

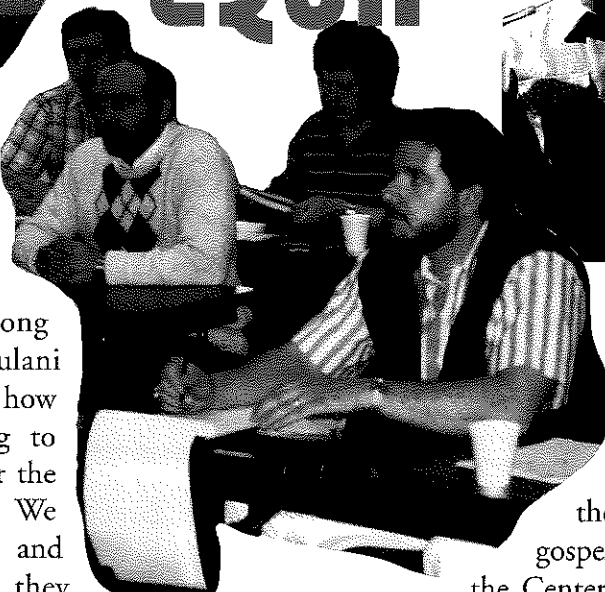
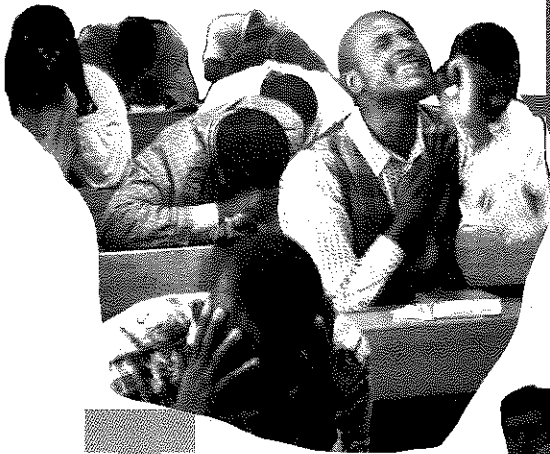
INTERCEDE

VOL. XVII, NO. 4

JULY/AUGUST 2001

CMM'S THREE-FOLD VISION:

ENLIST ENCOURAGE EQUIP



Today, God is building His church among some of the world's most resistant Muslim people!

A Nigerian missionary who labors faithfully among animistic and Muslim Fulani people, recently described how many nomads are coming to Christ. He said, "They hear the gospel and come to Christ. We baptize and disciple them, and then after a few weeks they resume their nomadic way of life. It's disappointing that we don't often see them again, but in our follow-up we find that they have become carriers of the gospel and planters of churches."

CARRIERS OF THE GOSPEL AND PLANTERS OF CHURCHES!

That's what God's mandate to the Church is all about. Christ said...*I will build my church...*and these born-again, nomadic Fulanis are now being

by Ruby Peterson

used by Him to plant the gospel and build His church wherever they go.

Realizing the enormity of the Church's task to carry the gospel to the entire Muslim world, the Center for Ministry to Muslims has

clarified its mission to fulfill God's mandate. The CMM team recently adopted the following mission statement: *Believing the Great Commission of Matthew 28:16-20 to be our responsibility, it is our purpose to be a facilitating ministry that assists the Church worldwide in providing an adequate witness of Jesus Christ to every Muslim by every means possible.*

Since some 1.2 billion Muslim people are dispersed throughout the world, this is an enormous, God-ordained mandate. However, the CMM team is

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Until All Have Heard



Jim Bennett, Director
Center for
Ministry to Muslims

*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)*

Believing the Great Commission of Matthew 28:16-20 to be our responsibility, it is our purpose to be a facilitating ministry that assists the Church worldwide in providing an adequate witness of Jesus Christ to every Muslim by every means possible.

Some time ago we felt it was necessary to place in writing the exact nature of the Center for Ministry to Muslims' mission. With an increasingly complex task of helping reach 1.2 billion Muslims with the gospel, it became important for us to define how we feel the Holy Spirit is leading us to accomplish our mandate.

After much prayer, we discovered three reasons why we needed to more clearly define ourselves. The first reason was a matter of taking inventory, engaging in some healthy introspection and then making plans for the future. It's always necessary to have goals and plans, and planning is impossible if you don't know where you are and where you want to go. Someone once said, "If you have no plan, you are planning to fail."

