

INTERCEDE

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MUSLIM

FUNDAMENTALISM

According to Webster's Tenth Edition, fundamentalism is a term coined in 1922 to define "a movement in 20th century Protestantism emphasizing the literally interpreted Bible as fundamental to Christian life and teaching... a movement or attitude stressing strict and literal adherence to a set of basic principles."

We know that even today evangelical Christians in the States are often referred to as "Christian fundamentalists." However, the world's people are also using the term "fundamentalists" when referring to radical Muslims as well. Yet as we look closely at the "work" of the Muslim radicals in many areas of the world, we see that although they use the "cover" of "a movement stressing strict and literal adherence to a set of basic principles," they are oftentimes driven more by political motivations than by religious motives.

Most political fundamentalists are cunning individuals who use Islam as a tool to acquire money and power. As long as they can stir up the naive into frenzied action through slogans and passionate rhetoric, they will march under the banner of Islam. But when the moment comes that their purposes are no longer served by strict Islam, they will abandon its mottos for democracy, socialism, education, business or any other agent that will do their bidding. Their hypocrisy is often evident as they publicly espouse one holy standard of living and privately indulge in drunken revelry and prostitution.

Quite often the religious fundamentalist is even more dangerous though from the standpoint of human rights because he is more apt to follow Qur'anic inter-



pretation to the letter and demand its imposition on his wife, his children, his neighbors, his countrymen and all the citizens of the

world. He is driven by a fanatic legalism.

This fragmentation has fostered severe human rights abuses as fundamentalist governments in many nations have arrested and even killed numerous Muslims that would not bow to their wishes.

The day before this article was written a "religious fundamentalist" entered a "political fundamentalist" mosque in Sudan's capital city and killed 20 with an

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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



M Normally this space would speak at least partially to the content of the lead article. However, since this is the first time for me to address *Intercede* readers in this format, I will depart from the norm and talk from my heart.

For the past several days the word *gratitude* has been resonating in my spirit, and that is where I want to start.

First, I am grateful to the Lord of the harvest for calling me to live and work in Jordan, a 94 percent Muslim country.

Twenty-eight years ago my wonderful wife and I were busy caring for our two young sons and pastoring a church in America. In my early teen years the Lord had placed on me a strong call to be a missionary, though I had no clear indication of where He wanted me to go. After pastoring for five years, specific direction came to me while I was reading an article about a ministry in the Middle East with an emphasis on reaching Muslims with the gospel. A "light" of direction switched on for me, and my wife and I immediately began making preparations to work in the Arab world.

By September 1974 my family was living in Amman, Jordan, experiencing the first pangs of Arabic language study in a culturally-distant world from the one we had left. The years of living in the Arab world have provided invaluable experiences and marked my life in many positive ways. I am culturally enriched and I remain spiritually challenged by the enormity of the missions task to reach the world of Islam.

Second, I am grateful for the faithful ministry of CMM's leadership and personnel.

The ministry of CMM has flourished and borne great fruit since its inception in 1982. Several times missionaries have said to me, "It was through CMM that I first felt drawn to the Muslim world." It's encouraging to know that more than 21,000 believers in 56 nations have been touched by CMM training sessions and many are today effectively reaching their Muslim neighbors with Christ's love.

A debt of gratitude is owed to Ron Peck for providing excellent leadership to CMM for the past eight years, and I know he will continue to have a strong impact on the Muslim world as he serves as CMM's director of development.

I also wish to say thanks for a fine team of CMM missionary colleagues. No one could have a better group of people to partner with in the task of reaching Muslims with the gospel. Collectively the CMM team has more than 170 years of experience in Muslim evangelism! All are committed to CMM's mission: *to be a facilitating ministry to assist the Church worldwide in bringing an adequate witness of Jesus Christ to every Muslim on earth.*

Additionally, I am grateful for a superb office staff.

Third, I am grateful for CMM's prayer and financial partners.

