



Dear Praying Friends,

This is the last *GPD* issue featuring a specific country for a couple of months, and we are going to make it count. This month we will cover every unreached people group in Italy listed by Joshua Project, and add the Punjabi Sikhs, since workers say that they are an important people group in Italy right now. Our key Bible portions will be from ... you guessed it ... Romans. There are plenty of verses in that rich book to use as prayer fuel for those who have not made Jesus their lord. In fact, we can use some of them in future issues since there are too many for one month.

Next month we will feature the largest “31 Frontier People Groups,” before launching out on a full year of prayer for the entire 401 Frontier People Groups (FPGs). Our background material next month will explain more. During those 13 months, we will pray for 88 percent of the people who are members of unreached people groups. If you have the “31” booklet already, you will notice that we  them in order by geography and re-wrote them with the *GPD* style.

For now, let’s pray as fervently for the unreached people groups in Italy as we did for those in Malaysia last month, and those from Chad and Somalia the months before!

In Christ,

Keith Carey, editor-in-chief, *GPD*

To hear the NEW *GPD* podcasts, go to:

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/podcast/global-prayer-digest/id1437586782>

April 2019

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Frontier Ventures-GPD, PO Box 91297
Long Beach, CA 90809-1297
1-888-881-5861 or 1-714-226-9782
for Canada and overseas
globalprayerdigest@pfsmag.com

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Keith Carey
For comments on content call
626-398-2241 or email
keith.carey@frontierventures.org

ASSISTANT EDITOR

Paula Fern

WRITERS

Patricia Depew
Karen Hightower
Wesley Kawato
Benjamin Klett
David Kugel
Christopher Lane
Ted Proffitt
Cory Raynham
Lydia Reynolds
Jean Smith
Allan Starling
Chun Mei Wilson
John Ytreus

DAILY BIBLE COMMENTARIES

Keith Carey

CUSTOMER SERVICE

Lois Carey
Brad Kim

GRAPHICS

Keith Carey
David Gutierrez

PRINTER

Yuli Color Reproduction Co., LTD.
(Taiwan)

WEB SITE

www.globalprayerdigest.org

<https://prayerstrategists.net/about/prayer-guides/>

ISSN 1045-9731
Contents of the *Global Prayer Digest* © 2019
Frontier Ventures
1605 East Elizabeth Street
Pasadena, CA 91104

Contents of this booklet may be reproduced if appropriate credit and subscription information are given.

Cover photo by iStockPhotos

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. Casiano, 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.

ISBN: 978-0-87808-039-7

WCL | Pages 304

Paperback 2012

List Price: \$14.99

Our Price: \$11.99



Reaching the City
Reflections on
Urban Mission for the
Twenty-first Century

Gary Fujino
Timothy R. Sisk
Tereso C. Casiano
Editors



WILLIAM CAREY
LIBRARY

Go to missionbooks.org for 20% off.

Call 1-866-730-5068 for bulk discounts.

William Carey Library is a ministry of Frontier Ventures

Who Are the Unreached People Groups in Italy?

Jewish/European

Jewish immigrants started arriving in Italy during the Roman Empire. They have lived in many parts of the country for thousands of years. After Hitler took over Germany in the 1930s many left for Israel. Still the Jewish community is well-established in Italy. They own businesses, and they are contributing to the nation through their skills in law, business, science and education.

Muslim Bosnians

After the breakup of the USSR, the war in what was then Yugoslavia prompted many Bosnians (aka, Bosniaks) to flee to other countries for safety. They became well-settled in Italy.

Central Asians

There is a small number of Central Asian Muslims in Italy. They remain Muslims, though some, like the Iranians and those who came from former Soviet states, are often Muslim in name only. Still Islam is an important part of their identity, and they need to make Jesus central to their lives.

Africans

Though the number of migrants coming to Italy has slowed since 2015, there are still many Africans arriving in the country in unsafe boats. Many lose their lives when these boats capsize in the Mediterranean Sea. Though there are Christians from Nigeria and Ghana, there are many Muslims from Senegal, Nigeria, Somalia, and Eritrea. This is

Italy

the group that is still coming to Italy. Since they are not yet settled, they are more likely to be open to spiritual changes and accepting the blessings of Christ.

Arabs

The Arab and Kurdish peoples in Italy often came within the last 10 years because of the political and economic turmoil that resulted from the Arab Spring. Sudanese, Iraqis, Syrians, and Kurds are still arriving in an attempt to find a safe place to live and start a new life.

South Asians and East Asians

South Asians and East Asians usually come to start businesses, so they are contributing much to Italy's economy. Some of them are being exploited, working on farms for very low wages, but these are in the minority.

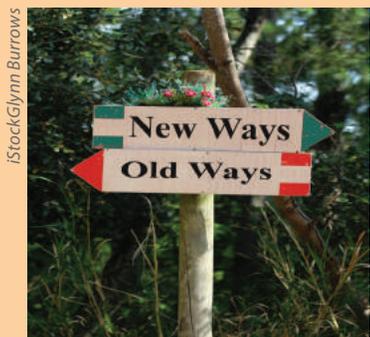


iStockpaulprescott172

Immigrations in Italy Today

—by Andrew Diprose, a worker in Italy acdiprose@gmail.com

Since 2011, year after year, until the middle of 2017, people have continued to come to Italy departing first from Tunisia and then Libya. People arriving in Italy have been coming mainly from Muslim nations. There is also a strong presence of nominal Christians arriving from nations like Nigeria and some Christians from Ghana. They are kept in holding centers on the island of Sicily. Lampedusa in the middle of the Mediterranean Sea received a huge influx of people between March and June of 2011. The holding center, however, and the island itself are too small to be used for periods of nine months or more waiting for their requests for asylum to be processed. Some of the largest holding centers are in Mineo (Catania province, Sicily), Caltanissetta (in a hill area just outside the city of Caltanissetta, Sicily) and Castelnuovo di Porto (just north of Rome).



Once asylum cases are decided, people usually have to leave their holding centers and find some form of livelihood; this happens both to those who have been accorded refugee status and to the many denied refugee status but who decide not to leave the nation of Italy. Illegal migrants who have attempted to be accepted as refugees are present in unknown numbers in central-southern Italy. They are often

used as indentured labor in agricultural areas such as Rosarno in Calabria. (<http://content.time.com/time/world/article/0,8599,1953619,00.html> and <https://www.theguardian.com/sustainable-business/2016/feb/18/italy-oranges-slavery-coca-cola-exploitation>)

There are also many Punjabis who have paid a large amount of money to people from their own nation in order to obtain papers to come to Italy in a seemingly legal way. There are also indentured laborers on farms in the province of Latina. In fact, Ajay Rattan, an Italian trade unionist originally from the Punjab and one of the four Punjabi believers in the Lazio region, claims there might be up to 30,000 Punjabis in Latina Province. To read about one Punjabis' plight, see (<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-italy-agriculture-drugs/opium-numbs-the-pain-for-indian-pickers-exploited-on-italian-farms-idUSKBN1A40R0>). There are also at least 30,000 Bangladeshis (mainly in the province of Rome), of which the majority are Muslims.

