

# INTERCEDE

VOL. XLI, NO. 4

JULY/AUGUST 2024



## Islamic Contradictions About the Sonship of Jesus Christ

by Jim Bennett

### Overlooking the Obvious:

#### *Walad vs. Ibn*

Let's start by stating the obvious: every Arabic-speaker, whether Muslim or Christian, is perfectly familiar with the two Arabic words for son. *Walad* is used exclusively for a biological son and is never used in a figurative sense. On the other hand, *ibn* usually refers to a biological son, but often carries a broader meaning including in a figurative sense, as in *Ibn as-Sabeel* (Son of the Way/Road), as used in Surah 2:215 of the Quran. Assuming that every Arabic-speaker already instinctively knows this would be as trite as saying, "Two plus two equals four." To say an Arabic-speaker might not know this would be a screaming insult to his intelligence. It's that simple. Ask any Arabic-speaker if he knows this and the answer would be something like: "You are kidding, aren't you? You seem reasonably intelligent; why would you ask such a question?"

The point here is that even honest Arabic-speaking Muslims have no problem "figuring this out." In fact, they don't have to figure it out because they innately know it. Curiously and despite the obvious, when speaking of Jesus as the Son of God, Muslims have been historically predisposed to think of "son" *only* as the result of sexual union. This feeds their dogmatic attachment to an egregiously errant view of the Christian belief that Jesus was in fact the Son of God. Their usual conclusion, as carefully honed and set forth by Islamic theologians throughout the centuries, is that Allah had a physical relationship with Mary and produced a son named

*Isa*, the Quranic name for Jesus. This conclusion is not only incorrect, but it is also blatantly dishonest. The satanic twist on this bedrock Christian belief has served as a major deterrent to sincere Muslims who have otherwise sought for truth about Jesus.

Admittedly, it did not help that some early Christians referred to Mary as "the mother of God." Nevertheless, no Christian has ever thought or imagined that Jesus was the biological son of God, the result of divine-human sexual intercourse. Muslims themselves, who insist on explaining to Christians that this is what they believe, have carefully foisted this purposeful misrepresentation upon both the Muslim and Christian communities! This untenable position remains a cornerstone of Islam's illogical and unfounded accusation about Jesus, the Son of God. In short, Muslims have created their own logical fallacy and do not seem to realize it or do not wish to admit it.

### So, Who Flipped the Script?

In the Arabic Bible, whenever a reference is made to Jesus as the Son of God, it is never in a biological sense. Simply put, there are no Scripture references where Jesus is said to be the *walad* (biological son) of God. It is always *ibn*. In other words, in the Arabic Bible, Jesus is always "*Ibn 'ullah*," never "*Walad 'ullah*."

For Muslims, the Quran supersedes biblical truth, and

*continued on page 4*

# Until All Have Heard

*How then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? – Romans 10:14*

**Mark Brink**

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In the OT book of Ruth, we are introduced to Mahlon as the first husband of Ruth. After his death, Boaz became the kinsman-redeemer of Ruth and Mahlon's bloodline. Boaz, as kinsman-redeemer, foreshadowed the role of Christ, the great Redeemer. Boaz and Ruth became the great-grandparents of David, the great king of Israel. Mahlon receives an eternal inheritance through a redeemer just like us.

In some ways, we are connected to Mahlon. After all, Jesus did all the work on the cross. Our initial inheritance is the gift of salvation earned by Christ. His blood redeemed us. We have done nothing to merit salvation. Paul states that, as believers, we are heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ (Romans 8:17). Truly, this is an amazing inheritance!

