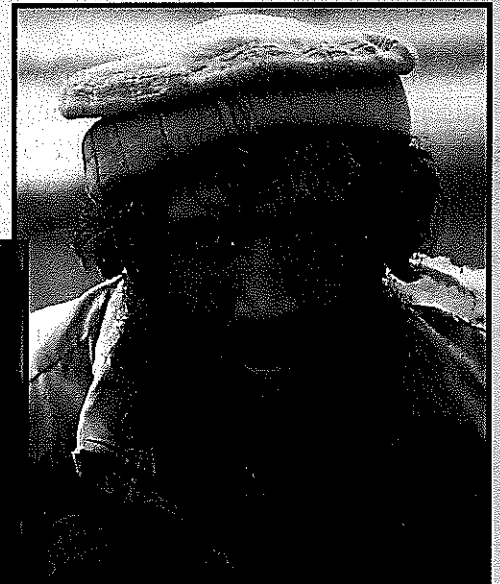
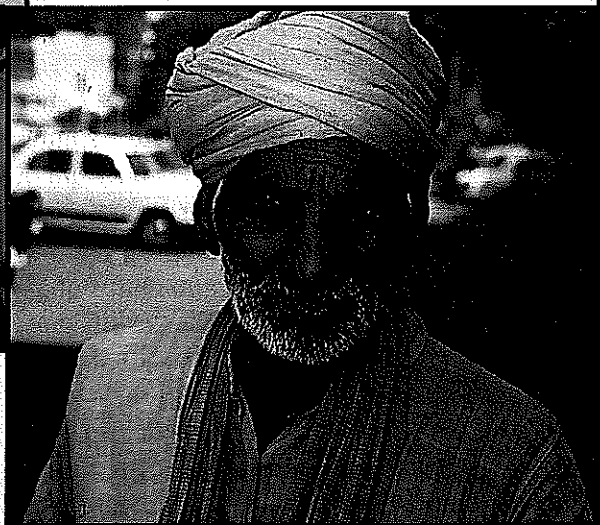
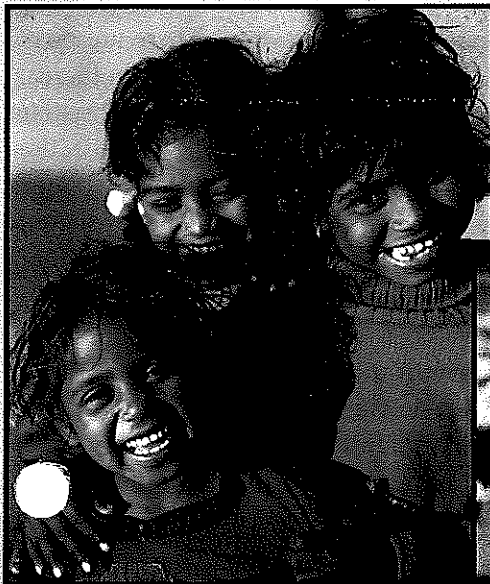


Pakistan: A Personal Journey

by Ron Peck



During the tragic days since the destruction of the World Trade Center, many of us have been reeling in our endeavor to understand what has happened. Although the situation in Afghanistan has claimed much of our attention, we have also been forced to look carefully at Pakistan—a large, arid nation between India on the East, and Iran and Afghanistan on the West.

This nation has 150 million Muslim people, second only to Indonesia. The name Pakistan holds significant meaning. “Pak” means pure or holy, and “stan” means place. So this country was founded to be a holy homeland for Muslims in South Asia.

When the British pulled down the Union Jack over India and ended their colonial rule in 1947, the sub-continent was divided to create Pakistan. Tens of thousands of Hindus fled from Pakistan to India; and, likewise, there was a population shift of Muslims from India to Pakistan—a tragic time of blood and violence.

My interest in Pakistan covers 41 years. My first missionary assignment took my wife and me to that nation in 1961. I am

deeply grateful for the years we lived in that country and for the rich friendships that we have enjoyed.

When we first arrived in Pakistan, we served in the eastern province which today is known as the nation of Bangladesh. The smaller province of East Pakistan gained independence from the larger western wing in 1971. However, our first eight years there were under the political rule of the central government with its capital in Islamabad, located in West Pakistan. In those early years the government was administered from the same political seat as that which governs Pakistan today.