The second reason for a clearly-defined mission statement is a strong sense of stewardship of the call we have, coupled with a sense of stewardship to those who support this ministry. We want to be the best stewards we possibly can be in responding properly to God's call. We also feel a keen sense of responsibility to be good stewards of the investment that you are making in this work. In order to cover the matters of personal and corporate stewardship, we needed to write down our mission and how we plan to accomplish it...and then let you know about it!

The last reason is the need to adequately inform people about the work of CMM. Occasionally someone will say, "Oh yes, I know about CMM, but exactly what is it that you do?" They've heard of us, but cannot really remember what CMM does.

For that reason we want to place our mission

statement in various settings, including our website, in order to give people a repeated opportunity to understand who we are and what we do.

Years ago I heard a Bible school teacher say, "Burdens are built on information." While that premise cannot be placed before the spiritual components of intercessory prayer and the reading of Scripture for guidance and insight, I am convinced that a person will have little burden for something about which he is uninformed. Thus, we want people to know who CMM is...and what we do.

CMM missionary staff member Ruby Peterson has done an excellent job explaining CMM's mission statement in the lead article of this issue of *Intercede*. Thank you for reading it...and then praying down the power of the Holy Spirit on us to be able to fulfill it!

In closing, I am honored to present Ken and Kathy Ferguson as new CMM team members. The Fergusons bring to CMM a rich background from years of laboring in a Muslim context in the Middle East. Ken also has strong academic credentials and invaluable experience from an overseas seminary setting. Most important, the Fergusons have a God-given burden to help CMM reach 1.2 billion Muslims with an adequate witness of Jesus Christ. Ken joined us as an International Representative, effective June 1.



Muslim World



Afghanistan

On January 8, Taliban rulers imposed the death penalty for anyone who converts from Islam to another religion and on any non-Muslim found trying to win converts. "The enemies of Muslims are trying to eliminate the pure Islamic religion throughout the world," remarked Taliban supreme leader Mullah Mohammed Omar. The Christians, especially new believers, are now more seriously at risk at the hands of the religious police, and the nation's 25 million Muslims are even more separated from the gospel than they were before. Omar also announced a five-year jail term for bookstore owners found selling material critical of Islam and about other religions.

—WEF Report

Bangladesh

A pair of high court judges asked Parliament to pass a law calling for harsh punishment for anybody issuing a *fatwa*, or holy order all Muslims must carry out. The judges banned any *fatwa* or legal opinion that didn't come from a court. The judges agreed with a lawyer's assertion that a *fatwa* is unconstitutional and denies fundamental human rights.

In rural Bangladesh, Muslim clerics frequently hand down *fatwas* based on *Sharia*. After clashes between Islamic and human rights groups in Dhaka, the Supreme Court of Bangladesh issued a six-week stay on the High Court verdict.

—Pulse

Indonesia

Steven Snyder, president of International Christian Concern (ICC) was detained and released on Feb. 23 by security forces in the Maluku Islands. Snyder was on a fact-finding mission with pastors from Australia, New Zealand and Indonesia.

The team heard numerous testimonies

from Christian refugees about the brutal slayings of loved ones, forced conversions to Islam and forced circumcision of men, women and children.

One couple with their five small children recounted the nightmare of having been forcibly taken to a mosque and each member of the family circumcised with a razor blade or dull knife. An 11-year-old boy described how his parents had been killed by the raiding Jihad Warriors and how they had been hacked into pieces with swords. He fled to the forest where he lived on wild plants for two weeks.

Many testimonies told how certain military units participated in the brutal attacks against the Christians when they were supposed to be helping protect and evacuate the Christians.

Snyder visited an area where 164,000 Christian refugees are living in ghetto conditions. They pleaded for help in rescuing their fellow Christians who have yet been unable to escape. Refugees expressed concern for the welfare of those who are being forced to depart from their Christian faith.

As many as 8,000 Indonesian lives have been lost and tens of thousands displaced as a result of fighting that erupted in June 1999.