Intercession is the foundation of all we do at CMM. We give thanks that more than 30,000 people join us each Friday to intercede for the world's 1.2 billion Muslims. It is fitting also to say thank you to CMM's many financial partners, without whom this work could not go on. Bless you for your faithfulness.

Most of all, however, I am grateful to the Lord Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world.

Our pluralistic world will continue to exert pressure in both subtle and overt ways for us to compromise our position regarding the person of Jesus Christ. In John 14:6, Jesus says, "I am the way and the truth and the life." Simon Peter, in his post-Pentecost appearance before the Sanhedrin, frames it perfectly:

"Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved." It is to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, that we owe our greatest debt of gratitude.

Please continue to support the work of CMM. Truly the fields are ripe and we need your continued partnership to reap this great harvest. May God bless you.

I am grateful to the Lord of the harvest...

- for calling me to live and work in Jordan;*
- for the faithful ministry of CMM's leadership and personnel;*
- for CMM's prayer and financial partners; and*
- for the Lord Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world!*





Somalia

East African nations feeling the strain of hosting thousands of Somalis for nearly a decade are urging refugees to return home now that a central government is in place. But many Somali nationals are reluctant to take that step until they are sure that warlords who have run the country since 1991 will allow the new government to function. Three Somali factions challenged the legitimacy of Hassan's government and advocated the creation of a new Federal Republic of Somalia.

Many Somalis who fled their country when the government of Siad Barre was overthrown lack refugee status. Many who sought asylum through the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and placement in refugee camps feared for their safety when the process took longer than expected; they entered neighboring countries illegally.

—Newsroom

Turkey

Six Turks and two expatriates have been charged by a Turkish court with opening a Christian training institute without legal permission. If convicted, they face a potential jail sentence of 18 months to three years.

Police arrested the eight Christians during a regular weeknight Bible study in their rented facilities, which are officially registered as a place of worship. The Christians maintain they were meeting only for worship, not training, and had followed the proper procedures.

Under Turkish law, religious groups are required to inform local authorities of premises designated for religious worship, listing the days and times of regular meetings.

During a September 9 hearing, the judge ordered an investigation to confirm whether notification had been duly filed. The next hearing was set for April 12, 2001.

—Compass

Kenya

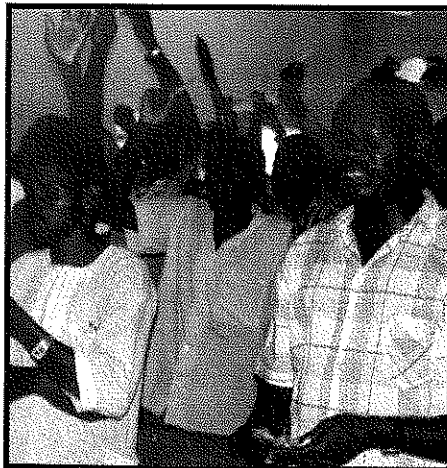
In response to the Middle East crisis last year, Muslims in Kenya have held several demonstrations demanding that the Israeli embassy in Nairobi be closed. Protesters in Mombasa and Nairobi also called on the government of Kenya to sever diplomatic relations with the United States.

Meanwhile, fierce fighting between Muslim youths and slum dwellers of Nairobi's Mukuru area intensified and spread to several neighboring slums and residential areas following a dispute over a 12-acre piece of land next to a mosque. The mosque was destroyed and at least four people were killed, scores injured and some churches burned. Some religious leaders said they believed the fighting was part of a broader effort intended to spark religious violence.

—Newsroom

Burkina Faso

A village church among Fulanis has had a visitation by the Holy Spirit. Every adult was baptized in the Holy Spirit during services with special emphasis on the Holy Spirit. As a result, the church has moved in divine power for witness.



Following a shared vision by the pastor's wife concerning their witness, the church organized a door-to-door witness in the community. At least six people made commitments to Christ.

One Fulani convert has since led three other Fulani to accept Christ as Savior.

The church is now more exuberant in testimony and prayer, and new visitors continue to come.