The changes I have observed in the last 41 years are monumental. And I believe that some of these observations may help to clarify what is happening in Pakistan today.

Visas for missionaries. My first visa for Pakistan was a four-year, multi-journey missionary visa. This meant my wife and I could live and work in Pakistan for four

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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

Jim Bennett, Director
Center for
Ministry to Muslims



Pakistan, along with its neighbor Afghanistan, has been the focus of world attention since 9/11. My colleague and predecessor Ron Peck first arrived in Pakistan in 1961 and has been a keen observer of that country for 41 years. He speaks eloquently of historical and missiological issues as related to Pakistan in the lead article. Please take time to hear his heart concerning Pakistan and the Muslim world.

More than 150,000,000 Muslims comprise over 96 percent of Pakistan's population, with an annual growth rate of 2.8 percent, making Pakistan the world's second most populous Muslim country after Indonesia. Above all, I hope this edition of *Intercede* will challenge you to pray earnestly and fervently for Pakistan.

• **Pray for greater freedom to spread the gospel.**

Pakistan is an Islamic republic. The previous government pursued a policy of Islamization of the legal system, taxation, and public life, along with discrimination against all Muslim and non-Muslim religious minorities despite widespread popular misgivings. *Sharia* law has been increasingly applied, even to Christians and Hindus, despite its violation of the constitution. This gives numerous opportunities for the majority Sunni Muslims to oppress and mistreat many Shi'ite Muslims, Ahmaddiyas, Hindus and Christians. Despite promises, the current military ruler has backed away from effectively regulating the procedure for blasphemy charges in the face of violent threats from Islamists. Yet there remains a surprising degree of religious freedom and the Pakistani government regularly assures minorities of their freedom under the present law.

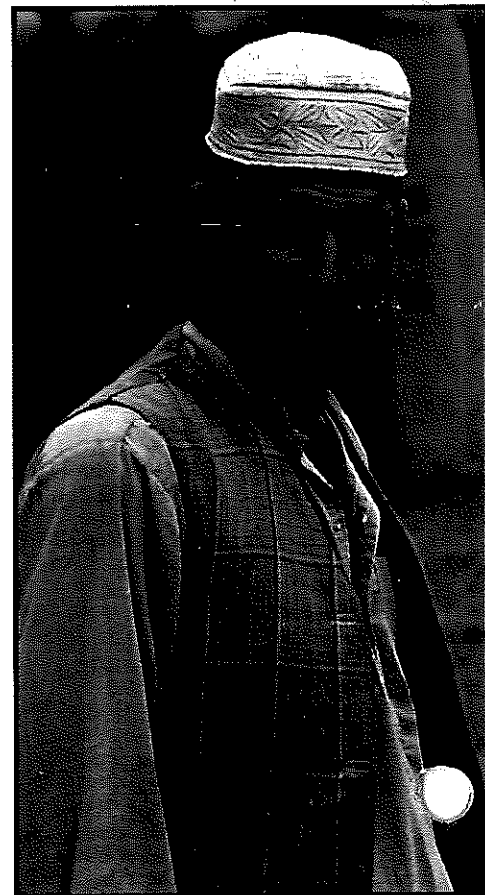
More than 150,000,000 Muslims comprise over 96 percent of Pakistan's population, with an annual growth rate of 2.8 percent, making Pakistan the world's second most populous Muslim country after Indonesia.

• **Pray for the Christian community.** In the year 2000, I was privileged to visit three of Pakistan's major cities: Karachi, Lahore and Islamabad. What an eye-opener to fellowship with vibrant Christians in an overwhelmingly Muslim country. Just over 3.5 million Christians make up approximately 2.31 percent of Pakistan's population.

• **Pray for Muslim-background believers.** There are possibly thousands of secret believers, but only a small, yet increasing number confess Christ and identify openly as Christians since it could lead to their martyrdom. Pray for protection, multiplication and for good integration into culturally-appropriate Christian fellowships. All too often such believers have the double trauma of rejection by their community and non-acceptance by the Christian community.

In Islamabad, a young man from a Muslim background said to me, "I was born and raised a Muslim, and all my life I felt that Christians were the poor, second-class citizens of our country. In a time of great need in my life, a Christian family showed me unconditional love. They did not insist that I change my religion; they simply loved me. I couldn't figure them out, but I could not resist the love of Jesus in their lives."

