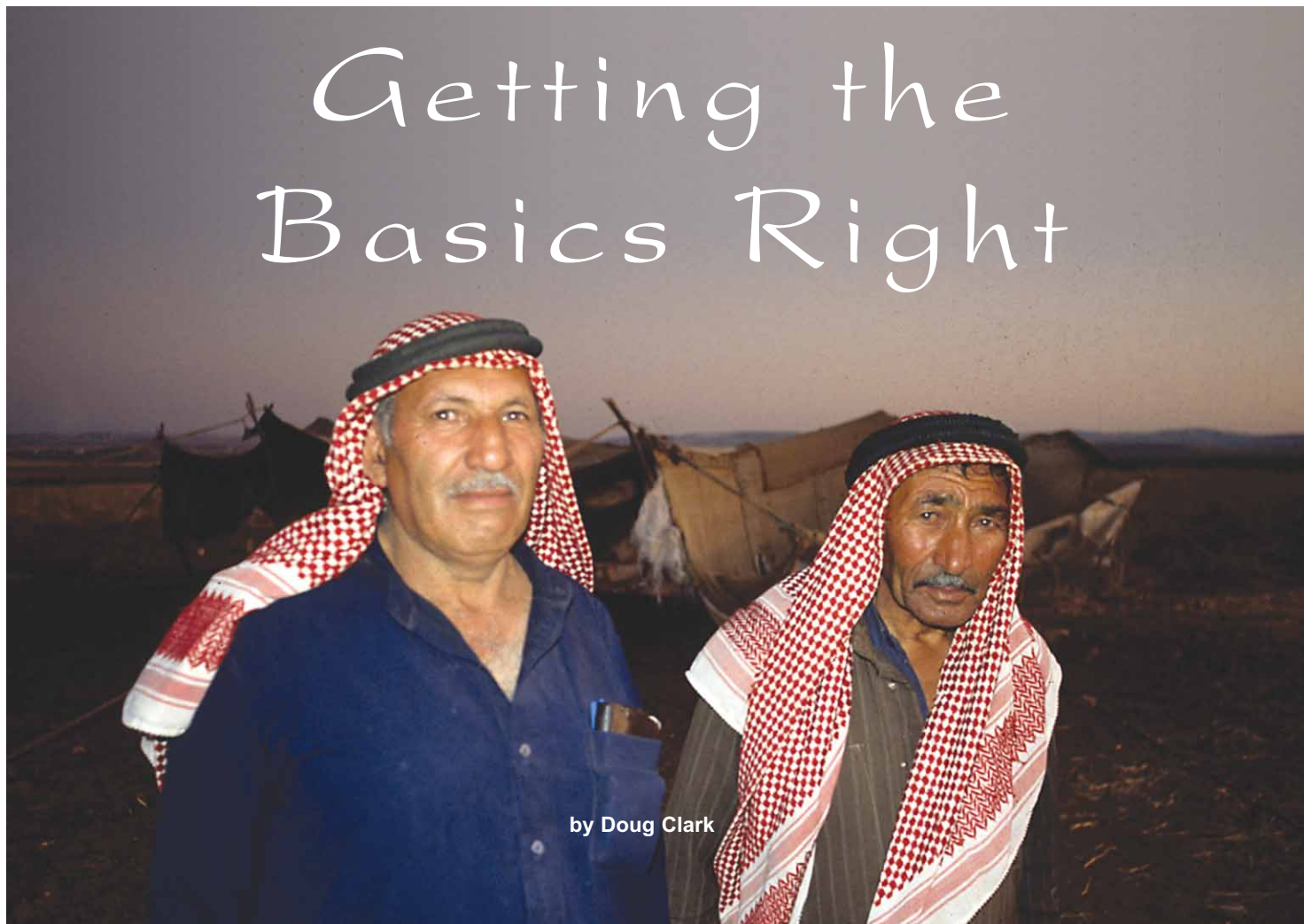


Getting the Basics Right



by Doug Clark

Ruth and I met our first Muslim family when we were students. For Hamid and Halimah, the University of California at Davis was very different from their home country of Tunisia. We helped Halima with her English and shared some meals together. When we left to attend Turkish language school in Monterrey, they accepted an Arabic New Testament as a parting gift.