—WEF Report

Nigeria

A year after the introduction of strict *sharia* law, the Christian population in the country's Muslim-controlled northern states has dwindled significantly, according to the Archbishop of Canterbury, George Carey. Speaking as a "voice for the voiceless," Carey expressed his disapproval of some aspects of the law. Christians in the northern state of Zamfara complain that they are being treated as "second class citizens," but the governor told Carey that land would be available for church buildings in the future.

One pastor has a price on his head. Ado Umar has been branded worthy of death for turning his back on Islam and becoming a Christian.

—WEF Report

Turkmenistan

Authorities in Turkmenistan are con-

tinuing a campaign to shut down Protestant churches. Numerous arrests and attempts to close places of worship have been reported in the last month by the Keston News Service, a British-based monitor of religious liberty. Also, a Baptist prisoner, whose colleagues insist is being punished for religious activities, is believed to be near death due to his treatment by prison officials.

On February 17, authorities in the capital Ashgabad sealed off the capital's only remaining Baptist church, raising fears that it may be confiscated, according to the church's pastor Vasily Korobov. Last year, government officials closed all other Baptist Union churches in the country and have indicated they would shut down Korobov's church as well.

Since 1997, only the officially sanctioned Sunni Muslim and Russian Orthodox communities have escaped harsh government attempts to exterminate religious activity. Bahais, Jehovah's Witnesses, Jews, all local Baptist, Lutheran, Pentecostal and Armenian Christians are denied the right to worship and practice their faith. Hundreds of foreigners, suspected of engaging in religious activity, have been expelled, church buildings confiscated or bulldozed and believers of all faiths have been arrested, tortured, fined, fired from their jobs and thrown out of their homes.

—WEF Report

Sudan

Sudan's 18-year civil war, which has caused the deaths of an estimated 2 million people, is gaining public attention. Many experts say that with the opening of lucrative oil fields in southern Sudan that are funding the war, this is the last year to effectively press for change.

The United States Commission on International Religious Freedom, which has closely followed the civil war and has detailed significant human rights abuses in the past, has called for the U.S. government to implement a tough and consistent policy against the Islamic regime in Khartoum.

—Newsroom



CMM'S THREE-FOLD VISION

dependent on an even greater God.

The CMM team is fulfilling this mandate with a three-fold vision:

1. to **enlist** Christians to become involved in intercessory prayer and fasting for Muslims,
2. to **encourage** Christians to understand Islam and its worldwide influence and to love Muslims, and
3. to **equip** believers in witnessing to Muslims and in discipling Muslim converts.

ENLIST CHRISTIANS TO PRAY FOR MUSLIMS

Since the formation of CMM in the early 1980s, **enlisting** Christians to pray has been CMM's top priority. The *Intercede* publication has been, and continues to be, an important tool to promote prayer for Muslims and to help Christians understand Muslims and their religion, Islam. Today, after 17 years of publication, tens of thousands of believers in 69 nations have joined the *Jumaa Prayer Fellowship* and share the burden by interceding for Muslims and for CMM's ministries on a regular basis. *Jumaa* is the Arabic word for Friday, the Muslim day for community prayer.

Ramadan is the Islamic month when Muslims fast from sunrise to sunset. Each year Ruby Peterson prepares a brochure of prayer needs for intercessors who join CMM in personally designating this as a special month of prayer for Muslims. This is a strategic time for the body of Christ to pray because during this time many Muslims are expecting God to reveal himself to them and are thus more open to divine revelation.

ENCOURAGE CHRISTIANS TO UNDERSTAND ISLAM AND LOVE MUSLIMS

A yearly prayer pilgrimage not only saturates the country visited with prayer, but it **encourages** Christians to understand Islam and love Muslims and be involved in ministering to them. Many participants, mainly college students with missions majors, will eventually become full-time workers among Muslims as God directs them.

Realizing that Christians of all ages need to understand the impact Islam is having in our world and reach out to love and befriend Muslims, the CMM team continues to prepare booklets and hold seminars to promote

Muslim awareness among adults in churches, educational institutions and pastoral institutes both in the United States and abroad. Coloring and activities books about Muslims have been prepared for young children.

A web site, www.CMMequip.org has been added to CMM's activities to raise Muslim awareness and provide materials for easy access on the Internet. Inquirers are able to download the *Intercede* publication or read the weekly prayer requests online. Several booklets, including *Sharing Your Faith With Muslims*, *What Christians Need to Know about Muslims* and *The Shadow of the Crescent: The Growth of Islam in the United States*, are also downloadable from this site.