• **Pray for those in missions.** Many serve in parachurch ministries, existing national church structures and institutions, with a minority in pioneer outreach and church planting. Pray for their fruitfulness and for further creative opportunities to reach out to the unreached peoples across all of Pakistan.





Ivory Coast

The evacuation of foreign missionaries from Ivory Coast (Cote d'Ivoire) has drawn attention to the crisis unfolding in the West African nation. Rebel soldiers launched a military uprising in three major cities across the country aimed at overthrowing President Laurent Gbagbo. With battle lines drawn roughly between a predominantly Muslim population in the north and Christians and animists in the south, the fighting has claimed hundreds of lives and driven 200,000 refugees from Bouake, the country's second largest city located in the heart of the country. "As Americans, I never felt personally threatened," said Larry Sellers, a missionary from Yamoussoukro who evacuated October 24. "The main concern was just not to get caught up in a movement that we couldn't get out of later." Sellers said long-standing tensions between the country's diverse ethnic groups, aggravated by religious differences, are elements that could fuel violence. "If the rebel forces should gain control of the government, then it's likely that Islam could become more favored and Christianity open to greater opposition."—*Compass*

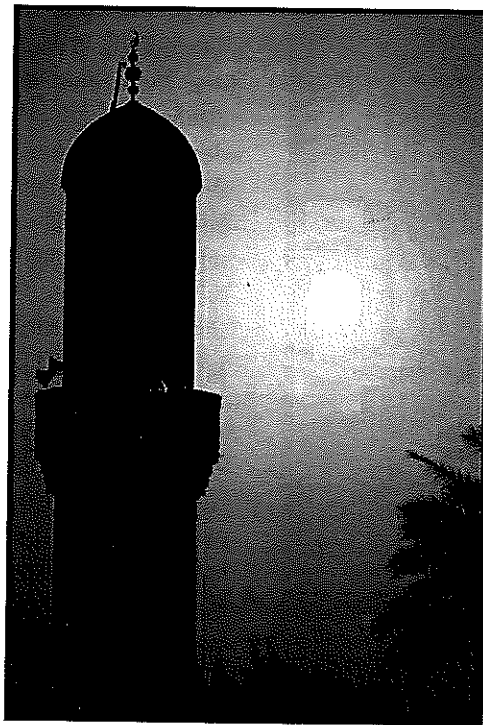
Jordan

A Jordanian Christian mother went into hiding with her children just after receiving a court order telling her to deliver them into the custody of their Muslim uncle within five days. Siham Qandah received notification from the Ministry of Justice last October to surrender her daughter Rawan, 14, and son Fadi, 12, to a civil court in Irbid. Widowed in 1994, Qandah learned sev-

eral months after her husband's death that two Muslim witnesses had signed a conversion certificate attesting that he had converted to Islam three years earlier. On the basis of this document, courts ruled the children were automatically Muslims. A final decision from the Supreme Court seven months ago ordered Qandah, who refused to convert to Islam, to give up her children to be raised as Muslims. "As a mother, she is suffering over this," a friend said. "But God can do miracles in these days she has left with her children."—*Compass*

Romania

A two-week class, Popular Islam, was taught by a CMM team member in Constanta, Romania in November 2002. During the teaching session, four former students who had received CMM training visited the class to share from their own experiences regarding Muslim outreach, and how God has opened doors of opportunity and ministry. One couple is now working among Muslim people in a



Romanian village setting. Another young man with his family is working among Gypsy Muslims in the Constanta area. The fourth person just returned from a year and a half in Turkey where she was working with Muslim women. In this present class of ten students,

seven individuals indicated they are already working among Muslim people, or feel led to do so when they complete their academic requirements.—*CMM*

Nigeria

Political and religious leaders in Nigeria continue an intense debate over the Islamic law of *sharia*, implemented by 12 of the country's 36 states. Some Muslim politicians appear to agree with Christian leaders that the imposition of *sharia* is undemocratic. Bola Ahmed Tinubu, governor of the state of Lagos, where 6 of 10 residents are Christians, told a gathering of journalists and religious leaders that members of the Muslim community have been pressuring him to introduce the Islamic legal code. He rebuffed the attempt. Tinubu, a Muslim, expressed sadness that some politicians are deliberately dismantling the Nigerian state. "The nation's crisis can be traced to the desperation of people who want to gain power," he said. In the three years since states introduced *sharia*, over 100,000 Nigerians have suffered displacement and more than 3,000 have died in riots.—*Compass*