If you want to find details about who is arriving in Italy, you can find useful data here: <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/mediterranean/location/5205>

Please pray for the Lord to move his church to reach these people for Christ. There is an excellent opportunity, but the workers are few.

Taken from: PrayerCast Italy

Summary

Though Italy has the seventh-largest economy in the world, it is struggling to grow. Both restrictive legislation for businesses and organized crime have contributed to the country's overwhelming debt, the third largest in the world. Once the seat of the Roman Empire, one of history's greatest superpowers, today's Italy faces many social and economic challenges. Roughly 39 percent of youth are unemployed, causing many to leave the country in search of greater opportunities. Thirty percent live in poverty; massive debt prevents the government from properly addressing the issue. Despite the RICO operation in the 1990s that aimed to crackdown on corruption, organized crime still reaches into every strata of social and governmental life. The recent immigration crisis has also brought thousands of refugees from war-torn places such as Syria and Libya to the shores of Italy, leading Italy to threaten to close its ports.

This nation has a rich history of faith. The Book of Romans was written to the Church in Rome, which was the center of intense persecution for the early church. Deeply rooted in Catholicism, it is home to the Vatican, the seat of the Catholic Church. Today, about 82 percent of the population claims Christianity, mostly Roman Catholicism. Yet only 15 percent of Italian Catholics loyally practice their faith, with the majority seeing it as part of their cultural identity more than as a personal belief. Only about one percent of Italians are Evangelicals. Secular materialism, occultism, and satanism are gaining influence across the nation. Many regions remain without a strong evangelical church; out of 105 people groups 24 remain unreached with the gospel. People need a better understanding of God's Word in order to overcome the spiritual indifference that now plagues this nation.

- Pray that nominal Christians throughout Italy would gain a true understanding of the gospel and a meaningful relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ.
- Pray for Italians enslaved by tradition or disillusioned with church structures to encounter the living Christ.
- Pray for the power of God to be revealed and to set free those lost in the darkness of occult, pagan, and new age practices.

TESTIMONY OF A WORKER AMONG THE BALOCH IN ITALY

ROM 10:15, NLT

And how will anyone go and tell them without being sent? That is why the scriptures say, "How beautiful are the feet of messengers who bring good news!"

Thank the Lord for the few who are reaching out to the unreached peoples in Italy today! Pray that their lives will bear much fruit.



I am an Australian missionary who has served in Italy for many years where I work among refugees in many different camps. About nine months ago I received a phone call from a believer in Finland asking if I could contact and visit his cousin in a camp in Rome. I agreed to do this, and he gave me his cousin's phone number, so we arranged to meet. Anwar (not his real name for security reasons) is an ethnic Baloch from Pakistan who just recently arrived in Italy from Norway where he had lived. When I told him I follow Jesus, he expressed his desire to go to church. On referring this matter to his cousin in Finland, Anwar said that he is a Christian and had spoken to his cousin about Jesus. He stated that his relative in Finland was a Muslim.

We met once a week outside the camp and I began to tell Anwar about Christ to which he was very attentive. Then my fellow worker transferred the JESUS Film from his phone on to Anwar's mobile phone. The next week we met I asked if he had watched the film. He replied with a beaming smile that he had seen it and believed that Jesus is the Son of God—he knew he was saved and rejoiced in the new discovery!

Pray for the JESUS Film to be distributed far and wide to the unreached in Italy.—Guest writer

TESTIMONY, CONTINUED

Anwar, now a new Baloch believer, told me his story. The Baloch people are fighting to obtain independence from Pakistan. His father was the leader of the resistance movement. He himself had been arrested and imprisoned for 14 months. During this time he was beaten and tortured. The harsh treatment left him traumatized, so he needed medicine. We agreed that the Lord could heal and restore him without medicine, so we prayed for healing. Then he felt better, and the following week he said he was completely healed, praise God!

We returned to his camp each week, and I continued to disciple him in the Scriptures. I sent him a message on his smartphone telling him to read John 14 and 16. The next time we met he was rejoicing; he understood the Holy Spirit is the teacher who reveals the truth to him through the scriptures.

Now he boldly witnesses to his Pakistani friends about Jesus, giving out gospel booklets in Urdu. In fact, he has given his own New Testament in Urdu to his best friend. The next step will be to teach Anwar the need to be baptized and to live in obedience to the word of God.

Pray for Anwar to live an obedient life even in the face of persecution and rejection. Pray that he will begin a disciple-making movement among the Baloch in Italy.—Guest writer



A Baloch fisherman

iStock/Raaskohx10

ROM 1:5, NLT

Through Christ, God has given us the privilege and authority as apostles to tell Gentiles everywhere what God has done for them, so that they will believe and obey him, bringing glory to his name.

Pray for the Lord to offer the Baloch people the privilege and authority to be apostles and tell the Hindus and Muslims in Italy that they are not alone; they can trust Christ!

BOSNIANS (AKA, BOSNIAKS) IN ITALY

ROM 2:23-24, NLT

You are so proud of knowing the law, but you dishonor God by breaking it. No wonder the scriptures say, “The Gentiles blaspheme the name of God because of you.”

Pray that the damage done by “Christians” who abused Bosniaks 25 years ago will be undone by the Lord’s amazing grace, mercy, and love.

iStock/XinXing



Do you like sweet and gooey baked goods? Many Italians do, and Bosniaks have been some of the people who provide them. Bosniaks are by

no means limited to opening bakeries. They have become well assimilated into Italian society since they began to arrive in huge numbers starting in 1992. Some Bosniak women have married Italian men. Some are now vibrant believers, but they still have a long way to go before we can say there is a “people movement” to Christ among them.

Bosnia and Herzegovina (formerly a part of Yugoslavia) were united as Bosnia to become a single country in 1992. Then a three-year civil war broke out among the Bosniaks (Bosnian Muslims), Croats (Catholics), and Serbs (Eastern Orthodox). About one million people were killed and two million displaced. Currently there are about 29,000 Bosniaks living in Italy, mainly in Rome and other large cities. They became well integrated into the communities and are currently working in all sectors as university professors, teachers, doctors, dentists, engineers, domestic workers, mechanics, caretakers, and business owners. The majority of Italian-Bosniaks are secular Muslims and approximately 1,500 are Christians. Italian believers have reached out to these immigrants which has contributed to a number of them putting their faith in the Lord.

Pray that the Muslim background Bosniak believers will lead others to Christ and disciple them until they have strong fellowships in Italy.—PD

ITALIAN JEWS

(This story illustrates truths about this people group.)

“Shalom, Aviva!