—Missionary letter

Indonesia

Attacks on Christian villages by Muslim *jihad* warriors in Indonesia's eastern Maluku province last November have left more than 50 people dead, according to news reports. The most deadly attack came on the same day that provincial leaders were planning ways to stop bloodshed during the upcoming religious holiday season, when sectarian attacks often are sparked.

Two years of violence across the province has killed 4,000 people and chased more than 500,000 from their homes. Thousands of Muslim *jihad* warriors, trained elsewhere in the country, have entered the region with the expressed aim of eradicating Christians.

—Newsroom

Egypt

Islamic scholars of El Azhar University in Cairo, which is known as the spiritual center of Islam, have decided to approve the *Jesus* film as reliable and good. This was reported by the Egyptian newspaper *El Wagd*. The scholars have checked the film for possible problems with Islam and to see whether it offends Islam, but they could not find anything of the kind.

Though the Islamic scholars disagreed with some of the facts about the life of Jesus in the film because of their religion, these facts form no reason to censure or forbid the film. This means that Muslims may now view the evangelism film without feeling guilty.

—Islam Development Brief



MUSLIM FUNDAMENTALISM

automatic rifle, wounding 40 others.

The untold story of human rights abuse in Sudan, as well as in other Islamic nations, is the many moderate Muslims who suffer and even die at the hands of Muslim fundamentalists. Countless sincere Muslims have often remarked, "*Please do not think we are all like them [the fundamentalists]. They are a cancer on Islam.*"

Although there are many areas of the world where Muslim fundamentalists are actively trying to displace governments and eradicate Christians, we want to focus on two nations that are currently experiencing great upheavals because of radical Muslim forces: *Sudan* and *Indonesia*.

SUDAN

Sudan is one of the most beautiful and most wretched places to both grace and scar the earth. I love her for her people, her simple charm and her rugged beauty. Yet I shudder at Sudan for she has fostered some of the most inhumane acts of our generation.

Immediately following her independence on July 1, 1956, Sudan's parliament, which was dominated by Muslims, declared her to be an Islamic republic and began to take advantage of the fragmented southern Sudanese minorities, many of whom were Christian. The south rebelled and the civil war that resulted is its ongoing legacy. Since 1983 more than 2 million Sudanese have perished as a result of war.

In 1985 Muslim fundamentalists came to power under the banner of the Muslim Brotherhood and escalated the conflict to its current standards. Today 5 million Sudanese are displaced. It is believed that more Christians die for their faith annually in Sudan than in any other country of the world. In the past five years alone, Christians have been crucified, beheaded, burned, imprisoned, beaten, buried alive, systematically raped, enslaved, tortured and starved.

Muslim fundamentalists in Sudan are shrewd and calculating men who have spread their mantle of control over the military, the educational institutions and the industrial pillars of the economy. There is no position of influence in the Sudan—whether in the private or public sector—that is not held by a member of the fundamentalist circle. Even their crusades against the rights of Christians and Muslims are well orchestrated.

- ❑ Seeds of division are sown among the southern

Sudanese tribes through the bait of greed and the tool of manipulation.

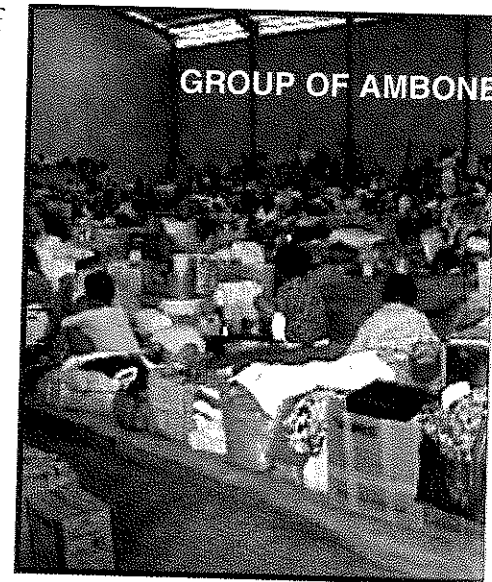
- ❑ Children are targeted for "reorientation" through slavery and forced Qur'anic instruction because the fundamentalists realize that if they can win the emerging generation, they will win the war.
- ❑ The systematic raping of Christian women has been documented as a means to dilute tribal purity and to father Muslim children.
- ❑ Promotions and employment are only afforded to those Muslims who will bow to fundamentalist practice.
- ❑ Degrees are awarded to graduating southern Sudanese university students only if they will fight against their own people for a two-year period.
- ❑ Muslims posing as converts or Southerners serve as government informers and routinely infiltrate Christian groups. Certain immoral "Christians" are appointed to token government positions and paraded publicly as is convenient.
- ❑ Judicial courts and legislative bodies are intentionally set up to deny any Christian from obtaining a legitimate position of influence.