Pakistan

On September 25, gunmen attacked a Pakistani Christian welfare organization in Karachi, then escaped after killing seven Christians and leaving an eighth critically injured. Two unidentified attackers entered the third-floor offices of the Institute for Peace and Justice (IPJ) shortly after working hours began, gagged the office staff and tied them all to chairs before shooting eight of them point-blank in the head. An additional worker was severely beaten but was not shot. He wriggled free a half-hour later to summon the police, who detained him as a suspect in the murders. Founded in 1973, the IPJ has focused on obtaining labor rights for textile and city workers. The shooting was the fifth assault on Christians in Pakistan since last October when Pakistan decided to support the U.S.-led war on terrorism. The toll from the string of anti-Christian attacks has now risen to 39 killed and 75 injured in Pakistan.—*Compass*

Pakistan: A Personal Journey

continued from page 1

years and travel in and out of the country as the need arose. It also meant the government understood that we were missionaries. We identified ourselves as missionaries and did the kind of work that missionaries were expected to do. This included the preaching of the gospel of Christ as the Savior of the world.

The idea of having a 4-year missionary visa to live and work in Pakistan today is unthinkable. Today, Christian workers who wish to fulfill a traditional missionary role as preachers of the good news will not receive a visa.

This is not to say that all the change is negative. In some ways it has helped our "missionaries" to provide Christian service in practical ways. Milk distribution for malnourished children, drug treatment programs, low cost housing construction for displaced refugees and innovative "restaurants" are certainly elements of valid Christian service. Should the gospel be preached? Yes, most definitely. But there are times and situations when the gospel is more effectively incarnated in the life of a caring person, addressing the felt needs of the person being served. Someone has

made the statement: *We will preach the gospel, and we will use words if necessary.* This is an especially helpful idea for such restrictive environments.

The movement for the creation of Pakistan. Mohammad Ali Jinnah, an English-educated lawyer, led the movement to create this nation. Though he was a Muslim, he was not particularly religious.

By the autumn of 1961, Pakistan was governed under martial law administered by General Ayub Khan, a Sandhurst-educated officer in the proper British tradition. His was the best administration of government that I have observed. The government seemed more efficient and less corrupt at that time. Later, the leaders of government became more political and less effective.

The results of the war for independence. The war that was fought to separate East Pakistan, creating Bangladesh, deeply traumatized the soul of Pakistan. Muslims killed one another. The idealistic venture for Pakistan to become a homeland for Muslims was literally torn in two. While the Bengalis of the East rejoiced over winning their independence and their opportunity for self-rule, the Pakistani elite were trying to answer the difficult question of what went wrong.



Christians in Pakistan... First class witness

On a trip to Pakistan, Tom White, the director of *Voice of the Martyrs*, met an elderly gentleman who quietly, almost apologetically, shared this testimony:

"Every morning I get on a bus in our city. As the bus begins to move, I walk down the aisle and hand out gospel tracts. These have the simple message of Jesus our Savior, who He is, why He came. People sitting in the bus have nothing to do. Many read them. Sometimes the Muslim men beat me. Usually by then I have finished my outreach, and I am near the back door. They do me the great favor of throwing me out the door. I might bleed, but I have a handkerchief. So I find another bus and begin again."

Courageous members of the Persecuted Church with small percentages of Christians who risk their lives to share their faith do not have to evangelize. They choose to witness. — from *Voice of the Martyrs*

Some of the more orthodox Muslim leaders felt the people had failed in the practice of their Islamic faith. Thus, there was a constant pull to bring the nation back to the roots of Islamic fundamentalism. The voices that rose in favor of this were both religious and political. Although they represented the minority, their voices were both vocal and strident. From the religious side, it was a cry to move back to the Qur'an, and from the political side, to introduce *sharia* or Islamic law.

Modern Repercussions. From the fertile seedbed of historic fundamentalism, the religious schools that eventually trained many young men who joined the Taliban were developed. Though we have not seen the full expression of this conservative movement in Pakistan thus far, the Taliban rule in Afghanistan was fueled and reinforced by the religious schools in Pakistan.