I have heard from relatives in Israel that your bakery has the best ebraico (fruit-nut coffeecake, also known as Jewish Pizza) in all of Italy. Is that true?” Aviva laughed and replied to the Israeli customer, “My family started this business in Rome several generations ago. Now people come from all over Italy and even Israel to try out my ebraico.”

There are an estimated 50,000 Jewish people living in Italy, primarily in Rome and Milan. About 15,000 are native Italians while the others are immigrants from the Middle East, Morocco, and Germany. The current Jewish cultural revival would have been unthinkable only a few decades ago. Jewish people in Italy now have many synagogues, schools, and businesses. They are active in education, professional positions, social reforms, business, and economics. A number are pursuing degrees in Hebrew studies. Jewish walking tours of Rome are a big attraction for tourists allowing everyone to learn Jewish history in Italy.

Most are secular but uphold Jewish traditions. Messianic Jewish believers have had some response to sharing the gospel with the Italian Jews.

Pray that there will soon come a day when there are several Messianic Jewish fellowships in Rome and Milan where they can learn and teach the ways of the messiah to entire families. Pray that visitors from Israel will be blessed by Italian Jews who follow Jesus.—PD



The Jewish quarter in Rome

iStock/Rarrarrrr

ROM 11:15, NLT

For since their rejection meant that God offered salvation to the rest of the world, their acceptance will be even more wonderful. It will be life for those who were dead!

Pray for life and salvation, both for the Jew and for the Gentile in Italy.

FULA JALON PEOPLE IN ITALY

ROM 10:9, NLT

If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

Pray that Africans coming through the dangerous Mediterranean waters will understand that their souls are in even greater danger than their physical bodies unless they depend on the savior.

iStock/vulc



African refugees in Italy

(This story illustrates truths about this people group.)

Father Josef, a Catholic Priest in Rome, was responding to questions about a program

he was heading to help African immigrants. “I’ve asked Louis, a Fula Jalon from Ghana, to tell you his story. It explains what thousands of Africans have gone through to come to Europe.”

Louis began, “I came in a boat with 347 Africans, some were Christian and most were Muslim. A terrible storm arose, and the waves shook the boat. Christians cried out, ‘Jesus save US’, and the Muslims pleaded to God by crying out ‘Allahu Akbar.’ God heard our prayers and we survived. I’m now working in Father Josef’s Catholic church. A few Muslim Fula Jalon immigrants have been baptized by Father Josef. I hope that the government will help immigrants like me, but I know that Italy can only take in so many people at once.”

War, conflict, poverty, and fear of persecution have caused over 3,500 Fula Jalon people to flee to Italy. Most of them have assimilated into the Italian culture, and they are hard workers. Due to economic reasons, Italy is reluctant to allow for more immigrants.

Pray that the Fula Jalon people in Italy will grow strong in faith and lead many non-believing Africans to faith in the Lord. Pray for a disciple-making movement to arise in Italy for the Fula Jalon and other African peoples.—PD

WOLOF PEOPLE IN ITALY

Centuries ago the Wolof people established a large empire of self-governing states in what is now Senegal. This occurred before they split into four kingdoms. In the 1800s, the French incorporated the Wolof people into their own empire, and they were granted French citizenship in 1946. As a result, many Wolofs have migrated to France and from there to other countries in Europe like Italy.



Wolof students preparing for an urban world

Cortimilla

Like other African peoples who have migrated to Europe, the Wolof people are seeking to improve their quality of life. Wherever they live, the Wolof people hope to trade the difficulties of rural life for an urban lifestyle. However, few have the training to be prepared to function as part of an urbanized workforce.

They are highly Islamic, following the traditions of the Sufi. This is a mystical branch of Islam. To date, the Wolofs remain highly resistant to the gospel and have not responded to the resources available in their language.

Pray for the Wolof people to find employment and good lives wherever they go. Pray for God to raise up Holy Spirit anointed believers to prepare them in Italy for urban jobs. Pray that soon there will be a disciple-making movement among Wolof people in Europe that will spread to those in Senegal.—BK

ROM 9:25, NLT

Concerning the Gentiles, God says in the prophecy of Hosea, “Those who were not my people, I will now call my people. And I will love those whom I did not love before.”

Pray that the Wolof people will desire to become God’s people and do what they can to learn to obey him.

SOMALIS IN ITALY

ROM 15:13, NLT

I pray that God, the source of hope, will fill you completely with joy and peace because you trust in him. Then you will overflow with confident hope through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Pray that the Somalis, who have known no physical peace, will experience spiritual peace in Jesus Christ.



A Somali man in Europe

Perhaps most associated with modern-day piracy, the Somali people do indeed consider themselves warriors. Though they share a common language, a single Islamic faith, and the same cultural heritage, the Somalis are also individualistic and clan divisions are the rule. Fighting between clans is frequent, and the loss of life is tragic. Due to this infighting, the region is ungovernable, and there is no stable economy. It is then no surprise that many make the attempt to escape to more peaceful parts of the world. Italy is one of these places, though the life that awaits Somalian immigrants or refugees is usually nowhere near as good as what they had in mind.

Having risked their lives to reach the safety of Europe from their war-torn homes, those who land in Italy have new troubles—specifically, having no money, having no means of producing income, not speaking the language, and having no friends or family. This results in a very high unemployment rate for Somalis. Though they understand the need to learn Italian and develop job skills, they lack the means of doing so.

Pray that the Somalis in Italy will find productive work. Pray that more believers would step forward to offer training and assistance for employment and language. Pray that the gospel would be presented, and that Somali families would be receptive to Christ and eager to form discipleship groups.—BK

WORK AMONG REFUGEES IN SICILY

The UNHCR estimates that there are 28.5 million refugees and asylum-seekers in the world today! As thousands flock to Europe hoping to find safety, relief, and a better life, Italy continues to receive a flood of refugees from North Africa, the Middle East, and Asia. The island of Sicily is the landing point for those who make the perilous journey across the Mediterranean. Sadly, many do not survive the voyage.



Distributing French Bibles

While this may sound like an overwhelming situation, there is a light shining in the dark. Working in conjunction with a local church, there is a team reaching out to the poor and the refugees. Strong relationships have already been established with many refugee families, opening doors for sharing the love of Christ. In addition, there is a soccer outreach serving the young people, and a discipleship course. The long-term goal is to plant churches amongst those who have responded to Jesus Christ.

Pray for grace and favor for both short and long-term team-members. Pray for a Holy Spirit-driven spiritual hunger among the unreached peoples with whom the team has made contact – including the Wolof, Mandinka, Somali, and Bengali peoples. Pray that those being discipled would have authentic encounters with God, and they would share it with their friends and families. Pray that the soccer outreach would lead to a disciple-making movement.—BK

ROM 15:17-18, NLT

So I have reason to be enthusiastic about all Christ Jesus has done through me in my service to God. Yet I dare not boast about anything except what Christ has done through me, bringing the Gentiles to God by my message and by the way I worked among them.

Pray that this will be the attitude of those reaching out to refugees in Italy.