EQUIP WORKERS FOR MINISTRY TO MUSLIMS

The CMM team is **equipping** workers to carry the gospel to Muslims around the world on every level from seminaries and Bible schools to missionary candidates and overseas domestic workers. Over 22,000 workers in 55 countries have received training by CMM team members in the last 12 years.

Perhaps the greatest satisfaction CMM team members have comes with the challenge of training third-world missionaries to reach out to Muslims. In 1999, Dale Fagerland traveled to Lilongwe, Malawi, to teach Islamics at the first Eleventh Hour Institute established by the East Africa Regional Missions Board to assist those who are committed to fulfilling Christ's mission both in their region and abroad. Dale challenged these students to give themselves totally to ministry among Muslims. Uche Chukwu Ama accepted the challenge, and said in response to the class, "We cannot afford to fold our hands while more than 10 million Kanuri people [100 percent Muslim] perish without Christ."

In January 2001, Paul Parks traveled to Addis Bible College in Ethiopia to hold a one-week, intensive *Introduction to Islam* class. "My greatest joy was to visit with a senior at the school who is a Muslim convert. This man's desire is to work among his own predominately Muslim people group," Paul said.

In February 2001, Harry Morin taught Islamic classes at Dobrogea School of Missions and Evangelism in Constanta, Romania. He met six students he had taught during a previous teaching session in Bucharest in 1997; all six are now in full-time ministry. Harry also learned

that one former student is now in Afghanistan and another in Pakistan, both working among Muslim people. The 11 students who attended the intensive bloc classes feel a definite leading to work among Muslims, and some have already been involved in short-term mission outreaches in Turkey.”

Harry also held a three-day seminar at Central Assembly of God in Delhi, India. Approximately 110 people attended this seminar. “Central has gained momentum in church planting,” Harry relates. “They have planted 30 new churches in the last few years, and now recognize the need to begin planting churches in Muslim communities in Delhi. I was able to share with a group of 15 local pastors who gathered for mid-week fellowship. I believe God is going to use these pastors and believers to reach Muslims with the gospel.”

Also in February, Dale Fagerland taught a bloc class at the Evangel Theological Seminary in Jos, Nigeria. Dale relates, “There were ten outstanding students in my *Introduction to Islam* class, each fulfilling responsible positions in ministry. Some are even serving in difficult areas of the north that are dominated by *sharia* law. We sensed the presence of God in the classroom. One pastor moved the class to tears as he shared how Muslims completely destroyed and burned his house, his car and the church building. The mob was about to kill his young son when the pastor’s wife pleaded with them to kill her instead. Miraculously, both were spared. Rather than being bitter toward the perpetrators of this evil, this pastor weeps with compassion for their salvation.”

During a training session in Brazil, Ron Peck shared information about ministering to Muslims with 37 missionary candidates who have been appointed for service through *KAIROS*, an indigenous missionary agency. At an earlier meeting in Brazil, 700 workers were registered. When an evening rally in that area concluded, 20 came forward for salvation and some 100 responded to give themselves for missionary service. Today these trained workers are having an impact on the growing Muslim populations of South America, North Africa, India and other places where God is sending them.

An eight-week Institute of Islamic Studies (IIS) is held at Asia Pacific Theological Seminary (APTS) in Baguio, Philippines, every year. Many students who have already been involved in reaching out to Muslims share insights they have gained from their experiences; they



The CMM Ministry Team

gain greater insight for their future ministry from the noted scholars who teach the courses each summer.

Dale Fagerland met three missionaries who had attended IIS during a ministry trip in Central Asia. All three are involved in outreach to Muslims in that region. It’s encouraging to see the fruit that is being produced through CMM’s many training programs.

Every summer CMM partners with the Assemblies of God Theological Seminary (AGTS) to provide training for candidate missionaries, regarding effective ways of ministering to Muslims. During this advanced training, missionaries receive valuable insight into the religious beliefs and cultural diversity of the people among whom they will be working.

To help equip the trained workers, CMM continues to produce and distribute culturally-sensitive materials for Muslim readership. *Noor ul Haq* (Light of Truth), a quarterly English/Arabic magazine in its 12th year of production, now has a readership of more than 65,000 in 94 nations of the world! Light-for-the-Lost contributions have made this evangelism tool possible. Other booklets, written specifically for a Muslim audience, are available in English and are being translated into other languages and used for evangelizing Muslims.