Those connected with the fundamentalist movement in Pakistan were actually some of the most bitter opponents of the Western-led war in Afghanistan following the September 11 attacks in the United States. The sad, but predictable, results of their bitterness can be seen today in the persecution and violence against Christians in Pakistan, both local and Western.

Last year a church in Islamabad was destroyed. Christians of diverse nationalities were killed or severely wounded. Later a Christian hospital was attacked, resulting in much human suffering and injury among Pakistanis. A few days later, an international Christian boarding school suffered a blow. Several Pakistani staff members were wounded and many killed. Fortunately, the children at the school were miraculously spared.



The news continues to broadcast terroristic acts of cowardly measure.

Where are these events headed? What will be the state of the Christian community in Pakistan? Will Christian workers be able to continue working in Pakistan? Will the national church be able to preach and witness as their biblical mandate requires?

Answers to these questions may depend to a great extent on the intercessory prayer of God's people. Today Christians are challenged, grieved and puzzled by the horrific atrocities perpetrated by radical Muslims. The development of current events in Pakistan and other nations leaves us with a justified feeling of helplessness. But God is never helpless. In the midst of all of this, the Holy Spirit is powerfully at work and His kingdom is expanding. It is in the most tragic circumstances that hearts are opened to the truth of the gospel. This is happening not only in the United States, but also in some areas of the world that prior to the tragedies of September 11 were most resistant.

Let us pray earnestly that God will energize the Church in Pakistan and that all the Christian workers will expect a visitation from God. As we come before God and fill the vials of heaven with our prayers, they *will* make a difference. Please join your heart with ours before His throne of grace and mercy. ☪

Christians in Pakistan... Second class citizens

Operation World states that there are more than 3.5 million Christians in Pakistan. Unofficial estimates put it as high as twice that number. The official census count has not been released.

Most Christians in Pakistan come from the lowest strata of society and are often treated like untouchables. Poor and despised, they suffer a catalog of discrimination and abuse.

They do the lowliest, dirtiest and most dangerous jobs in appalling conditions, like sweeping the streets and cleaning the sewers.

They are vulnerable to exploitation by powerful landowners in rural areas.

They are forcibly evicted from their homes.

They are victims of injustice from the police and the courts of law.

They live in fear of the "blasphemy law" with its mandatory death sentence.

They are discriminated against in education and employment.

Their faith is often ridiculed and misrepresented in the media.

They are mistrusted and suspected by society at large, despite loyalty to their homeland.

Their women are often abducted and raped, then forced to marry their abductor.