Looking back at those times, I realize how easily we came together. It was natural for Hamid and Halima to look for friendships within the university community. For a first effort, we did okay. But there were four things we needed to learn.

REPENTANCE: Sounds like a strange place to start, but the truth is, Ruth and I had few friends outside our own middle-

class white American culture. No Hispanics, Blacks or Orientals. No foreigners. It never crossed our minds that we needed to draw the circle of our “comfort zone” a lot wider.

Target or Talbots? PBS or ESPN? My comfort zone is made up of my background, my music, my lifestyle, my choice of friends. But if my comfort zone only includes people like me, what makes me think I can suddenly fit my Muslim neighbor or co-worker into it?

Muslims come from all ethnic backgrounds: from “Black” West Africans to “Oriental” Central Asians, from “Mediterranean” Berbers to “Caucasian” Albanians and Croatians.

Before I hope to share Christ’s love with Muslims, I need to do



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



A Call to Prayer

In this issue's lead article *Getting the Basics* by Doug Clark, he says "Before I hope to share Christ's love with Muslims, I need to do more than sing 'Change My Heart, O God.' Praying for them is a good way to start." I couldn't agree more – and I'll take advantage of this space to talk to you about effective ways to pray for Muslims.


(1) Join Jumaa Prayer Fellowship! *Jumaa* is the Arabic word for Friday, and on Fridays Muslims go to their mosques to listen to a weekly sermon and participate in corporate prayer. For us, *Jumaa* Prayer Fellowship is a way to call on the worldwide body of Christ to help us intercede for Muslims. *Jumaa* Prayer Fellowships meet in churches and Bible schools around the world. Many individuals simply find a quiet place in their homes and intercede for an hour. Our estimate is that a minimum of 30,000 people participate in *Jumaa* Prayer Fellowship each week. Some cannot pray at noon, but they find another time during the day to intercede. We also suggest to *Jumaa* participants that they fast a meal on Fridays, preferably the noon meal. While we do not require anyone to "officially" register to participate in *Jumaa* Prayer Fellowship, it would certainly encourage us to receive a note from you.

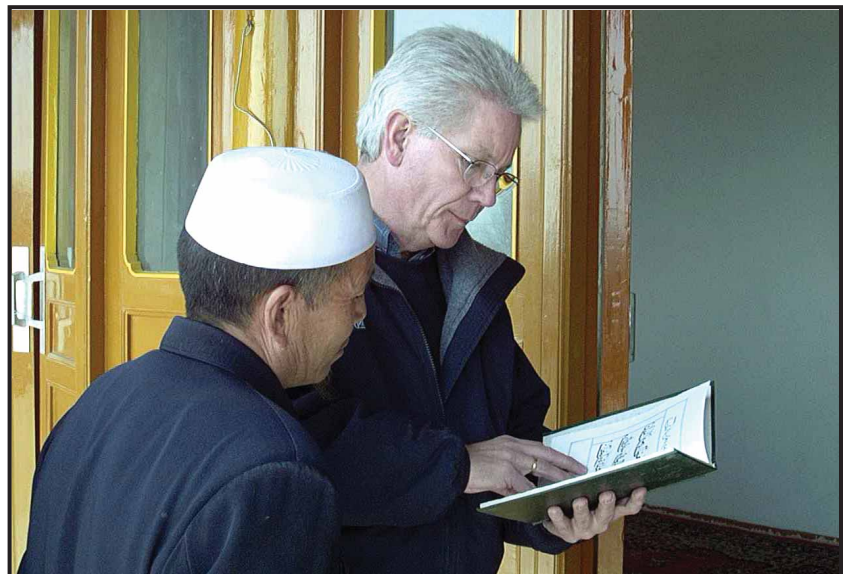
(2) Use *Intercede*. Each bi-monthly issue of *Intercede* provides relevant prayer requests for each Friday. Requests have been gleaned from sources who closely monitor events and ministry happenings in the Muslim world. Often prayer is requested for a CMM team member who is engaged in a key ministry assignment somewhere in the world. In addition to prayer requests, *Intercede* contains informative articles about Islam and news items pertaining to current events in Muslim countries. Proper information helps us to pray more effectively. Current *Intercede* prayer items can be downloaded via the internet at <CMMequip.org>. *Intercede* is sent out to 106 countries, and new subscribers join us regularly. For first-time subscribers, write to the CMM address in this