These may be the final days for the Church to reach the lost—especially the world’s 1.2 billion Muslims. As the CMM team fulfills God’s mandate to enlist prayer partners, encourage Christians to understand and love Muslims and equip believers for witnessing, the Church moves on through its many trained workers from every continent. As new believers become trained, they in turn become *carriers of the gospel and planters of churches!*



COUNTRY PROFILE: PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

POPULATION: 1,261,832,482

OFFICIAL LANGUAGES:

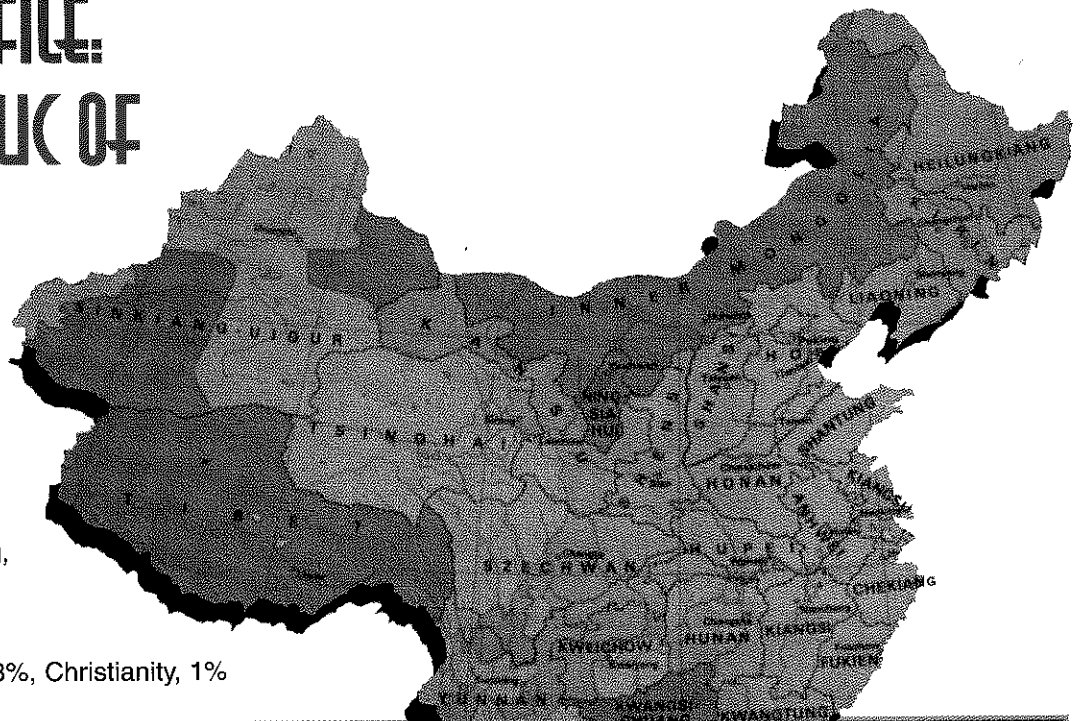
Mandarin, Yue, Wu, Minbei,
Minnan, Xiang, Gan, Hakka
dialects, minority languages.

ETHNIC GROUPS:

Han Chinese, 91.9%; Zhuang,
Uygur, Hui, Yi, Tibetan, Miao

RELIGIONS:

Daoism, Buddhism, Islam 2-3%, Christianity, 1%



In 1949, China became the world's largest communist nation. Though officially atheist, the Chinese constitution provides for freedom of religion and freedom of non-belief. However, religious exercise is strictly controlled and nominally granted only to the five recognized state religions: *Buddhism, Daoism, Islam, Protestantism* and *Catholicism*. The government remains concerned that religion will be used to subvert communism and westernize the nation.



UNREACHED PEOPLE GROUP: THE HUI

LOCATION: Northwest China

POPULATION: 9,578,200

RELIGION: Hanafite Muslim, 90%; non-religious, 10%

NUMBER HEARING THE GOSPEL: 2,640,600 (28%)

NUMBER YET TO HEAR THE GOSPEL: 6,937,600 (72%)



The Hui are the largest of the Muslim nationalities in China. They reside largely in the northwest, though they range over much of the country. The rural Hui are mostly farmers, with some engaging in small-scale industry. Most urban Hui are factory workers—employed, housed and educated by the state. The Hui are comprised of diverse Islamic sects, with those living in the northwest being the most conservative and traditionally Islamic.