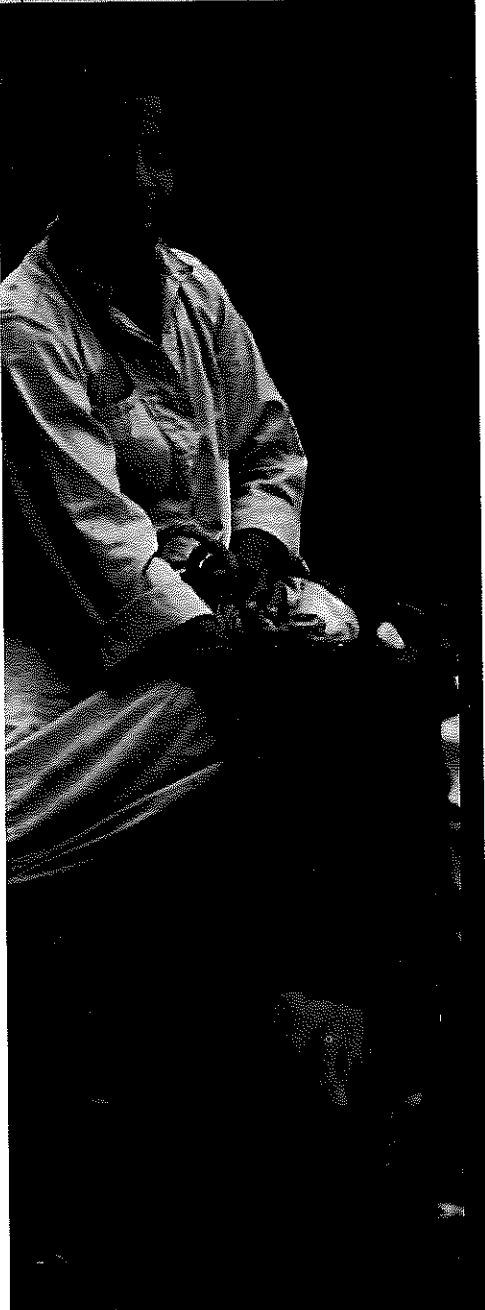
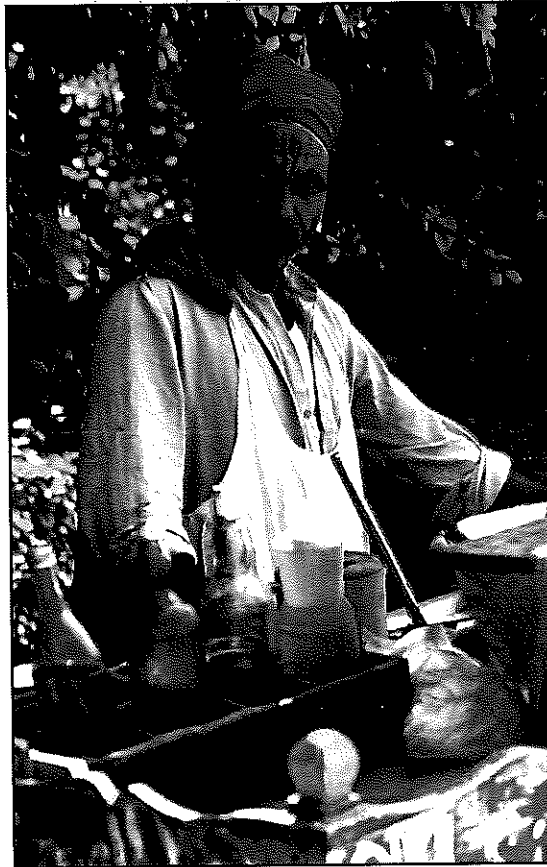
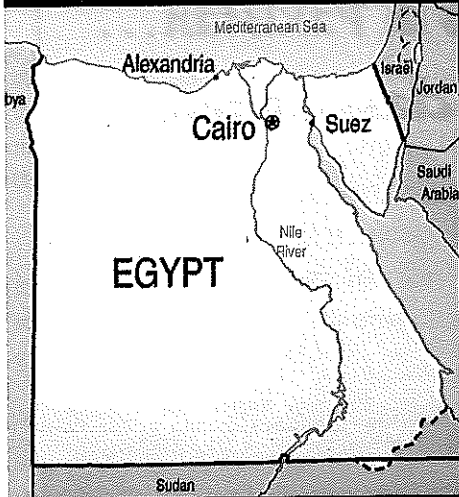
They feel powerless, voiceless and forgotten.

But...

They are strong in their faith and well taught, even those who are illiterate. They know by heart many Scriptures and basic doctrines, memorized as Punjabi poetry. — Barnabas Magazine

EGYPT

Unreached People Group . . . Bedouin of Egypt



Population: 71 million
Religion: Muslim 86%, Christian 15%
Official Language: Arabic
People: Egyptian Arab 84%, Sudanese Arab 5.5%, Berber 2%, Bedouin 2%, Gypsy 2%

The Arab Republic of Egypt (96 percent of which is desert, and only 3 percent arable land), is located along the banks of the Nile River.

Though Arabic speaking, 86.4 percent of the peoples are Egyptian descendants of the ancient Coptic-speaking people of biblical times. Opposition to the 1979 peace treaty led to Egypt's isolation in the Middle East, and in 1981 to President Sadat's assassination.

Islam is the state religion, and Cairo is the intellectual capital of Islam with Al Azhar University as the world's leading university for Islamic studies. Until recently the large Christian minority was left in relative peace so long as Muslims were not evangelized. Muslim fundamentalism has become a significant force over the last 15 years.

Location: northern Sahara
Population: 1,400,000
Religion: Sunni Muslim 100%
Language: Badawi

The Bedouin fall into two basic social classes. One class is known as the "true" Bedouin, and they live as nomadic shepherds. The other group has embraced farming and is known as the *fellahin*. The *fellahin* lead a more settled life on the edge of the desert. In contrast, the "true" Bedouin have been known for raiding any caravans that cross their paths while journeying across barren deserts. They move to the desert during the rainy seasons and back to the desert's edge during summer.