In Psalm 2:7-8, the great messianic psalm, God speaks through David about our "inheritance of the nations:"

*I will surely tell of the decree of the Lord: He said to Me, "You are My Son, Today I have begotten You. Ask of Me, and I will surely give the nations as Your*

*inheritance, And the very ends of the earth as Your possession."*

Our inheritance is not in gold or silver, but in the people of the nations whom Jesus wants to reach. One objective of the *Intercede* and the *Jumaa Prayer Fellowship* is asking the Lord for an inheritance of nations; which for us especially includes Muslim nations. And it is happening! At Global Initiative we are observing the sovereign hand of God at work in redeeming Muslim people. Reports of Muslims coming to faith come to us on a regular basis. Coupled with that, more and more workers are offering themselves to help in sharing the gospel with Muslims.

Please join us in asking God for our inheritance in the Muslim nations. We may feel unworthy or insignificant, like the biblical Mahlon, yet Mahlon found an unlikely inheritance through the kinsman-redeemer Boaz. Ultimately, this lineage included David and then Jesus Christ the Lord. We rejoice that this same Jesus is redeeming Muslims from the nations. What an inheritance!

## Prayer Profile – Muslim Unreached People Group

**\*Adyghe of Türkiye – Population: 683,000 – 99.9% Muslim**

The Adyghe are one of the remaining tribes of a larger Muslim people group known as Circassians. The Adyghe lived in the North Caucasus region of Southern Russia for more than a thousand years. Ethnic Russians conquered the Adyghe during the Caucasus War (1817-1864). Due to the war, the displaced Circassians and Adyghe fled to Türkiye and other parts of the Ottoman Empire. Today, the largest number of Adyghe reside in Türkiye (683,000). Other significant populations reside in Jordan (103,000) and Syria (29,000). 111,000 Adyghe have remained in (or migrated back to) the Caucasus area of Russia. The worldwide population of Adyghe/Circassians is approximately 1 million.

Many of the Adyghe in Türkiye work in agriculture—raising and exporting nuts, fruits, and vegetables. Young Adyghes are moving to the cities to work in manufacturing, construction, and retail. Many Adyghes are caught between observing their ancient traditions and adapting to the modern world.

Ninety-eight percent of all Adyghes claim to be Sunni Muslim. Large numbers of Adyghe's are nominal, although they fast during Ramadan and observe the main "feasts" of Islam. There are a few Christian believers among the Adyghe people of Türkiye, but most have never heard a clear presentation of the gospel.

### Prayer Points

1. Pray for the few Christians to boldly share the gospel with their fellow Adyghes.
2. Pray that Christian television and radio programs broadcast in the Adyghes language will produce eternal fruit.
3. Pray for peace in the troubled Caucasus region.
4. Pray for God to send workers to the Adyghes.
5. Pray for God to speak to Adyghes in dreams and visions.

*\*For further information on the Adyghe people, see [www.joshuaproject.net](http://www.joshuaproject.net)*

# Muslim World News

## Protesters Call for Islamic State in Germany: “Caliphate is the Solution”

HAMBURG – Thousands of protesters marched through Hamburg during the last weekend of April calling for an Islamic state in Germany and clutching signs that declared, “Caliphate is the solution.” Videos of the rally showed demonstrators chanting “*Allahu akbar*,” or “God is great,” and carrying copies of the local tabloid newspaper, *Bild*, with stories about Islam that had been smeared with red paint.

The demonstration was organized by the controversial group Muslim Interaktiv, which is currently being investigated by Hamburg’s domestic intelligence for “extremism,” according to *The Telegraph*. The group’s leader, Joe Adade Boateng, declared Germany needed a “righteous caliphate” to rectify the misrepresentation Muslim groups have faced in the media.

Muslim Interaktiv wrote on social media that the demonstration was intended to take a stand against the “demonization of all Islamic life in Germany.”

“We will raise our voices together, *inshallah*,” a translated post on X read. “Together against Islamophobic reporting, both in recent weeks and in recent months.”

The group has been growing in popularity across social media, particularly on TikTok where it has amassed more than 24,000 followers. – *New York Post*

## Muslims in Kenya Protest at Supreme Court Over its Endorsement of LGBTQ Rights

NAIROBI – Hundreds of Muslims in Kenya’s capital rallied on April 26 outside the Supreme Court to protest its decision last month to reaffirm the LGBTQ community’s right of association, saying that the verdict condoned immorality and demanding that some justices step down.