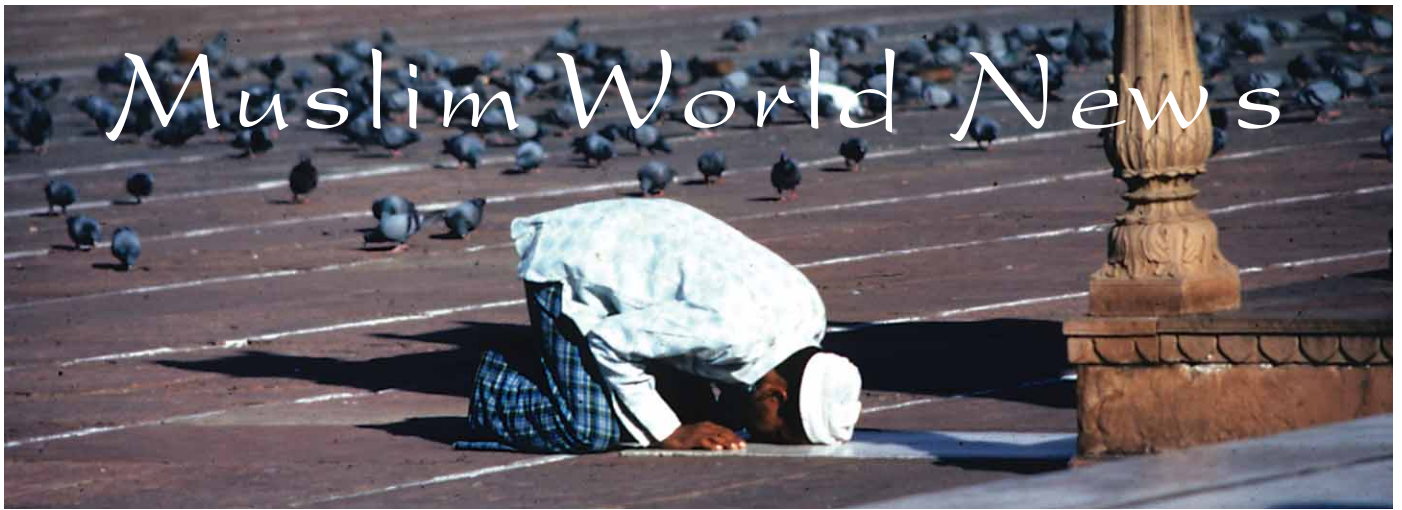
Intercede and request a free subscription. I like to say, "The weekly cost is one hour of intercession and one meal fasted."

Last April, I participated in a great Latin American Missions Congress in El Salvador. One of their goals is to enlist *one million intercessors* to pray for the world's 1.2 billion Muslims. It looks like help is on the way! Please join us.

Closing Call to Prayer:

- For CMM's recently launched website in Arabic and English called <TheLightofTruth.com> — which is geared toward the Muslim seeker.
- For our <CMMequip.org> website — it was recently hacked into and obscenities were placed on the site.
- For wisdom and protection for the CMM team as we conduct Awareness Seminars and Institutes of Islamic Studies in strategic spots around the world.
- For adequate finances to sustain the ministries of CMM.
- For the thousands of Muslim background believers whose lives are often in danger. 





Uzbekistan

Baptist Vsevolod Kalinin has been refused a residence permit to live in his own home, an apartment he owns in the capital city, Tashkent. A representative of the Tashkent city administration said that Kalinin's religious convictions were the main reason for refusing him a residence permit. On two previous occasions, he has been refused a residence permit in a long-running struggle that, in Tashkent, goes back to 2002.—*VOM*

Eritrea

Police disrupted a Christian marriage ceremony in Senafe on July 25, and arrested 30 guests and members of the wedding party. Police officers ordered everyone who was not a "Pente" (a derisive abbreviation for Pentecostal) to leave. Many guests did leave, but the 30 evangelical Christians who remained were taken to a police station. All but two were released after signing a document promising not to participate in any more evangelical Christian weddings. Police continue to hold an evangelist named Michel, and Teame Kibrom, a man in his 80s. Officials declared the two responsible for the wedding that defied a government ban on evangelical church activities. More than 400 evangelical Christians are currently imprisoned by the Eritrean government.—*Compass*