PRAY THAT...

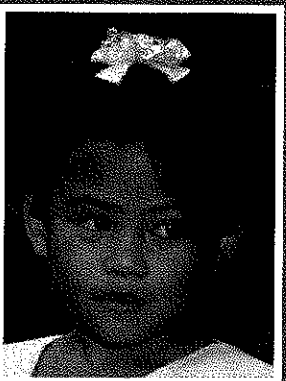
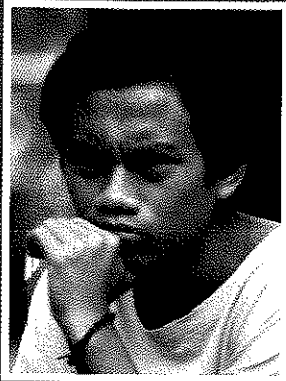
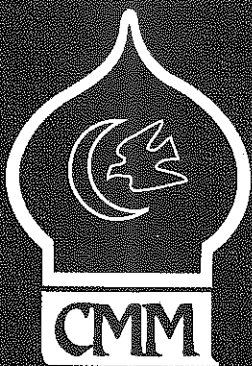
- People will be willing to go to China and share Christ with the Hui, no matter what the cost.
- God will call qualified linguists to complete translation of the Bible into *Kuoyu*, the Hui language.
- God will raise up Chinese believers who will take Christ to their Muslim neighbors.



¹ Unless otherwise noted, all statistics come from the *CIA World Factbook 2000*, *US Department of State 2000 Annual Report on International Religious Freedom: China*, and Bethany World Prayer Center's "The Unreached Peoples Prayer Profiles."

Jumaa Prayer Fellowship...

Praying for Muslims Around the World!



Friday, July 6, 2001. Please pray
...that missionaries who are attending School of Missions will be refreshed and that those attending the CMM workshops will accept the challenge concerning outreach to the Muslims in the countries where they reside.

...for Bible translation projects for the Fulani in several West African countries. Pray that God will provide Fulani with the necessary skills as co-translators of the Scriptures into Fulfulde, and for God's continued guidance through all the stages of the projects.

...for Turkey's new president, Ahmet Sezer. He has declared his commitment to religious freedom and the rule of law. Pray that he will have the courage to eliminate the religious classifications on identification cards and end the police state.

Friday, July 13, 2001. Please pray
...for the New Testaments that have been distributed legally in Turkey. Pray that those who possess the Scriptures will read them and that the Holy Spirit will enlighten their understanding of the message of salvation.

...for a young Turk who is on trial for allegedly insulting Islam. He is really on trial for distributing Turkish New Testaments. Pray that religious freedom will be upheld in this case.

...for the estimated 1,000 secret believers in Afghanistan who face severe restrictions under cruel leadership. The supreme leader of Afghanistan's ruling Taliban militia declared that any Afghan Muslim converting to another faith faces the death penalty. Ask God to turn the hearts of government leaders to the light.

Friday, July 20, 2001. Please pray
...for the missionary candidates who are preparing for ministry in Muslim settings as they take Islamic courses sponsored by the Assemblies of God Theological Seminary and CMM for the next two weeks. Pray they will be mentally refreshed to be able to profit from this training.

...for several young Muslim immigrants in Florida who are being disciplined. Pray they will continue to grow in their relationship with Christ and have opportunities to share Him with others.

...for believers who are starting businesses in difficult circumstances to support themselves in limited-access countries. Many have lost their jobs because they have converted to Christianity.

...for the continued proclamation of the gospel through radio and satellite into North Africa. Pray that many will respond and that Christian materials will be made available for distribution to those who respond.

Friday, July 27, 2001. Please pray
...for the persecuted Uyghur Turks in the Xinjiang Province of China. Hundreds of Uyghur dissidents have been executed and many of their children killed for the sale of their internal organs.

...for the cementing of friendships being forged between Christian workers and Muslims. Pray that relationships formed by short-term workers will help them in making decisions for long-term commitment.