BUDDHIST SINHALESE IN ITALY

ROM 3:27-28, NLT

Can we boast, then, that we have done anything to be accepted by God? No, because our acquittal is not based on obeying the law. It is based on faith. So we are made right with God through faith and not by obeying the law.

Pray this truth will be understood by the Buddhist peoples in Italy.

iStock/andriano_cz



Can you reverse the tide of the Age of Discovery? Would you trade one island home for another island home? The Sinhalese people in Italy could say a lot about these two questions.

Sri Lanka is the country on that island. The majority people there are the Buddhist Sinhalese. Once invaded by Europeans during the Age of Discovery (between the 15th and 18th centuries), the Sinhalese have discovered a new world of opportunity in Italy; some having exchanged the South Asian island for the island of Sicily off the coast of Italy. Others have gone to the Italian Peninsula, where they have started a new life while maintaining ethnic social clubs. Not all came legally.

The vast majority of Sinhalese people are Buddhist. Most are day laborers, restaurant workers, or domestics. Some Sinhalese women work in Italian senior citizen homes. In the 1990s entrepreneurs arrived from Sri Lanka. Though they often gain Italian citizenship, they send their children to English-speaking schools to learn this world trade language so they can get better jobs.

Pray for the Buddhist Sinhalese to seek and find Jesus Christ in Italy. Pray that gospel materials will be widely distributed among them in their own languages, and that these materials will lead to discipleship groups in Sinhalese families.—TP

BENGALIS IN ITALY

Ethnic Bengalis are divided between the state of West Bengal in India and the nation of Bangladesh, which is often in the news because of annual typhoons. Bengalis in Italy are themselves refugees from poverty and flooding.



A Bengali shopkeeper

Diprose

If possible, they made their way to Dubai and then to Libya. With the collapse of the promises of the "Arab Spring," many Bengalis have gone to Italy, where they are the second largest wave of smuggled immigrants after Nigerians. Only about half of them find employment in Italy.

Those who came earlier have usually become legal residents or citizens. Most live in their own neighborhoods in Lazio, Lombardy, Veneto, Rome, Milan, and Venice. They speak English, Bengali, and/or Italian.

Bengalis are almost always either Muslims or Hindus. There are small Hindu house temples and mosques in this land of Catholic cathedrals. A small number of Bengalis are either Catholic or Protestant. God has brought them to Italy for a purpose. Let's pray for them to find it!

Pray God's people will show Bengalis in Italy the way to Christ. They need Christian literature and Christian friends to help them settle in and become followers of Jesus. Pray that soon Bengalis will become such vibrant followers of Christ that they will encourage marginal Christians in Italy to make Jesus the center of their lives.—TP

ROM 3:22 NLT

We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are.

Pray that both Hindu and Muslim Bengalis will understand this truth.

WORK AMONG SOUTH ASIANS IN ITALY

ROM 10:17, NLT

So faith comes from hearing, that is, hearing the good news about Christ.

Pray that these efforts will give South Asians the opportunity to hear and respond to the God who wants to bless them beyond all measures.

Diprose



believe in Jesus. God is glorified.

So it is at Centro Agape and all over Italy as Bangladeshis are ministered to in different areas of the country. And some of the ministry may surprise you; for example, teaching children English as a Second language (ESL) while teaching their mothers Italian at Centro Agape. Why English? Because the parents want it. Some want to send their children to English language schools. The children will naturally learn Italian on the streets and in schools, while they cannot do that with English. The parents, on the other hand, need Italian to thrive in their newly adopted country. There is the Care for Catania team in Sicily seeking to also reach out to them. Meanwhile, in Rome, the gospel seed has been widely sown among Bangladeshis and other Asians.

Pray that those teaching ESL and Italian to immigrants will develop friendships, and there will be opportunities to introduce both children and adults to Jesus. Pray that those receiving and viewing the JESUS Film will come to faith in Christ and that they will share the DVD with others, leading to home fellowships among South Asian families. Pray that a new "cross-cultural couple" in Rome will reap a harvest where others have sown the gospel for the years.—TP

URDU SPEAKERS IN ITALY

How difficult it is to bring one's family to a new and strange country where language, customs, values, foods, and religions are so different!

Urdu is a language, and language is an important part of culture. Urdu speakers who live in Italy are usually valued for their good work ethic and their skills as agriculturalists, craftsmen, and business owners. Almost all of them are Muslims, and they come from either Pakistan or India. Yet they must learn the language and find ways to live within Italian values and customs. They still want to retain their own identity.



Pakistan and India, the lands where most Urdu speakers originated

One example of a strong cultural clash has to do with whom you marry. In a land where romantic love is highly valued, Urdu speaking leaders expect the family to arrange marriages, often with a stranger or a cousin. Some Urdu speakers go so far as to consider it their duty to execute a daughter who will not marry someone the family chooses!

Many scripture resources are available in Urdu, and they have the freedom to access them. Who will introduce these people to these resources that offer God's answers to life issues?

Pray for South Asian diaspora believers in the UK who speak Urdu and know the culture to take Christ to Italy. Pray for long term relationship building and ministry that will lead to a disciple-making movement among Urdu speaking families.—KH

ROM 3:25B-26, NLT

This sacrifice shows that God was being fair when he held back and did not punish those who sinned in times past, for he was looking ahead and including them in what he would do in this present time. God did this to demonstrate his righteousness, for he himself is fair and just, and he makes sinners righteous in his sight when they believe in Jesus.

Pray for Urdu speakers to understand that they can enjoy forgiveness of all sins, if they would put their trust in Jesus to save them.

SIKHS IN ITALY

ROM 6:5-6, NLT

Since we have been united with him in his death, we will also be raised to life as he was. We know that our old sinful selves were crucified with Christ so that sin might lose its power in our lives. We are no longer slaves to sin.

Pray that as South Asians learn to submit to Christ, sin will lose its power over their lives and God will provide them with abundant joy and spiritual freedom.

iStock/Alter_photo



Harvesting watermelons

Aatma, a Punjabi Sikh, arrived in Italy, dreaming of a bright future promised by an agent to whom he paid \$13,000. He paid half of the money upfront, and took out a loan, which he was paying for by working for free. Before long he started his working days eating opium and ended them smoking heroin for the pain. He picked watermelons 13 hours a day. He said, “In summer it is very hot, your back hurts. A bit of opium helps not to get tired ... too much makes you sleep, so I use just a little ...” Thousands of Indians labor in Italy’s Pontine Marshes, south of Rome according to a July, 2017 *Reuters* article.

An estimated 30,000 Sikhs live in Italy, and most of these are more fortunate than Aatma. They remain close to Sikh communities where they care for one another. Nagar Kirtan is a Punjabi term which literally means “neighborhood message of God.” Italian Sikhs traditionally sing shabads (divine hymns) as they walk through their communities blessing their people. What would happen if followers of Christ would do likewise?