The protest in Nairobi took place after Friday prayers, with demonstrators holding signs that attributed the verdict to “Neo Colonialists” and urged three of the five judges who supported the panel’s majority decision to “Repent and Resign.”

The court last month reaffirmed an earlier ruling that the Non-Governmental Organization Board in Kenya had discriminated against LGBTQ people when it refused to register their association. The two dissenting judges opposed the ruling on the grounds that Kenya’s laws outlaw same-sex relationships.

Lawmaker Mohamed Ali told *The Associated Press* that Kenya is a religious country and that the court should respect that.

“Islam and Christianity are against gayism,” he said. “Our country’s constitution doesn’t recognize same-sex marriages. Three people in a court should not go against the societal values.” – *The Independent*



# Islamic Contradictions About

any words they use for Jesus (*Isa*) override or cancel biblical terms. The main Quranic passages pertaining to the sonship of Jesus are: Surahs 5:17, 72; 6:101; 9:30-31; 19:35; 19:88-92; and 112:1-4. It is noteworthy that in six of the nine instances, rather than using the appropriate contextual word *ibn* for son, the Quranic authors chose to use *walad* or a derivative thereof. Again, *walad* always implies biological procreation. Surah 19:88-92 is the lengthiest of these passages and uses the word “son” three times. In each of the three occurrences, the word *walad* is used, which forcefully undergirds the idea of biological procreation. It is no wonder that Muslims who read the entirety of these Quranic verses are convinced to accept Islam’s ill-conceived and heretical misunderstanding of the orthodox Christian doctrine of the sonship of Jesus.

For example, Surah Maryam (chapter 19:88-92) in the Quran provides Muslims with an alarming statement regarding the “Christian” belief about Jesus, the Son of God. Verses 88-89 read: “They [Christians] say: ‘The Most Gracious has betaken a son. Indeed, ye have put forth a thing most monstrous!’” Following that statement, verses 90-92 then basically specify that people who believe that Jesus is the Son of God will go to hell.

Abdullah Yusuf Ali is a well-known and highly respected Quranic commentator of the modern era. In *The Meaning of the Glorious Quran*, Ali provides this disturbing commentary on Surah Maryam, verses 88-92:

The belief in Allah begetting a son is not a question of words of speculative thought. It is a stupendous blasphemy against Allah. It lowers Allah to the level of an animal. If combined with the doctrine of vicarious atonement, it amounts to a negation of Allah’s justice and man’s personal responsibility. It is destructive of all moral and spiritual order, and it is condemned in the strongest possible terms. (page 875)

The aforementioned Quranic references make the sonship of Jesus one of the hardest problems for most seeking Muslims, if not the hardest. Islam has taken this beautiful truth of Scripture and twisted it into a cudgel that is used to beat away seeking Muslims from the very truth that would set them free! Therefore, it is important for the Christian to exercise tact, understanding, and clarity when speaking with Muslims about Jesus, the Son of God.

## Muhammad: Swinging at Theological Curveballs

For a proper grasp on this issue, it is necessary to understand the historical influence of paganism and heretical “Christian” sects on the evolution of Islam’s twisted position regarding the person of Jesus. According to the Islamic narrative, in the times of ignorance (*jahiliyya*) before the birth of Muhammad, the pagan Arab tribes worshiped many different gods, some of whom were said to be children of Allah, the creator. For instance, Surah 53:19-20 mentions the names of Uzza, al-Lat, and Manat. Thus, the influence of pagan thought predisposed Muhammad and his followers to possess a strong proclivity to embrace the idea that Allah had “children.” In fact, Muhammad’s eventual renunciation

of all other “gods” also implies a renunciation of their possible sons and daughters.