INDONESIA

Indonesia is one of the most diverse countries in the world in language, culture and religion. The nation's population, which exceeds 210 million people, is spread over more than 13,500 islands.

While Indonesia's constitution has protected freedom of religion under the banner of the *Pancasila* philosophy, *Pancasila* recognizes four major religions: Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism and Islam.

Though there has always been discrimination against



churches throughout Indonesia's history, it hasn't been until recent years—1997 forward—that the situation has turned violent. There are many reports that Christians are being forced at gunpoint to convert to Islam.

There have been both positive and negative effects of the growing fanaticism in Indonesia. From a negative standpoint, it has caused a lot of suffering among both Christians and sincere Muslims. In the Maluku islands there have been more than 5,000 deaths, tens of thousands injured and more than 500,000 left homeless. In all of these areas there have been Christians and Muslims involved.

Fighting in the Malukas has escalated since April 2000 when a well-armed para-military group of fanatics, called the *Lastker Jihad*, arrived in the Maluku islands despite protests from Indonesia's president. Today the goal of the more than 14,000 of these "soldiers of *jihad*" is to eradicate Christianity from the Maluku islands. When that is completed, they plan to institute *shariah* law.

Of the 2 million people who live in the Malukas, 55 percent are Muslim and 45 percent are Christian. Though in the past the groups lived side-by-side in peace, they are now living separately because Muslims are afraid to live close to Christians. And on a spiritual level, Muslim fundamentalism has driven some of the body of Christ away from the harvest at hand.

It would not be extreme to state that there is a devilish impetus to the actions of Muslim fundamentalists. The hate that can sometimes be seen in their eyes, the uncontrolled frenzies that lead to and sustain misguided *jihads*, the darkness and depression that accompany their rule—elements that quickly spread to every strata of society—are all strong indicators that the inspiration for Islamic fundamentalism comes straight from the source of all darkness.

Yet we need to quickly balance this strong statement by reminding you that this mis-

guided zeal is not original or unique to Islam. It has been the force behind the racism of "Christian" Caucasians for

more than two centuries. It can sometimes be seen in the eyes of a radical Orthodox Jew. It has been the legacy of the Crusaders. Certainly there is no people or culture that has a corner on hatred. So even as we condemn the Islamic fundamentalist, let us be vigilant over our own minds and hearts.

WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS

There are some positive perspectives regarding what is happening in nations experiencing upheavals due to Muslim fundamentalism. Quite often one will find that the Church in these places is never more unified than it is when the destruction and trials befall. Under these kinds of attacks, arguments over doctrines, "sheep stealing" and personalities fade.


There is also a greater harvest among both nominal Christians and Muslims.

In January 2000, on the Indonesia island of Lombok, all except two church buildings on the island were burned to the ground. Christian-owned businesses were either burned or looted. And an address list of all believers filtered around the island and their homes were either looted or destroyed as well.

During that time, sincere Muslims saw how their "brothers" were acting toward peaceful believers and they were disappointed in these events. As a result, several Muslims have since turned their hearts to Christ. This is even more incredible in light of the fact that the "cost" of becoming a believer at this time is even higher than usual.