At present, there are no known Bedouin believers in Egypt. A profession of faith in Jesus may cost family, honor, occupation and even life. Evangelization among the Bedouin is challenging due to the harsh and unsettled nature of their lifestyle.



Pray that...

...the Holy Spirit will open the hearts of the Bedouin towards Christians so that they will be receptive to the gospel.

...God will raise up faithful intercessors who will stand in the gap for the Bedouin.

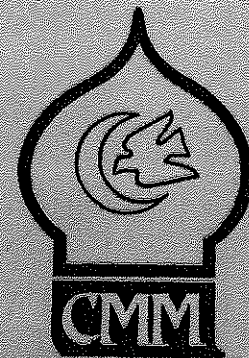
...God will reveal himself to the Bedouin through visions and dreams as they are watching their cattle.

...God will call people who are willing to reach out and share the love of Christ with them.

Information from *Operation World*, 2001 edition and Bethany World Prayer Center's "The Unreached Peoples Prayer Profiles."

Jumaa Prayer Fellowship

Praying for Muslims
around the World!



Friday, March 7, 2003. Please pray

...for the Islamic course being taught by CMM team members in Pune, India through March 14. Pray that the participants may be challenged and trained for meaningful outreach to Muslims.
...for the consultation and decisions being made at the AGMENA leadership conference in Cyprus.
...for the college students who are involved in a prayer pilgrimage in Morocco during their spring break. Pray that they will formulate life-changing decisions during these days.
...that all the participants in the Islamic seminars being held in Durban and Capetown, South Africa in the next two weeks will accept the challenge to share in the lives of Muslims. Pray for safety in travel for the CMM personnel who will be conducting these seminars.

Friday, March 14, 2003. Please pray

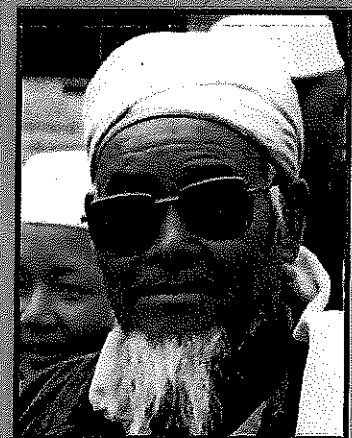
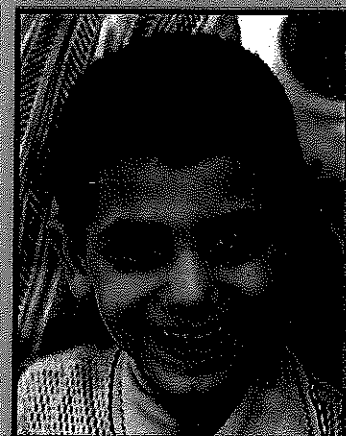
...for the CMM team member who will be holding an Islamic seminar in Sri Lanka next week. Pray that the students may learn how to effectively minister to Muslims in their own communities.
...for the Christians of the Aceh province of Indonesia that have seen 17 of their churches closed in September 2002. More than 10,000 have been deprived of their places of worship. Pray for God's intervention.
...that Christians in America who live in areas with high concentrations of Muslims will see the world through God's eyes and reach out to Muslims in friendship.
...for the protection of Robin Peranditta, one of the survivors of the September massacre at the Route of Peace and Justice in Karachi, Pakistan. He and his family are in great danger as the killers are still at large.

Friday, March 21, 2003. Please pray

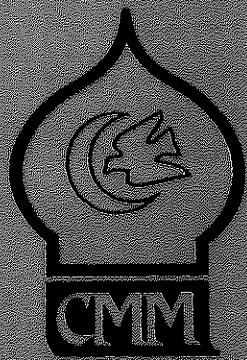
...for Arabic language Christian programs as they are being prepared and then beamed to satellites for hearing and viewing in the Arab world. Pray they will be a source of strength and inspiration.
...for some 155,000 Western Saharan refugees living in camps along the border of Algeria and Western Sahara. They are depending on food provided by the UN, which has been in short supply. Pray that God will intervene and restore the Saharawi to their own land, which has been settled by Moroccans since 1975.
...that God will preside over the elections in Nigeria due in early 2003, providing stability to that country once again. Pray that the religious and ethnic conflicts may be contained and that radical influences from outside the country will be nullified.