Muhammad was in contact with both pagan Arabs and Christian heretics. A substantial number of verses in the Quran are directed against errant “Christian” sects and their attendant heresies. Here are just some of the views about Jesus that existed in the first few centuries of Christianity:

- **Jesus was adopted and purely human.** The Ebionites held that Jesus was born human and that he became God’s son by adoption during his baptism, being chosen by God because of his sinless devotion to the will of God. For the Ebionites, Jesus did not pre-exist and was



never an object of worship because they believed he was inferior to God.

- **Jesus was purely divine and not human at all.** The Marcionites believed that Jesus had no human aspect at all and was purely divine. Jesus did not have a flesh-and-blood body and was not actually born. Although he appeared to be human, his human form was merely an illusion.
- **Jesus was both human and divine.** The Subordinationists believed that Jesus was divine, but was created by God the Father. Thus, Jesus was not equal to the Father but subordinate to Him.
- **Jesus was a created being.** An Alexandrian priest named Arius espoused the belief that the Son, or the Word, was created out of nothing, and that there was a

# t the Sonship of Jesus Christ

time when he did not exist.

- **Jesus was a God-inspired man.** Nestorius, patriarch of Constantinople, denied the reality of the incarnation and represented Christ as a God-inspired man, rather than as God/man.
- **Jesus was the offspring of God and Mary.** Another heresy arose from the ill-named belief that Jesus' mother should be called "Mary, the mother of God." This misunderstood term offered fertile soil for the Muslim conclusion that God and Mary had union and produced a son—Jesus.

## The Truth, the Whole Truth, and Nothing but the Truth



In Matthew 16:16, Peter declares to Jesus, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." In the Arabic Bible, the word for son in this passage is *Ibn*—not *Walad*—not biological, but figurative. And 1 John 4:15 reads, "If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God." And in the Arabic Bible, what word is used for Son in this verse? Again, it is *Ibn*. In the entirety of Arabic Scripture, whenever a reference is made to Jesus as the Son of God, it is always *Ibn*, never *Walad*.

A human is a physical being. God is Spirit and does not relate to humans the way a man and a woman do with each other in a sexual union. In fact, 700 years before Mary was even born, Isaiah declared, "A *virgin* shall conceive and bear a son..." (Isa. 7:14). When Mary conceived, she was a *vir-*

*gin*—and when she bore the child, she was still a *virgin*. In Luke 1:31, the angel Gabriel comes to Mary and tells her that she will "bear a son, to be named Jesus." Verses 34-38 read as follows:

Then Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I do not know a man?" And the angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called *the Son of God*." (emphasis added)

The core concept of the Christian faith—that Jesus was the divine, literal "Only Begotten Son of God"—was officially adopted at the Council of Nicea in 325 A.D. Orthodox Christians believe that Jesus was always divine, and when He became human, He took on an additional nature. So, Jesus was one Person with two natures—one divine and one human.

## Responding by Starting Where it Really Matters—The Scripture

Jesus commended Peter for confessing the divinely inspired revelation that He was the Son of God (Matt. 16:16). In Acts 3:13, 26, God refers to Jesus as the Son—which is the abbreviated form for Son of God. Paul, teaching the Gentiles, used this title freely (Rom. 1:4; 1 Cor. 15:20-28; Gal. 2:20; Eph. 4:13)—but not exclusively with Gentiles (see Acts 9:20, just after his conversion). The Apostle John used the title freely (John 3:11-20), and Jesus himself challenged His disciples to declare this truth (Matt. 16:13-17).