Malaysia

Religious freedom has become a hot topic in recent weeks, sparked by a decision made in the Kelantan Sharia Court. Four Malay Muslims had originally applied to change their religion in 1992. Since all ethnic Malays are considered Muslims from birth under the constitution, all four were imprisoned for 20 months. The four eventually renounced Islam under a commissioner of oaths in 1998, hoping to sidestep the sharia (Islamic law) court system. They were then sentenced to contempt of court. Malaysians are now debating whether ethnic Malays have the right to choose their own religion under the constitution and sharia.—*Compass*

Pakistan

The strict Islamic laws passed under the military dictatorship of late General Muhammad Zia-ul-Haq in 1979 should be studied afresh to ensure they were not misused, President Pervaiz Musharraf said at a human rights convention on May 15. Ten days later, the Jamiat Ulema-i-Islam political party announced it won't permit changes in the legislation of which Musharraf spoke: the blasphemy laws, which call for the death penalty against those who defame the Prophet Mohammed, and the Hudood Ordinance, which are laws

based on Islamic sharia. Pakistanis have suffered because of false blasphemy charges. In 2000 alone, 52 cases were registered—43 against Muslims and nine against Christians.—*Pulse*

Saudi Arabia

Four months after he was tortured and jailed for "spreading Christianity" in Saudi Arabia, Indian Christian Brian O'Connor received his first official visits. O'Connor was lured out of his home in Riyadh on March 25 and arrested by a group of Saudi muttawa (religious police), who beat him, claiming he was dealing in drugs, alcohol and the spread of Christianity. In July, two representatives from O'Connor's embassy visited him at Al-Hair Jail, followed the next day by a representative of the governor's office in Riyadh. At the end of that interview, the man told O'Connor that within 10 to 15 days' time, he would either be sent back to his job or deported to India. "I am confident that the Lord will turn this mess into a message and my test into a testimony," O'Connor told a visitor last week. Although Saudi government officials claim to exercise "practical tolerance" toward non-Muslims who worship privately in their homes, in legal terms freedom of religion does not exist within the kingdom of Saudi Arabia.—*Compass*

Getting the J

by Doug

more than sing “Change my heart, O God.” Praying for them is a good way to start. And hard as it may be, I may need to ask God’s forgiveness for drawing my own comfort zone so small and cozy in the first place.

INTENTIONALITY: On our university campus just outside Sacramento in 1975, Halima was looking for a friend. Muslims were a rarity. Not today. Tens of thousands of Muslims study every year at U.S. colleges and universities, where they are met early on by the campus association of Islamic organizations and warned against Western attempts to convert them.

You will only win a Muslim to Christ when you make that your ministry focus. A wave and a cheery “Hi, how are you?” won’t cut it. You must create space in your life for them.

A few years ago, I visited a young man and his wife who were serious about sharing Christ’s love with their Muslim neighbors. Their home was simple and neat; most Muslim women are fanatic housekeepers. They kept no pork products in their refrigerator; Muslims abhor pigs as unclean animals. This very California wife was dressed modestly with her arms and legs covered, and she let her husband lead the conversation, as a Muslim woman would do. Their Muslim neighbors saw them as devout, God-fearing parents who honored Christ.

Most of all, this young family went out of their way to restructure their lives. They invited their Muslim friends to dinner, turned off the TV and the cell phone, and spent the entire evening in conversation. When the invitation was returned, they went expecting to let the children nap on a bed while the adults talked late into the night. And they did not show discomfort when the subject turned to spiritual things. They bathed every visit with prayer.

For Ruth and me, as for most Americans, this level of involvement of others in our incredibly busy lives has never been easy to accept. But for many Muslims, intentionally rewriting the agenda of our lives so they can feel comfortable and wanted is a powerful statement about how much Jesus wants them, too.

BECOMING A LEARNER: Hamid and Halima rarely dressed like Muslims. His English was quite good (he was

Basics Right

Clark

doing graduate study). They were conservative but modern Arabs from Tunisia, a small, rapidly developing country in North Africa. We thought we had done our “homework” by reading the Qur’an (their holy book) and learning the basics of Islamic faith.