Pray for the Holy Spirit to work in and through workers in Italy who provide legal advice and advocacy for South Asians. Pray that God would prepare the hearts of Sikh family leaders so that they become spiritually hungry and start searching for truth.—KH

WORK AMONG SIKHS IN ITALY

Did you know there is a lot of common ground between Sikhism and Christianity? Sikh people believe there is only one God who is the same for all people. They have a strong reverence for their scriptures, and they understand that God speaks to us. Christians hold high the values of being kind, honorable and generous; most Sikhs practice these virtues! In Italy, their places of worship, Gurdwaras, are filled every Saturday and Sunday with thousands of Sikhs.

There are believers reaching out to Sikhs in Italy with the hope that they will accept the blessings of Christ and follow him. Christian assemblies and small house groups meet for prayer, and Sikhs are a welcome part of these fellowships. Believers perform evangelistic programs using mime and drama. They host summer camps on the same playgrounds where Sikh families gather and promote sports events as opportunities to meet and converse. Biblical resources exist in Punjabi, the heart language of Sikhs, and they are easily available in Italy.

Pray that Sikh people will listen with their hearts. Pray that believers with broken hearts will pray, go, and send Bibles as they are enabled. Pray that the South Asian Diaspora believers in the UK who speak Punjabi and know the culture will go to Italy to take Christ to unreached families.—KH



Devout Sikhs and their scriptures

Stefano Romano

ROM 1:7, NLT

I am writing to all of you in Rome who are loved by God and are called to be his own holy people. May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ give you grace and peace.

Pray that the Lord will give abundant grace and peace to Sikhs as they trust in Jesus Christ.

LIBYAN ARABS IN ITALY

ROM 5:6-7, NLT

When we were utterly helpless, Christ came at just the right time and died for us sinners. Now, most people would not be willing to die for an upright person, though someone might perhaps be willing to die for a person who is especially good.

Pray that as Libyans go through difficult times that they will put their self-worth in Jesus Christ rather than in anything less.

iStock/sanyanwuji



A Libyan woman relaxing in Italy

settings appear to be so different. Yet, Arabs have been in southern Italy since 827! Libya was a colony of Italy in the early part of the 20th century. There are surprising similarities between Arabs and Italians, such as their excessive use of hand gestures, loud talking, and love for having lots of food for every social occasion.

Since February 2018, the Italian government has worked with the Libyan coast guard to intercept thousands of immigrants and return them to Libya where they may face torture and abuse.

Practically all the Arabs in Italy are Sunni Muslims. Sunni children are taught from an early age that every facet of life revolves around Islam. Jesus is recognized as a prophet, but the teachings of Mohammed are considered far more important to Sunni Muslims. There are no known followers of Christ among the Libyan Muslims in Italy. There are no Bible translations in their Libyan dialect of Arabic. However, the JESUS Film is available as well as audio recordings of the Bible in standard Arabic. These can be downloaded free from the Internet.

Pray that Libyan refugees in Italy will find humane treatment, honest employment, and above all, refuge in Christ. Pray that many will receive hope in Christ through the online JESUS Film and the Arabic Bible.—AHS

We don't normally talk of Arabs and Italians in the same breath. Their cultures, religions, and geographic

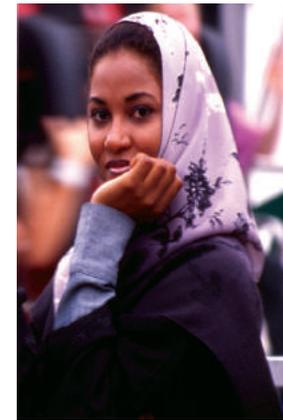
SUDANESE ARABS IN ITALY

“I am a female, single, and a student. I can speak English and Arabic. I'm also learning Malay, Hindi, and Italian.” This is how a young Sudanese Arab expatriate in Italy introduced herself on a network website for immigrants to Italy. Another Sudanese Arab student wrote, “My interests are politics, music, traveling, and reading.” Others made comments, such as, “I currently live in Sudan, but would like to move to Italy,” and “I came to Italy to study.”

There are both legal and illegal Sudanese Arabs in Italy. Many Sudanese Christians have fled the genocide in Sudan, but since 2016 the Italian government, fearing a criminal element among them, has rounded them up and sent them back.

Ninety seven percent of the Sudanese Arabs in Italy are Sunni Muslims. Those who claim to be Christian are nominal and probably not true followers of Christ. There are several Christian media resources available on the web for them. These include the JESUS Film, the audio New Testament from Faith Comes by Hearing, and audio stories and teaching from Global Recordings Network (GRN).

Pray that the Italian government will find a humane way of dealing with the difficult refugee crisis. Pray that believers will reach out to the refugees and help them form family based discipleship groups. Pray for students to find and use Christian media resources.—AHS



Create International

ROM 8:15-16, NLT

So you have not received a spirit that makes you fearful slaves. Instead, you received God's Spirit when he adopted you as his own children. Now we call him, “Abba, Father.”

Pray that Sudanese Arabs in Italy will receive the blessing of finding God as their “Abba” or “daddy.”

ALGERIAN ARABS OF ITALY

2 COR 2:14, ESV

But thanks be to God, who in Christ always leads us in triumphal procession, and through us spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of him everywhere.

Pray that the Algerian Arabs in Italy would find their peace and hope in Christ, not in the riches of the world or in a religious system.

iStockPhotos



Would you be willing to leave your homeland to take a dangerous boat ride to a new land? Many Algerian Arabs have done that very thing in hope of finding a better life for themselves and

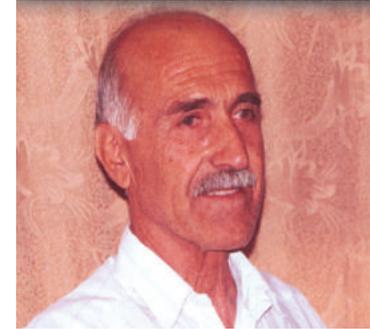
their children. After crossing the Mediterranean Sea, many are now living in large Italian cities like Rome, Milan, and Naples. They are trying to learn a new language and a new culture much different from the Arab Muslim culture they were used to in Algeria. Some are hoping to find jobs in other European nations like Germany, France or the UK which have stronger economies than Italy.

Almost all Algerian Arabs are Sunni Muslims. Some have trouble assimilating into European society. They often face discrimination based on their country of origin, religion, and ethnicity. Frequently only the most menial jobs are open to them, even if they have excellent job skills and a college education.

Pray that Italian believers would befriend and share God's love with the Algerian Arabs living near them. Pray that the Lord would open the hearts of Algerian Arab family heads to the blessings of Christ. Pray that Algerians will know that only Christ can forgive sin. Pray that God would raise up Christ-following disciples among the Algerian Arab communities in Italy that will share his ways with others in Algeria.—DK

IRAQI ARABS IN ITALY

Iraq has been in the news constantly for the past three decades for all the wrong reasons; civil war, the intervention of foreign military forces, and hundreds of thousands of war related deaths. Millions of Iraqis have fled their homeland seeking peace and a new life.