Therefore, Christians must carefully study the biblical title "Son of God":

- In Job 1:6 and 38:7, angels are called sons of God (Job 1:6; 38:7). In the Torah, it is written: "Israel is my firstborn son" (Exod. 4:22-23; Deut. 1:31; 8:5; Hosea 11:1). It is obvious that physical sonship is not intended but that God has a purpose for His creation. He used the title of son in reference to His people because through them He intended to show something of His divine nature to the world and so become the cause of blessing to the nations. Israel, however, broke faith with Him.
- In the Psalms, it is written that David was made the firstborn (Psa. 89:27). Again, it is obvious that this does not refer to physical sonship, but to the office of the chosen king whom God intended to use as a means of blessing His people.
- In the *Injil* (the Gospels), where the genealogy of Jesus the son of David, the son of Abraham is given, the generations are revealed back to the first man, Adam (Luke 3:38). Adam was created by God and had no earthly father. When God sent His angel to Mary to announce the virgin birth, Jesus was described as the "Son of the Most High" (Luke 1:32). However, Jesus is not named as the Son of God simply because of the virgin birth.
- In the *Injil*, people are called children of God when they believe in the name of Jesus, the Messiah, and receive Him (Matt. 5:44-45; 6:9, 31-33; John 1:12-

13; Rom. 8:14-17). We are adopted into the family of God, and the Bible is referring to spiritual birth by the Holy Spirit, not physical birth. Jesus is called the firstborn among many brothers (Rom. 8:28-29), but this is still not the full meaning of the title “Son of God.”

- The Bible is the written record of God’s purposes for humanity. In His omniscience He knew that the first Adam, His people Israel, and the anointed kings of His people would all fail to bring His glory to the ends of the earth. God, in His compassion and mercy, ordained that all history would find its fulfillment in Jesus the Messiah, Son of David, Son of Israel, Son of Man. Through the Messiah, the very life of God himself would reach the ends of the earth.

### Four Witnesses in the Gospels

In the Gospels, there are four distinct kinds of witnesses who testify that Jesus the Messiah is the Son of God.

#### 1. Those who saw Him on earth

- Nathaniel (John 1:49)
- Peter (Matt. 16:13-20)
- Martha (John 11:21-27)
- Paul in a vision (Acts 9:17-22)
- Demons (Luke 4:40-41)

#### 2. Jesus the Messiah himself

- Jesus knew that the beginning of His existence was not at the time that He came to earth with a body of flesh and blood (Matt. 11:25-27; 22:41-46; Luke 2:49; John 5:19-23; 6:38-40; 8:58; 10:32-36; 14:6-11; 17:1-26).
- At the end of Jesus’ earthly ministry, His claim to be the Son of God, which the leading priests took seriously, led to His death sentence (Matt. 26:63-66; Mark 14:61-64; Luke 22: 67-71; John 19:7).
- His names, power, and attributes prove His deity:
  - a) “For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord” (Luke 2:11).
  - b) He is called Holy One, Immanuel (God with us) (Isa. 9:6; 7:14).
  - c) His works of creation testify to his deity: “For by him were all things created and by him all things consist” (Col. 1:16).
  - d) He forgave sins (Mark 2:5).
  - e) He promises to answer prayer (John 14:14).
  - f) He will raise the dead and judge the world (John 5:21-28).
  - g) He has the same attributes as God:
    - Eternal (John 1:1; 8:58; 17:5, 24);
    - Self-existent—life in himself (John 1:4);
    - Immutable/unchangeable (Heb. 13:8);
    - Omnipresent (Matt. 18:20; 28:20);
    - Omniscient (Col. 2:3, John 16:30; 21:17);
    - Omnipotent (Heb. 1:1-4);
    - Holy and Righteous (Acts 3:14; 1 John 2:1).
  - h) He accepted worship (Matt. 15:25; John 9:35-39).

#### 3. The Apostles

When the Apostles wrote as they were moved by the

Holy Spirit, they provided greater understanding of the title and office of “Son of God”:

- He was the firstborn over all creation (Col. 1:15-20).
- He was declared the Son of God with power through His rising from the dead (Rom. 1:2-5).
- He was the radiance of God’s glory (Heb. 1:1-3).

#### 4. Most basic and fundamental of all, God himself declared that Jesus was His Son:

- At the birth of Jesus, announced by angel Gabriel (Luke 1:30-33);
- At the baptism of Jesus (Matt. 3:16-17);
- At the transfiguration of Jesus (Matt. 17:1-6).