As Ruth and I have spent the last 30 years in the Muslim world, we’ve determined (there’s that word again) to remain learners. Our landlord, who lived one floor above us in Istanbul was a Sufi. He and his family followed the poetic, mystical Islamic teachings of Jalaluddin Rumi, founder of the so-called “whirling dervishes.”

“Old Uncle Ahmet,” the first believer we met in Izmir, Turkey, was a very secular Muslim. Others we’ve known have been drowning in the despair of Islamic occult practices. Each Muslim God has brought across our path has been a new challenge to learn about their homeland, their customs, and what values drive their daily lives.

Each year we have read books on Islam, attended conferences on North Africa, the Middle East or the Arabian Peninsula, and subscribed to newsletters from organizations interested in helping Muslims understand who Jesus really is. Each month brings dozens of “prayer letters” to our door from friends around the world who are actively sharing their faith with Muslims.

There’s a lot left to learn. As an “enthusiastic” guitarist, I would love to take a college course in ethno-musicology (the study of music from cultures around the world). Each visit to a Borders bookstore, I find new titles, especially fiction, that plunge me more deeply into the emotional cross-currents of Muslim culture.

Like the culture of any other world religion, Muslim culture is complex. But one thing remains constant for all Muslims, wherever they may call home: they are a Muslim first, and everything else is viewed from that perspective. So the farther away I stand from them, the more I look like everyone else in this over-worked, stressed-out, sex-crazed and rootless culture we Americans love so much.

TIME: “Time is money,” we say. Muslims say that, too, but mean exactly the opposite. We mean, “My time is too valuable for me to waste it on you.” They mean, “Time is the

most precious gift I can give you, and I give it freely as a token of my respect for you.”


Ruth and I were waiting for the service to begin at a California church where we were speaking, when someone told us, “Just thought you’d like to know, there’s a Muslim lady here tonight.” A few minutes later, we saw her singing choruses with her hands raised in worship.

After the service, tired and facing a two-hour drive home, we decided to stay and hear Nejla’s story. Nejla was raised in a Palestinian refugee camp, and saw her mother killed and her home destroyed by Israeli jets on a night raid. She was taken into the home of an uncle in Jordan, and was married off in her early teens to a sheik (Islamic teacher) who beat her. In the divorce, she lost her only child, a daughter, to him.

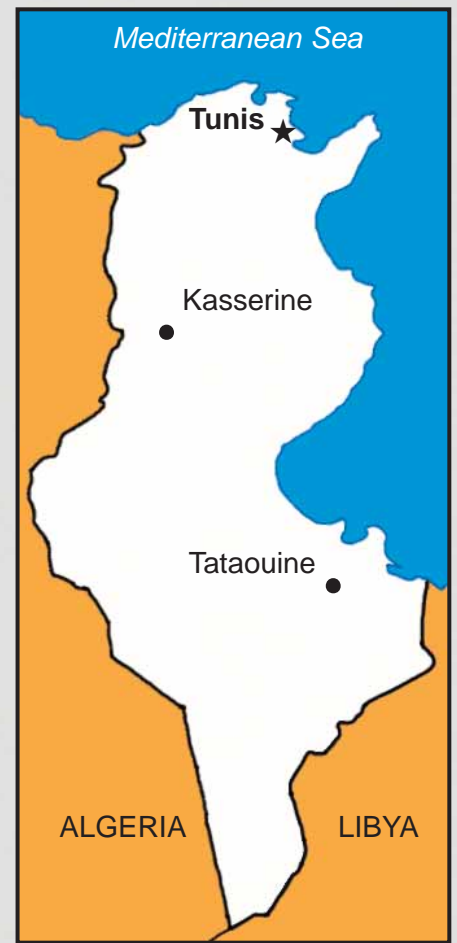
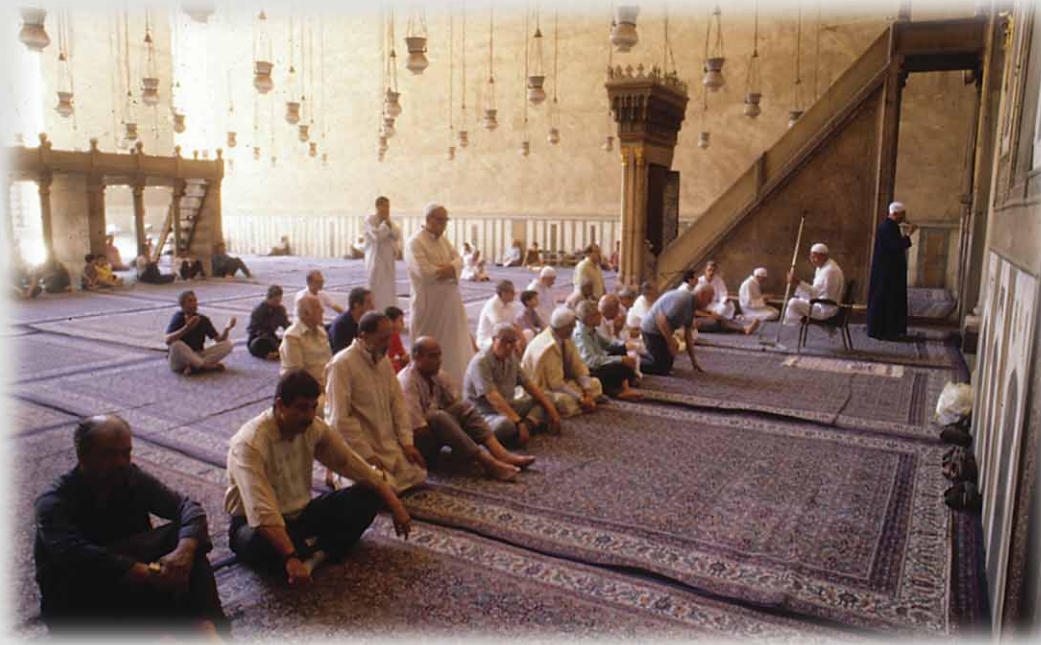
A second arranged marriage to yet another sheik proved even more abusive than the first, and the police in the U.S. town where they were living gave her an ultimatum: “Come with us right now, or you’ll be dead by morning!” She left and hid in an isolated community where he could not find her again.

