landscape of our times. In Asia and Africa the number of urban dwellers increases by an average of one million per week, according to the United Nations. More than half of the globe's seven billion human beings now live in cities. These realities have far reaching implications for mission in urban contexts at the start of the third millennium. *Reaching the City: Reflections on Urban Mission for the Twenty-first Century* seeks to address the missiological challenges associated with this new world order.

Each author in this collection respectfully builds upon the significant contributions of seminal writers such as Ray Bakke, Jacques Ellul, Basil of Caesarea and others, while making new and creative proposals for urban mission in our world today. Beginning with the bigger picture of the global challenges of urbanization, and moving through theological, historical, and educational perspectives, this volume concludes with a rich bevy of case studies engaging these new realities of both North American and international cities to encourage a missional thrust to reach these communities.

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