An Iraqi Arab man

Caleb Project

Some of these Iraqi refugees are now living in Italy. Most are residing in large Italian cities like Rome, Milan, and Naples. Since few can find any job with adequate pay, Iraqi Arabs often wish to go to other European nations to find better paying jobs. They face discrimination and possible expulsion from Italy due to their ethnicity and legal status. European culture is vastly different from their former Iraqi culture, and many Iraqis have a challenging time adjusting to their new home.

The vast majority of Iraqi Arabs living in Italy are either Sunni or Shi'ite Muslims. They had contact with traditional Christians in Iraq, most of whom were not bold enough to share Christ with members of the Muslim majority.

Pray for Christian agencies to reach out in practical ways to the Iraqis so that they experience the love and mercy of Christ. Pray for the blessings of the Lord to reach these Muslims during their time of need. Pray for an unstoppable church planting movement among Arabic speaking families in Italy.—DK

JN 19:30, ESV

When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, "It is finished," and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

Pray that the Iraqi Arabs living in Italy would find rest from their religious activities in the finished work of Christ.

SHAWIYA BERBERS IN ITALY

IS 45:22, NET

Turn to me so you can be delivered, all you who live in the earth's remote regions! For I am God, and I have no peer.

Pray that entire Berber families will join together to be delivered from sin by the only one who can do this: Jesus Christ.

Caleb Project



A Berber woman in Europe

The Atlas Mountains are a daunting range of rugged peaks and valleys stretching across Morocco, Algeria, and Tunisia. They effectively separate the Mediterranean Sea and Atlantic Ocean coastlines from the Sahara Desert. The word that most accurately describes the Atlas is “inaccessible.” It is no surprise that the people who live in the Atlas Mountains, including the Shawiya Berbers, have for so long proven to be inaccessible to the gospel. That’s why discovering that the Shawiya are living in Italy is so exciting!

In Italy, they tend to be resistant to the gospel. But are there possibilities that the gospel will penetrate their tight-knit families? Perhaps. But their communities are also more vulnerable to radical Islam, false religions, and one of the most insidious threats to people of western civilization: materialism.

For years, we have been praying for a door to open to this unreached people group. Now that some have left their isolated homeland, it would seem that the door is indeed opening.

Pray for the Shawiyas to encounter the good news. Pray that their ears and hearts will be attuned to the voice of the Father, even in the midst of the noise of modern European society. Ask God to draw key members of this people group into his kingdom and send them to their families in North Africa.—CL

KURMANJI-SPEAKING KURDS IN ITALY

The Kurds are the largest people group in the world without a homeland; but some have found a home in Italy. They are also one of the largest unreached people groups in the world. Most live in Syria, Iraq, Turkey, and Iran where they practice Islam and join forces against the many enemies who want to either subjugate or exterminate them. Their war-torn homeland makes it very difficult to share the gospel with them or establish a church. How do you get workers into a war zone?



Kurdish girls

Create International

Many Kurmanji-speaking Kurds who have fled persecution and violence can now be found living in Italy. Instead of being open, however, some focus on their anger at those who drove them out. They are also very family centered, and a large part of their identity is tied in with Islam. So the challenge is this: How do workers affect entire Kurdish families, and help them to turn their allegiance from Islam as a religious system to a relationship with Jesus Christ?

Pray for Kurmanji-speaking Kurdish families living in Italy to have the opportunity to encounter the love of God and experience his peace. Pray for the Holy Spirit to move among Kurdish families, softening their hearts and drawing them into a relationship with Christ. Ask the Lord to call many Kurds to be missionaries and evangelists to their own people in Italy and the Kurdish homeland.—CL

IS 6:8, NET

I heard the voice of the sovereign master say, “Whom will I send? Who will go on our behalf?” I answered, “Here I am, send me!”

Pray for many to respond to God's call to go to the Kurmanji-speaking Kurds in Italy.

JAPANESE PEOPLE IN ITALY

ROM 3:10-12, NLT

As the Scriptures say, “No one is righteous—not even one. No one is truly wise; no one is seeking God. All have turned away; all have become useless. No one does good, not a single one.”

Pray that the Holy Spirit will seek out Japanese people in Italy who are willing to turn to him for wisdom and righteousness.

iStock/ajr_images



A Japanese man

(This story is hypothetical.)

Shoji had graduated from a university in Tokyo a year earlier, and he felt fortunate working for a major Japanese corporation, one that was willing to send him overseas. Now he sat in his office in Rome doing work on his computer.

He was paid well, yet Shoji knew something was missing. He had an apartment in a nice part of Rome along with all the latest electronic gear. He'd studied Italian in college and had many Italian friends, many of them working for his Japanese corporation. Those friends often invited him to parties. The parties were fun, but they often left him feeling emotionally empty afterwards. Something was missing, and Shoji wasn't sure what that thing might be. He'd rejected the Buddhism of his parents years ago, but had found nothing to satisfy his spiritual needs.

There are 6,200 Japanese living in Italy, most of them workers for one of the major Japanese corporations. Buddhists make up 61 percent of their population, and only one and one-half percent are followers of Jesus Christ. Materialism is a serious problem for the Japanese in Italy.

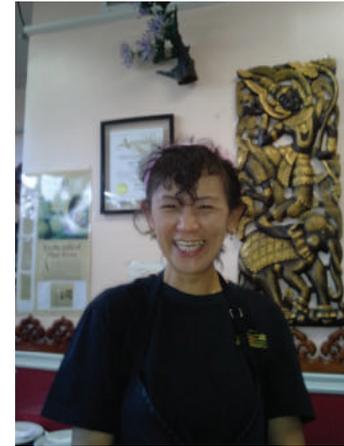
Pray for faithful workers to reach out to Japanese families in Italy with God's love. May this people group come to see Jesus Christ, and not money, as the true path to a satisfied life.—WK

THAI PEOPLE IN ITALY

Thai people believe that “to be Thai is to be Buddhist,” but the old rules might be changing, especially for those who live in Italy. Buddhism first reached their homeland in 329 B.C., and almost all Thais have been Buddhist

ever since. Since 1990, however, a new generation has arisen in Thailand, one that isn't satisfied with the answers to life handed down to them by their parents. This new generation tends to be highly educated. Some of the bolder members of this generation have settled in foreign countries like Italy and are open to new ideas. They seek pleasure and excitement, and Buddhist rituals are only something they do to gain spiritual merit, if that even matters to them anymore. Followers of Jesus Christ are almost nonexistent among them at this point.

Pray that soon their quest for pleasure will make them aware of their spiritual need for relationship with the God of creation and comfort. Pray for the Lord to thrust out his ambassadors to Thai families in Italy to offer them the blessings that they can achieve by living for Christ. May there one day be a vibrant group of Thais who follow Jesus Christ and have the faith to take the message of salvation back to their homeland.—WK



A Thai woman

ROM 8:1, NLT

So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus.