What we must remember is the unparalleled ability of Jesus to take tragedy and turn it into triumph. The final testimony of the Sudan, Indonesia and all nations being devastated by Muslim fundamentalists will be a glorious one that records multitudes of Muslims bowing their knees before our Lord and Savior.

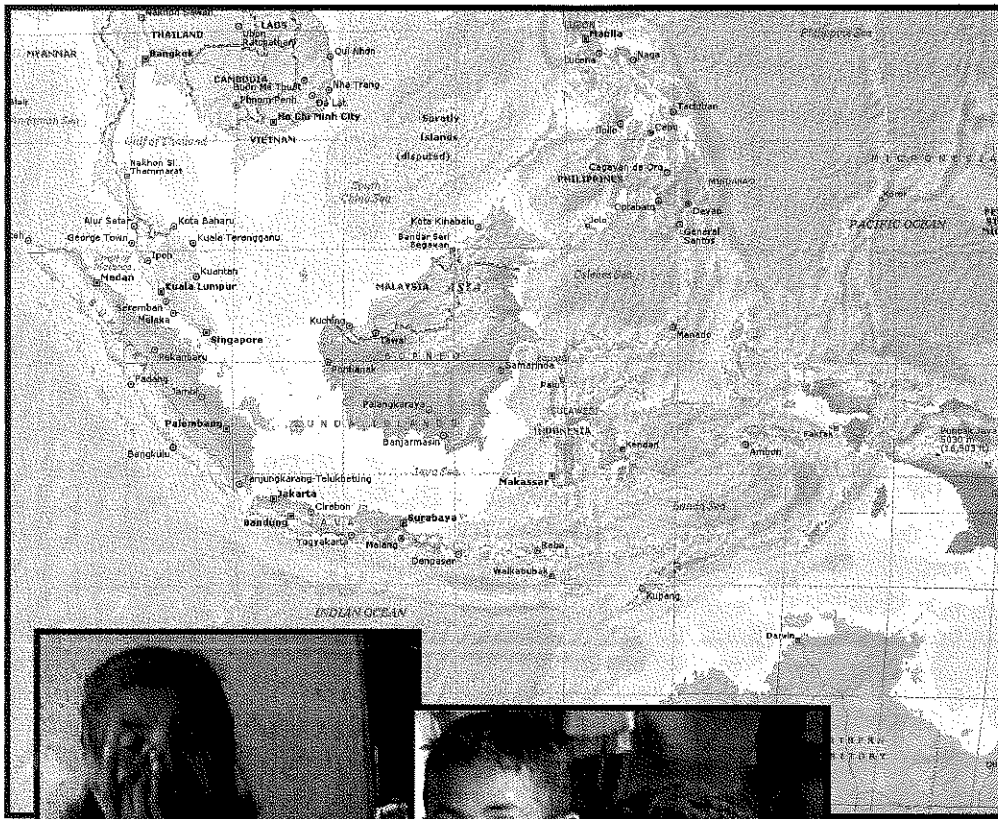
Islamic fundamentalism is provoking Muslims out of their spiritual stupor. A prominent Sudanese physicist recently stated, "We have been inoculated against Islam by the Muslim fundamentalists. Sudan will never again truly be a Muslim country."

The abuse of human rights, the slaughter of innocent Christians and Muslims and the blood of faithful martyrs have together irrigated the dry soul-soil of Sudan, Indonesia and many other Islamic nations. Yet the result of this will be nothing short of wonderful because God has the final say. 



COUNTRY PROFILE

INDONESIA



POPULATION: 224,784,210
OFFICIAL LANGUAGE: Bahasa Indonesian (English, Dutch and local dialects are also spoken.)
ETHNIC GROUPS: Javanese 45%, Sundanese 14%, Madurese 7.5%, coastal Malays 7.5%, Other 26%
RELIGIONS: Muslim 88%, Protestant 5%, Roman Catholic 3%, Hindu 2%, Buddhist 1%, Other 1%



The Republic of Indonesia declared its independence on August 17, 1945. It became legally independent of the Netherlands on December 27, 1949. The Indonesian government adopted a final constitution in 1959, which guaranteed religious freedom for most of the population. Laws adopted later would guarantee freedom of worship to those groups previously ignored. Indonesia has the largest Muslim population of any nation on earth.