### The Glorious Conclusion: Jesus is the Son of God

Tayseer (Tass) Saada is a longstanding friend of Global Initiative. Tass is the founder and director of Seeds of Hope, a humanitarian organization operating in the Middle East. Saada was born in Gaza and raised as a Muslim. He spent years serving in the Middle East as a sniper in the Palestine Liberation Organization—even serving a stint as driver for Yasser Arafat, the leader of the PLO. Eventually, Saada’s father felt he was losing his son to radicalism, and as a last resort, sent him to the United States to study.

In the United States, Tass met Charlie, a born-again businessman who faithfully shared Jesus with him. Charlie said, “Tass, you must believe that Jesus is the Son of God.” Tass answered, “That’s enough! Do you think I am crazy? First, you tell me that I must love my enemies and now you tell me that Jesus is the Son of God. I really want to leave now.”

One day, Charlie opened the New Testament and read aloud to Tass the entire first chapter of John’s Gospel. Realizing these verses were speaking about the divinity of Jesus, Tass began to shake uncontrollably and “lost consciousness.” Within minutes, Tass rose to his knees with his hands raised and asked Jesus to be his Lord and King. Charlie asked Tass, “What happened and what were you thinking?” Tass responded that he had seen a light and out of the light came a voice saying, “I am the Truth, the Life, and the Way. Follow me.” Finally, Tass said to Charlie, “These words from Scripture have convinced me that *Jesus is the Son of God* and I want Him to be my Lord and Savior.” Tass had a revelation from God that caused him to declare, as did Simon Peter, “You are the Christ, *the Son of the living God*” (Matt. 16:16, NKJV).

Many prophets were extraordinary men, yet they were born naturally, died naturally, and had many failings common to other men. However, the virgin birth of Jesus, His sinlessness, His sacrificial death and resurrection, and His ascension, made it clear that He was more than a prophet. Jesus was truly unique—solitary in type and characteristics; having no like or equal; unparalleled; incomparable; the Son of the Living God!

All hail the power of Jesus’ name,  
Let angels prostrate fall.  
Bring forth the royal diadem,  
And crown him Lord of all!



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[Facebook.com/JumaaPrayer](https://www.facebook.com/JumaaPrayer)*

**Friday, July 5, 2024. Please pray for**

...*encouragement for the small number of “isolated” Christians in Turkmenistan*, especially converts from Islam. Turkmenistan’s population of 6 million is 94% Muslim.

...*Holy Spirit intervention in the lives of the world’s 1.9 billion Muslims*—as they observe the Islamic New Year on July 7; marking the migration of Muhammad from Mecca to Medina.

...*a powerful anointing on classes for ministry among Muslims* that Global Initiative team members will teach at a seminary in the United States—July 8-12.

**Friday, July 12, 2024. Please pray for**

...*the 4,700 Christians who live in the Comoros Islands*. Though Islam is the state religion, many Christians are boldly sharing Jesus with the Muslim-majority population of 850,000.

...*social media outreaches to the Muslim youth of the Arab Gulf area*. In most Arab Gulf countries, the Quran is the constitution and Sharia law is the basis of the legal system. Arab Gulf youth are seeking out social media platforms to discuss their spiritual questions.

...*Shia Muslims (approximately 10-15% of the world’s 1.9 billion Muslims)*—who will observe *Ashura* on July 16-17; mourning the death of Imam Hussein during the battle of Karbala.

**Friday, July 19, 2024. Please pray for**

...*safety for Mira Jarali in Bangladesh*. Upon hearing of his conversion, Muslims nearly beat him to death. He declared: “They can destroy the body, but not the spirit. I will never leave Jesus.”

...*protection for Muslims who are coming to the Lord in Sudan*. A pastor says, “In spite of persecution, we rejoice that many Muslims are following Jesus and entering the church.”