...that Christians in New Zealand will find ways to befriend Muslims and share the gospel with them. The Muslim population there has doubled five times in the last 25 years with little evidence of Christian witness.

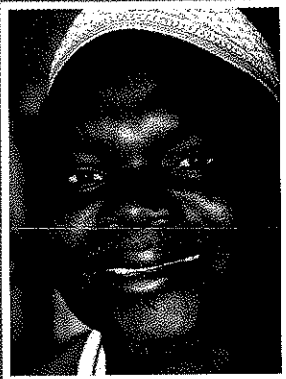
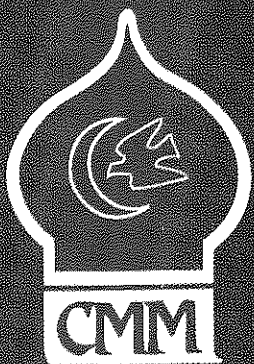
...for the Church in Sudan as it continues to face bombing, slavery, massacres and elimination by the government. Ask the Lord to intervene and thwart the devices of the Evil One to impose Islam on the largely Christian South.

*Urge, then, first of all
that requests, prayers,
intercession and
thanksgiving be
made for everyone.*

—(1 Timothy 2:1, NIV)

Jumaa Prayer Fellowship...

Praying for Muslims
Around the World!



*Urge, then, first of all
that requests, prayers,
intercession and
thanksgiving be
made for everyone.
—(1 Timothy 2:1, NIV)*

Friday, August 3, 2001. Please pray

...that God will raise up church planters for the 100,000 Turks in Macedonia. There is a dearth of workers in many places. Ask that those He has called will respond to His calling.

...that God will bring stability to Cote d'Ivoire following the presidential election. Muslims called for the north to secede, and Christians were targeted for attacks. Pray for peace, protection and wisdom for the Church.

...for the prime minister of Malaysia, Dr Mahathir Mohamad; Shahrizat Jalil, minister for women's affairs and Brigadier General Hamid Zainal Abidin, minister for religious affairs. Pray that God will provide a way so that the gospel can be effectively shared with them.

...for Turkish and Armenian believers in Germany. Leaders of two Turkish-speaking fellowships have begun discipleship meetings. Ask for God's blessing and anointing on their efforts.

Friday, August 10, 2001. Please pray

...that advertisements of websites and Bible correspondence courses for Muslims will be carried in significant settings so people who are searching may find opportunities to receive the good news.

...that the Church in Kazakhstan will continue to grow and to share the gospel with Muslims. The Church has grown to an estimated 6,000 in a country that is 80 percent Muslim.

...for the President of Gambia who recently announced his plan to adopt sharia law. Pray that the Lord will change his heart and strengthen the Church to continue faithfully serving Him.

...for T, a Muslim convert, who was arrested after police found Bibles in his home in Brunei. Six other Christians were arrested as well. Pray that God will protect and encourage them.

Friday, August 17, 2001. Please pray

...for the many Christians who have fled from Iran to escape continuing harassment or even death. One church lost 21 families in one year. Pray God will guide them to new places and areas of ministry.

...that the Church in Algeria, once known as the home of uncompromising Christianity, will once again flourish as the Word of God becomes readily available for the believers. They are few in number, but pray for real spiritual growth in their lives to enable them to effectively share the gospel.

...for several Christian websites presenting material for Muslims in Arabic that have been attacked by hackers. Ask God to intervene and protect every site where the salvation message is being shared.

...for the students and teachers of a Christian school in southern Sudan that was recently bombed. Pray for their continued protection and fruitfulness.

Friday, August 24, 2001. Please pray

...for an end to the violence in Somalia. Anarchy has reigned since 1995. Christians are being treated with hatred and oppression. Pray for the government of Abdiqasim Salad Hassan to bring long-term peace.

...for assistance for the Christian communities in the Maluku islands that have been tortured and for the safety of Christians and Muslims in this area of conflict.

...for the thousands of refugees who have fled from drought and warfare in northern Afghanistan. Though Pakistan closed its borders, many continue to get into this poverty-stricken country that already has the world's largest refugee population. Pray for more funds and wise distribution of relief goods.

...for an Indonesian couple who was recently baptized. Pray that their joy and freedom in Christ will be a testimony to other family members who are close to accepting Christ.