With her mother dead, her daughter taken from her by the courts, and her life ruined by two different men, Nejla hated God and everyone else. But God saw fit to place her next door to an Assemblies of God woman who refused to be put off by her bitterness and anger. Elsie simply reached out again and again to say, “Jesus loves you, and so do I.” Gradually, over many months, Nejla saw Jesus in Elsie and reached out to Him.

Experience has taught Ruth and me that both Muslim and American culture are shot through with violence and abusive relationships. The difference is that Muslim culture does a far better job of concealing it from public view. And only time will turn concealing into revealing, and permit revealing to lay hold of the healing that only Christ can bring.

THE BOTTOM LINE: Repentance, intentionality, staying in a learner-mode, and restructuring my time may not come easy, even after 30 years of working with Muslims. But neither does getting enough sleep, eating right and not overspending. It’s getting the basics right—again and again—that frees me to enjoy everything that God has for me. And that includes the joy of seeing Muslims find Jesus in me. 

TUNISIA



Population: 10 million
Religions: Muslims 99.66%, Christian .22%
Official Language: Arabic, but French is widely used
Peoples: Arab, with mixed Berber and Arab descent

Tunisia is located in North Africa, on the coast of the Mediterranean Sea. The northern part of the country is covered by mountainous agricultural land while the south is covered by the Sahara Desert.

Tunisia was the site of Carthage, the notable civilization 200 years before Christ. In its modern history Tunisia was ruled by France until 1956. Tunisia is a republic with presidential government and a single party state. The repression of fundamentalist Muslims has been severe, with frequent human rights abuses.

Islam is the state religion. The government has maintained a secular tone and only a minority actively practice their faith. Though tolerance is shown to other religions, Christian witness is frowned on. The indigenous population is almost totally unreached and there are few known evangelical believers.

Pray
that...

...God will raise up faithful intercessors who will stand in the gap for the Sahel Bedouin.
...their traditional Muslim culture will soften, creating open doors for the gospel to be preached among them.
...God will strengthen, encourage and protect the 190 or so known Sahel Bedouin believers living in Tunisia.

Unreached People Group...

Sahel Bedouin

Population: 2 million
Religion: Muslim (Malakite) 99.9%
Language: Badawi, commonly known as Bedouin Arabic
Location: Arabian Desert, primarily in southern Tunisia

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 into the desert during the rainy winter seasons and back to the desert's edge during the summers.