...*the release of two Christian filmmakers in Malaysia*—imprisoned for producing a film that “blasphemes Islam.” The film centers on a young Muslim girl who questions Islam.

**Friday, July 26, 2024. Please pray for**

...*the grieving family of Pastor Mario* on the Muslim-dominated island of Jolo, Philippines. Because Mario converted from Islam, an angry Muslim shot and killed him.

...*the “taxi ministry” of Rahim in Kashmir*. A life-long Muslim, Rahim was led to the Lord by a passenger, Brother Ahmad. Now, Rahim’s ministry is “discreetly telling my riders about Jesus.” Kashmir’s disputed territories include a total population of 18 million.

...*a continuing harvest among Muslims in eastern Kenya*. A pastor near the border of Somalia reports: “Praise God for all the Muslims that He is drawing out of the darkness of Islam.”

**Friday, August 2, 2024. Please pray for**

...*safety for house meetings in Uzbekistan*. A leader says, “For now, authorities are not stopping house meetings for converts from Islam.” Uzbekistan’s population of 35 million is 83% Muslim.

...*Christians from a Muslim background who live in isolated rural villages* (often referred to as “torment and killing zones”) in predominantly Muslim countries. Local *imams* are often given free rein to “okay” unconscionable acts such as floggings, stonings, and death sentences.

...*divine intervention with the Nigerian government*. Pray that instead of enabling and aiding Islamic militants, the government will move to rein in the spread of Islamic terror.



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## **Friday, August 9, 2024. Please pray for**

*...safety for churches in northern Cameroon.* Recently, Boko Haram took credit for the deaths of eight Christians near the border with Nigeria. A pastor says, “Even with the threat of terror in our area, we are seeing more Muslims come to our church.”

*...the family of a recent martyr in the Middle East, killed by a Muslim jihadist.* The family states: “We are saddened, but grateful that he died fulfilling his call—sharing Jesus with Muslims.”

*...continued success for a ministry that focuses on house churches in Iran.* The leader reports: “Muslims are coming to Christ and every two months a new house church is being born.”

## **Friday, August 16, 2024. Please pray for**

*...more open doors for Christian workers in Türkiye* who are seeing “significant conversion results” among the 3.6 million Syrian refugees who live in the country.

*...Christians of the Central African Republic.* Seventy percent of the CAR’s 5 million people are Christians. Since 2012, a Muslim resistance group called *Seleka* has regularly attacked and displaced many Christians. As of today, 475,000 CAR Christians live in refugee camps.

*...a change in regulations in the country of Tajikistan.* The government has reaffirmed that they will not allow any new churches. Tajikistan’s population of 10 million is 99% Muslim.

## **Friday, August 23, 2024. Please pray for**

*...safety for a “re-opened village church”* in the Mardin Province of Türkiye. On the day of dedication, Muslims attempted to set fire to the church, but police stopped them.

*...Rahmat, an Iranian convert from Islam,* who has been fined for his unlawful “house groups.” Rahmat says, “Muslim neighbors asked for these meetings. They are spiritually starving.”

*...courage for Christians and churches in Benin.* Islamic jihadists have moved into villages in the north, imposing rules, demanding a tax to ensure protection, and recruiting young people.

## **Friday, August 30, 2024. Please pray for**

*...youth outreaches in Iraqi Kurdistan.* Pastor Rami reports, “Muslim Kurdish youth are finding biblical truth via social media. Our young people are embracing Jesus as Lord.”

*...protection for Roya, an Iranian convert from Islam* whose ministry is Bible distribution on the bus system of Iran. She describes an encounter with the Islamic police: “They took my Bibles. I knew who they were. Their eyes give them away that they belong to the army of darkness.”

*...an awakening among churches in Germany* to reach the Muslims of their country. Muslims, who make up 6% of Germany’s population of 83 million, are fervently propagating Islam.

*\*All personal names used herein are pseudonyms.*

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*Intercede* is a bimonthly publication of Global Initiative: Reaching Muslim Peoples

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