Pray that the Thai people, who adhere to Buddhism, will understand that they are accountable to God for sin, and their only chance for forgiveness is in Jesus Christ.

KAZAKHS IN ITALY

ROM 4:4-5, NLT

When people work, their wages are not a gift, but something they have earned. But people are counted as righteous, not because of their work, but because of their faith in God who forgives sinners.

Pray that the Muslim Kazakhs in Italy will understand that righteousness and salvation do not come from obedience, but only from faith in the heavenly father.

iStock/amixstudio



A Kazakh family

(This story is hypothetical.)

“Please don't let us get sent back to Kazakhstan!” Alma pleaded in prayer to

Allah on the floor of her living room in Rome. She sat up on her prayer rug, silently waiting for Allah to speak. Minutes passed, and she heard nothing. Frustrated, Alma rose to her feet and went to the kitchen to do some work.

Several years ago, she'd fled with her husband to Italy. Her husband had opposed the new Kazakh government and had to flee for his life. That escape had been made possible by the money her husband had stolen from the bank he'd once worked for. The Italian government had just learned about that crime, and now both of them were in danger of being deported. Alma feared that her husband would be executed if he returned to Kazakhstan.

Kazakhstan was one of the new countries formed in 1991 after the breakup of the Soviet Union. Most Kazakhs are nominal Muslims, including 66 percent of those who live in Italy. There are 1,200 Kazakhs living in Italy. That group includes political refugees. There are almost no followers of Christ among them.

Pray that Kazakh families in Italy will come to see Jesus Christ as the true source of salvation and blessing. Ask God to open doors for a Christian witness to Kazakhs everywhere. Pray for them to be disciplined in the ways of Christ.—WK

KYRGYZ PEOPLE IN ITALY

There are 1,000 people from Kyrgyzstan living in Italy, most of them in the city of Milan. The nation of Kyrgyzstan obtained independence in 1991. In 2010, ethnic clashes broke out between the Kyrgyz and Uzbeks, leading to Russian intervention and fears of a civil war. The Kyrgyz in Italy are part of a diaspora that migrated mainly to other Central Asian nations and Russia; a small portion settled in Italy and other Western countries.



A Kyrgyz girl

Create International

Traditional Kyrgyz people value music, dance, story-telling, and horseback riding. Their primary languages are Kyrgyz and Russian, and they are most familiar with a rural lifestyle. Moving to an urban area like Milan no doubt produces culture shock; but fortunately, there is an award-winning Kyrgyz club that promotes charities and culture and unites the community. In 2011 Kyrgyz Club Italy hosted a concert to raise funds for children with heart disease in Kyrgyzstan.

The majority of the Kyrgyz people—even those who have left the country—embrace Islam blended with an element of shamanism. Shamanism involves the unseen world of demons and ancestral spirits.

May the Kyrgyz be freed from evil powers and embrace the blessings of Jesus Christ. Pray for the Kyrgyz to adjust to urban life and work in 21st century Italy. Ask the Lord to send his ambassadors who will lovingly reach out with the gospel.—CMW

ROM 1:6, NLT

And you are included among those Gentiles who have been called to belong to Jesus Christ.

Pray that the Kyrgyz people in Europe will soon belong to Jesus Christ and share his blessings with others.

TAJIKS IN ITALY

ROM 3:23-25A, NLT

For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard. Yet God, in his grace, freely makes us right in his sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty of our sins. For God presented Jesus as the sacrifice for sin. People are made right with God when they believe that Jesus sacrificed his life, shedding his blood.

Pray that this key verse will become well-received by Tajik people everywhere.

iStock/Dushanbe



Tajik women

The 5,000 Tajiks had to cross thousands of land miles and many seas to reach Italy! Their homeland is Tajikistan, a landlocked

country surrounded by Uzbekistan, Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan, and China. When the USSR dissolved in 1991, many Tajiks fled the unstable political situation and made their way past the Caspian Sea, the Black Sea, the Mediterranean Sea, and the Adriatic Sea to Italy, where they now live in urban centers.

In the 1990s and early 2000s, many Tajiks with established careers in Central Asia had to start their professions all over again in Italy. By now many have borne children who have known no other country but Italy. While most Tajiks are Sunni Muslims, some are non-religious. In 2016, Tajikistan awarded a \$3.9 billion contract to an Italian company to build the world's tallest dam on the border between Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

Please pray that the Tajiks will be open to discussing spiritual matters, and that their hearts will be seeking truth and righteousness. Ask that those in Italy will make friends with followers of Christ who can share the good news of another home—in heaven! May the Tajiks become hungry for the love of the savior and his forgiveness. Pray that many of them will share God's love with others in Central Asia by sharing his blessings with family heads who can open spiritual doors for others.—CMW

TURKS IN ITALY

The earliest followers of Christ faced daunting opposition from the Roman and Jewish authorities. They would pray for boldness in preaching the gospel (Acts 4:31). That same bold spirit is needed today in reaching out to the Turks in Italy.

The Turks have lived in Italian cities such as Rome, Milan, Venice, Brescia, and Turin since the 11th century when the Ottoman Empire began to influence southeastern Europe. Today about 18,000 of them live in Italy where they are guest workers, usually doing agricultural work. Despite having the Bible and the JESUS Film in Turkish, the Turks in Italy are nearly 100 percent Muslim.

Many Turks believe that Muslim men can put a curse on others by giving them the “evil eye.” Protection allegedly comes to those who wear blue beads. Spitting into a fire and praying to Allah is another way to avoid this cursed look. They also believe that if a woman applies fish oil around a door, the first man who enters the door will love her for the rest of her life.

Pray that the Turks in Italy will have a hunger for truth, and that they will exchange the burdens of religion for Jesus Christ who IS the truth. Pray that mission organizations will boldly reach out to Turkish families. Pray that many Turks will be disciplined in Italy, and that they will bring the truth back to Turkey.—JY



A Turkish woman

Corning

ROM 11:33, NLT

Oh, how great are God's riches and wisdom and knowledge! How impossible it is for us to understand his decisions and his ways!

Pray that the Muslim Turks in Italy will seek and find God's true riches, wisdom, and knowledge. Pray for the Holy Spirit to give them understanding that will set them free from the bondage of sin and superstition.

NORTHERN UZBEKS IN ITALY

MATT 9:36, TPT

When he saw the vast crowds of people, Jesus' heart was deeply moved with compassion, because they seemed weary and helpless, like wandering sheep without a shepherd.

Ask for God's people to be moved by prayer so that Northern Uzbeks in Italy and elsewhere will come to know God's love and grace through faith in the only true shepherd, Jesus.