UNREACHED PEOPLE GROUP:

BUGIS

LOCATION: Southwestern Sulawesi
POPULATION: 3,318,500
RELIGION: Muslim 95%; Christian 1%
NUMBER HAVING HEARD THE GOSPEL: 1,232,900 (40%)
NUMBER YET TO HEAR THE GOSPEL: 1,849,400 (60%)

The Bugis are known as a very fierce, war-like, industrious people. Vocationally, the Bugis are traders, fishermen and rice farmers. The Bugis were converted to Islam in the 1600s, and have resisted Christian evangelization for over 400 years. Nearly all Indonesian Bugis practice a militant form of Sunni Islam, though some have incorporated spiritism, ancestor worship and pantheism into their traditions.

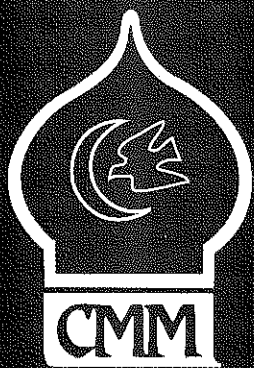
PRAY THAT...

- God will raise up linguists to finish translating the Bible into Basa Ugi.
- The Sulawesi government will open its doors to Christian missionaries so that the gospel can be preached freely to the Bugis.
- God will strengthen, encourage and protect the small number of Christians living near or among the Bugis, and that they will remain steadfast in their commitment to the Lord.

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

Jumaa Prayer Fellowship...

Praying for Muslims
Around the World!



Friday, March 2, 2001. Please pray

...for the CMM team members who will be conducting a Muslim Awareness Seminar in El Salvador next week. Pray that the participants will respond to the challenge and gain insights in sharing the good news among Muslims.

...for the outreach to Muslims being carried on through television, radio and correspondence courses. Pray the follow-up may take place in a timely fashion and that these new converts may be adequately disciplined to become strong, mature believers.

...for the many Fulani people who saw the "Jesus" film in Niger. Pray the message of the film will continue to stir in their hearts, making them want to know the truth about Jesus.

Friday, March 9, 2001. Please pray

...for the formation and implementation of cell groups for the church in a large Muslim city. Pray that God will use this effort to provide new believers with greater discipleship and fellowship opportunities.

...for the area-wide missions conference being held in Guatemala from March 13-15. CMM team members will hold workshops on Islamics for those interested in working among Muslims.

...for new workers who are being sent to Muslim areas. Pray they will have a good foundation of prayer and financial support to sustain them through the difficulties of language learning and cultural adaptation.

Friday, March 16, 2001. Please pray

...for new believers in Egypt who are tempted to emigrate to the West because of persecution. Pray they will receive strength and wisdom to stay in the country to help build up the body of Christ there.

...that church leaders will realize how great the unreached population in Muslim nations is and prioritize their endeavors to make more workers available for ministry in these countries.

...for Muslim converts who are experiencing grave difficulties for the sake of the gospel. Pray God will sustain them in body, soul and spirit and send more workers to come to their aid.

Friday, March 23, 2001. Please pray

...for widows in Afghanistan who are struggling to live. A relief worker was arrested last year for employing women, even though concessions had been made for the employment of health and social workers.

...that God will intervene in the growing rivalry between Christians and Muslims in Malawi and bring a spirit of compassion and humility among Christians whose testimony is at stake.

...that God will raise up more intercessors for the work of God among Muslims in difficult-to-access Muslim countries.

Friday, March 30, 2001. Please pray

...for the many Arab believers who are suffering in Israel and the West Bank because of the ongoing violence. Pray that relationships that have been built over many years will not break down and the unity of believers will be a testimony in this time of conflict.

...for Y, a Muslim convert to Christianity in West Africa. His father, an imam, is allowing his son to follow his new faith. Pray for many other converts who are less fortunate and face isolation and hostility from their Muslim families.