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, November 5, 2004. Please pray

...for the Institute of Islamic Studies that is being held in Romania now through November 12. Pray that this institute will impact the lives of the students and many will become full-time workers among Muslims.

...for the Introduction to Islam class that is being held at a Bible college in Albania next week. Pray for safety for the CMM team member teaching the class, and that the students will be challenged to reach out to Muslims in their community.

Friday, November 12, 2004. Please pray

...for strength and boldness to fill the hearts of Christian leaders in Yemen, and for proper training that they may be effective witnesses in their nation.

...for Iraqi Christians who are struggling to overcome an unprecedented wave of attacks and kidnappings. Many work for coalition forces and are being singled out for deadly attacks.

...for a farming village in Cote d'Ivoire that was attacked by rebel Islamic forces. Several civilians were killed. Pray that God will bring peace and stability to this community.

...for the salvation of A.B., an Arab Muslim who is married to an American Christian. Pray for supernatural wisdom for this Christian wife.

...that millions of Christians will join in beseeching God on behalf of their persecuted brothers and sisters in Christ many of whom are imprisoned and live under oppressive Muslim regimes. Sunday, November 14 is the International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church.

Friday, November 19, 2004. Please pray

...for Bible studies and other outreaches to Muslim communities in the United States. Many are hungry for the truth.

...for more Christian leaders to mentor and minister to young Lebanese people who feel hopeless and full of despair. Pray that the Lord will bring new life to the youth of Lebanon.

...that many Muslims will find the website <thelightoftruth.com> and read the magazine Noor ul Haq/The Light of Truth and find the truth in Christ.

Friday, November 26, 2004. Please pray

...that God will use leaders of Christian development organizations in Somalia to serve the refugees of this shattered land. May their hearts of compassion bring physical, emotional and spiritual healing to these people.

...that a clear presentation of the gospel will be available to the Sunni Muslim Arabs of Syria who have yet to hear it.

...for the continuation of supernatural healings and church planting among Muslims in India. Praise God for 15 Islamic workers and their families who were baptized in West Bengal.

**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, December 3, 2004. Please pray

...for the situation in Turkmenistan where evangelical Christianity is illegal. Christians are subject to threats and intimidation, even death, because of unregistered religious activity. Pray for religious freedom.

...for the many Muslims throughout the world who have seen the film, The Passion of the Christ. Pray that their lives will be transformed by an encounter with the living Lord.

...for effective television programs geared to sharing the message of Jesus with Muslims in America and throughout the world.

Friday, December 10, 2004. Please pray

...that the youth programs on SAT-7 will attract more young viewers, who will be touched through watching the programs.

...for wisdom for political leaders in Somalia as they deal with the critical issue of crime in the nation. Pray that the love and peace of God will flood that nation.

...for Christian leaders in the villages of Chad, that Muslim people will see them live out their faith with godliness and love.

Friday, December 17, 2004. Please pray

...for political stability and spiritual breakthrough in Guinea, so it will no longer be one of Africa's least evangelized countries.

...that a door of opportunity will be opened in Western Sahara and that God will raise up Christian leaders to spread the gospel in this land. Pray that the proud and stubborn spirit of the nomads will be soft and receptive to the gospel.

...that the gospel will spread in Afghanistan in spite of the growing Islamic extremism being perpetuated by Taliban guerrillas.

Friday, December 24, 2004. Please pray

...for Rami, a Palestinian convert who needs serious discipling as he is still a weak Christian and burdened by family pressure and social pressure.

...for the many displaced people in Indonesia. Two young women fled from their homes when the entire community was forced to convert to Islam. Pray that Christians will be strengthened and elected to offices on these islands.

Friday, December 31, 2004. Please pray

...for the Christian leaders and a popular Christian singer who have been detained and placed in a metal container in Eritrea. Pray for daily strength and comfort of the Holy Spirit for each of them.

...that God will protect Christians in Iraq. Fearing for their lives, many are fleeing the country. Pray that religious freedom will prevail in this land, on paper and in reality.

...for a Turkish couple in Florida. A church reached out to them at a difficult time in their lives. The wife became a Christian. Pray that the husband will make the same decision.