Create International



An Uzbek woman

The earliest ancestors of the Uzbeks helped Genghis Khan conquer Eastern Europe in the 1300s. Today, most of the 29 million Northern Uzbeks live in Uzbekistan, though large communities exist throughout Central Asia and smaller groups are found in many other countries. Today there are 1100 Northern Uzbeks in Italy. For decades, the Uzbeks had been under Soviet control. With the break-up of the Soviet Union in 1991, some Uzbeks left their homeland for Western countries like Italy.

Approximately 86 percent of the Uzbeks are Sunni Muslims. However, they typically are not dedicated Muslims, since they allow traditional religious beliefs to mix with their Islamic practices. Seventy years of Marxist influence under the Soviets caused Muslim Uzbeks to become largely secular, with some even being suspicious of people with any spiritual mindset. As a result, about 14 percent of the Uzbeks are considered non-religious, including many younger people. The Northern Uzbek language contains various resources, including the entire Bible, the JESUS Film, and gospel recordings.

Ask for long-term, Spirit-led believers to live among Italy's Uzbeks. Pray that disciple-making movements will bless Italy's Uzbek families by transforming them with the power of Christ.—CR

PERSIANS IN ITALY

Alfred, a cross cultural worker born on the other side of the world, was shopping at the local discount supermarket in the working-class area of Rome where he currently lives. Suddenly he saw two Eastern looking young men talking to each other in English—one from India and one from Iran. He ended up talking to Andy from Iran, a university student in a business degree program at a local university which uses English as the medium for teaching those courses.

Alfred invited Andy to his house and Paola, Alfred's Italian wife, was all too glad to cook a hearty meal for Andy. Andy told them he was no longer a Muslim. He had become sceptical of the religion imposed on his nation of Iran by the current regime. Gradually they got to know each other, and Alfred introduced Andy to Tom. Tom befriended Andy more and more and both Alfred and Tom gradually introduced Andy to the biblical gospel. One day Andy came to church. After that, Tom secretly baptised Andy who has decided to follow the Messiah. Andy still lives outside of his nation and is gradually growing in his faith.

Pray that others from Iran living in Italy will be introduced to the only savior, Jesus Christ, and that they will form Farsi (Iranian) speaking family-based fellowships where they can worship the king in their own culture and language.—Guest writer



An Iranian man

iStock/Grigorev, Vladimir

ROM 10:20, NLT

And later Isaiah spoke boldly for God, saying, "I was found by people who were not looking for me. I showed myself to those who were not asking for me."

Praise God that there are Iranian people who are finding the Lord in Italy!

YOUTH WITH A MISSION (YWAM) IN ITALY

ROM 8:39, NLT

No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Pray that YWAM workers will be able to explain this verse, and that Muslim refugees will embrace it!

iStock/imikyso



A pop song of some years ago comes to mind: “people need people.” No people need people more than refugees,

especially those crossing the dangerous Adriatic Sea, seeking safety in Italy. This dangerous crossing has become the only way for many refugees to reach Europe.

Where are they going? Anywhere that can give them hope and a new start. Many have the goal of reaching Sweden, but others will settle for any country that offers them sanctuary. This is where Youth With A Mission (YWAM) comes to the rescue, especially in Italy.

YWAM started in Italy in 2013 as the location “YWAM Ragusa.” In 2015 “The Open House Ragusa” opened with Italian classes, a sewing workshop, and then added a kid’s club, computer courses, and English conversation classes. They offer seminars about problems refugees may encounter such as sex trafficking and female genital mutilation. Volunteers have come from Germany and Switzerland. The whole goal is to assist these desperate, helpless people as they integrate into a new country and learn languages and trade skills that can help them to get a new start. Yes, people do need people!

Pray for God to supply the needs of manpower and funding to enable the YWAM work to thrive. Pray that the refugees will experience the love offered to them and become Jesus’ disciples.—JS

CHRISTIAN AID WORK WITH MUSLIMS IN SPAIN

“Syrian refugees are very frustrated with Islam, and when you begin to tell them about the love of God, they say they’ve never heard of that,” according to the Christian Aid Mission director in Spain. Those who have committed atrocities in the name of Islam have further disillusioned refugees fleeing the horror in their homelands.



A believer giving out the JESUS Film

Amer and Sana, his wife, along with their two teenaged sons were seeking asylum in Europe. They finally were sent to Cadiz Province on the southern tip of Spain as part of a program to redistribute refugees. At first, they were very suspicious and even resentful of the Christian Aid workers trying to help them.

Amer and his family did not want to have anything to do with “deceitful, dirty” Christians, but the workers persisted and helped them find housing and began to build bridges with them through events like a Syrian food festival. One day they asked, “Why are you doing all of this?” The worker explained to the family that as people who follow Christ, they were expressing God’s loving kindness. They started coming to church, and one of the workers began visiting them in their apartment. That is when they put their trust in Jesus.

Thank God that refugees are being won by love! Pray for new believers to continue in the faith no matter what opposition they face.—JS

JN 13:35, NIV

Jesus said, “By this everyone will know that you are my disciples if you love one another.”

Pray for the Holy Spirit to give more love and compassion to those reaching out to refugees in the name of Jesus. Pray for more workers!

LISTEN TO THE Global Prayer Digest

EVERY DAY!

Download the **audio podcast**, and
hear the daily prayer entries

globalprayerdigest.libsyn.com

How to get **FREE** daily *GPD* prayer materials!

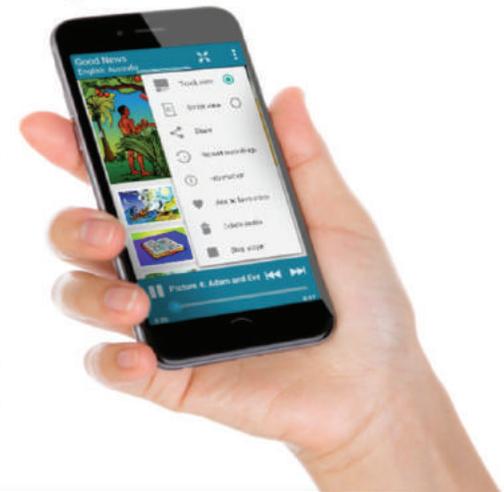
- 1—**Get the FREE app!** Go to Google Play or some other site to download apps, and look for "*Global Prayer Digest*"
- 2—**Get the FREE email version!** Go to globalprayerdigest.org, and enter your email address in the box in the upper right and click "submit"
- 3—**Download the FREE abbreviated calendar of GPD prayer entries**

[HTTP://WWW.GLOBALPRN.COM/PRAYING-FOR-THE-UNREACHED/
GLOBAL-PRAYER-DIGEST-MAGAZINE-DOWNLOADS/](http://WWW.GLOBALPRN.COM/PRAYING-FOR-THE-UNREACHED/GLOBAL-PRAYER-DIGEST-MAGAZINE-DOWNLOADS/)



Hear Bible stories
recorded in more than
6,000 languages

Visit
www.5fish.mobi
or download
the app



Global Recordings
NETWORK



GlobalRecordingsUSA.org