...for the international gathering of English-speaking Christians called Bless Morocco being held April 1-8. Pray that it will truly be an opportunity for Christians to bless Morocco.

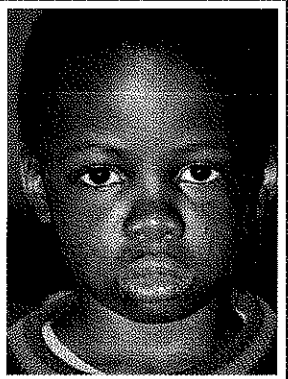
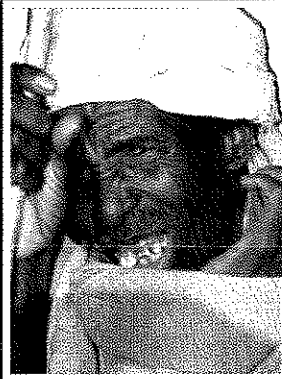
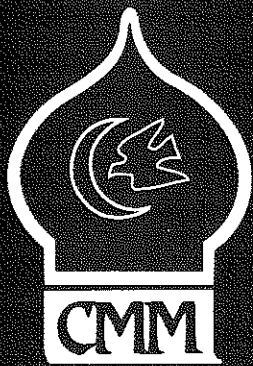


I urge, then, first of all that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone.

—(1 Timothy 2:1, NIV)

Jumaa Prayer Fellowship...

Praying for Muslims Around the World!



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

—(1 Timothy 2:1, NIV)

Friday, April 6, 2001. Please pray

...for the 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 their interaction with others who are involved in ministry among Muslims.

...for the Church of Libya which consists almost entirely of expatriates. The authorities have deported many African guest workers from the country recently. Pray that these actions won't hinder the growth of the body of Christ.

...for the growing evangelical Church in Kosovo that is being threatened because it contains many converts from Islam. Pray for protection and continued growth.

...for the sincere Muslims living in Sudan. Pray that the pressure exerted on them by Muslim fundamentalists will create a desire in their hearts to know the real truth of Jesus Christ.

Friday, April 13, 2001. Please pray

...for a CMM team member who is making an exploratory trip into a North Asian country that houses several Muslim people groups that still have not been reached by the gospel.

...for the 56 out of 80 provinces in Turkey that have no Christian workers or church planters. Pray that God will open doors and provide believers to live and minister in these provinces.

...for the outreaches to Muslims by churches in cities with large refugee populations. Pray that many will be encouraged by the friendship of Christians and make decisions to follow Christ. Praise God for a church in London that recently baptized several converts from Islam. Pray for God's protection and blessings of these new converts.

Friday, April 20, 2001. Please pray

...that through the ministry of CMM team members on April 26 and 27 God will challenge many students at Zion Bible Institute in Providence, RI, concerning outreach to Muslims. May God call forth workers for the ripened harvest fields.

...for the situation in Tajikistan. Refugees from Afghanistan are pouring across the border, causing the already strained economy to continue to deteriorate. A main resource is water, and a drought this year has been a major problem.

...that the evangelical church in Cote D'ivoire will respond positively to the need of reaching the Muslim community for Christ even in this time of difficulty and unrest.

...for an outreach center being built in the middle of a Turkish community in Australia. Pray that it will truly be a lighthouse for those Muslims in great need.

Friday, April 27, 2001. Please pray

...for the members of the Abu Sayyaf movement that held 12 Filipino evangelists hostage. They have since been released, but pray that the evangelical's presence will have caused a dissatisfaction in the hearts of their captors that will result in them having a desire to know the Lord.

...for the growing population of foreign students and immigrants from Muslim countries living in the States. Pray they will come face to face with the gospel and find peace with God.

...for an end to the ongoing violence in the Malukan region of Indonesia. The number of refugees is too great to handle. Pray for 42 Christian children who escaped to a safer area and are continuing their education in a Christian orphanage. Pray that their minds and bodies will be healed from the trauma they have experienced.