Friday, March 28, 2003. Please pray

...for Chechen Muslim refugees who are adjusting to life in France. Pray that Christians will reach out to them in love.
...for the situation in Turkey since the election in which an Islamic political party gained seats, a swing that could signal a rise in Islamic fervor. Pray that freedom will not be diminished.
...for the British government as they contend with extremist Muslims who are seeking to form a new Islamic Council of Britain and pressing for the introduction of sharia (Islamic law) among other aims. Pray for legislation that would deny them sanctuary.
...that other governments in Western Europe will prevent radical elements from causing havoc in pushing for sharia in countries such as Denmark, where Muslim leaders have openly declared their goal of introducing sharia.



I 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

Friday, April 4, 2003. Please pray

...for the CMM-sponsored 8-week Institute of Islamic Studies which begins next week at Asia Pacific Theological Seminary in Baguio, Philippines. Pray for safety in travel for all the participants, both students and faculty, and that they will be greatly impacted through the interaction with others involved in ministry among Muslims. Please remember to pray for this request throughout these two months.

...for the CMM member who will be teaching in the Kairos training institute in Brazil next week.
...that the government of Eritrea will allow the churches of Eritrea to be reopened and that the people will be free to worship God according to the dictates of their hearts.
...that the United States will continue to make policy changes to deal with ongoing human rights abuses in the Sudan and make sure the government of Sudan is adhering to the agreements made.

Friday, April 11, 2003. Please pray

...for the survivors of Laskar Jihad "religious cleansing" in Ambon and Sulawesi, Indonesia. The town of Poso, once a mostly Christian town of 40,000, now has a totally Muslim population of 5,000 with all its churches destroyed.

...for the Christian students at a Canadian university who feel outnumbered by a Muslim students' group. Pray that these Christians will be strengthened and encouraged.

...for Christians in Iraq who feel the pressure and fear of an attack by the United States. One third of the country's Christians emigrated during the 1990s. Pray that those remaining will see Iraq through God's eyes and accept His challenge to them.

Friday, April 18, 2003. Please pray

...for the Iranian society that faces rising drug addiction, prostitution, HIV/AIDS and suicide. Pray that these social problems will drive the country to look for the root causes and that Christians will share their hope in Christ.

...for Christians in Pakistan who have joined in a coalition to appeal for government protection from the escalating brutal religious persecution. Since 9/11, Pakistani officials have documented 30 deaths and more than 100 injuries that have occurred last year because of terrorist bombings.

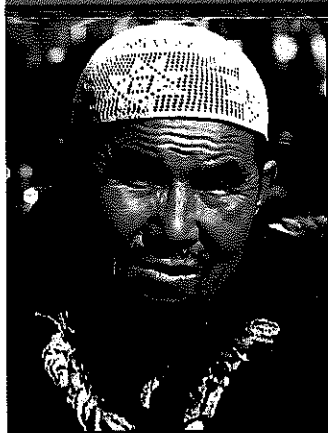
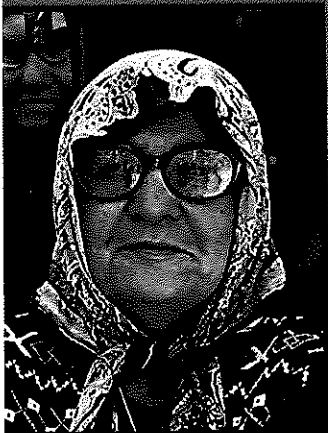
...for Arab Christians in the Holy Land. Pray that through patience and persistence they will be able to find opportunities for employment to enable them to provide for their families. They need more than humanitarian aid.

Friday, April 25, 2003. Please pray

...that the students who are studying at the South East Asia Institute of Islamic Studies (SEAIIS) in Thailand will assimilate all the material being taught. Pray for the CMM team member who will be teaching next week.

...that God will stay the hand of radical Muslims in Kenya who are jostling for political power to achieve religious supremacy in the country. Thousands are claimed to have converted to Islam in order to get cheap education and other benefits.

...for the ongoing conflict in Ivory Coast that forced the evacuation of the mission school in Bouake. Pray that the rebel forces will not gain control of the government, since that would likely bring more favor to Islam and more opposition to Christianity.



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