

Dear Friend,

There is a great need for more workers to go to the Muslim world. Over the last few years, the number of people going as long-term workers has declined. Yet according to the Pew Research Centre, while Islam is currently the world's second largest religion after Christianity, it is the fastest-growing major religion. If current demographic trends continue, the number of Muslims is expected to exceed the number of Christians by the end of this century.

This makes the need for more workers to go as witnesses to the Muslim countries even more urgent. We know that many Muslims have never heard the gospel message or met a follower of Jesus.

This week our prayer focus is on raising awareness for the need for more gospel workers to go to the Muslim world.

May God bless you as you pray and intercede this week.

For His glory in the nations,

Kathryn
Prayer Coordinator

Monday 15th August

Over 2,000 years ago, Jesus called us to *“go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.”*

Matthew 28:19-20.

The number of people responding to this call is declining. Frontiers and other mission organisations tell a similar story. The fear and threat of terrorist organisations and of persecution is understandably off-putting for many people. Yet we need a spiritual awakening, so people whom God is stirring realise the call on their life.

According to Global Frontiers Missions, there are currently 1,053 people-groups comprising over 1.7 billion Muslims, making up nearly a quarter of the world’s population. Only 4,200 Christian workers currently reach them. This is 1 worker for every 405,510 Muslims.

Vision 5:9, a network of over 180 missions organisations including Frontiers, has a goal - to reach the rest of the Muslim world for Christ by 2025. Vision 5:9 gathered around 900 Christian leaders and evangelists at a conference in 2017. A USA Frontiers speaker at the meeting said, *“We’ve got to be abiding, spending extravagant time with Jesus, being connected to him, and only when we remain connected to Jesus can we bear fruit and make disciples in the Muslim world.”*

Another shared he had been spending some time in fasting and prayer and he had this sense that God was saying to him: *“I want to bring into my family ten percent of the Muslim world in the next ten years.”* That is 170 million-plus Muslims!

A fasting and prayer initiative, led by the Vision 5:9 Network, invites individuals and groups to participate in 10 years of coordinated, around-the-clock fasting and prayer that ten percent of the Muslim world will be saved over the next ten years.

Global Frontiers Mission said: *“If the church would start working together as well as praying, giving, going and welcoming strategically, we could see all nations reached with the love of Christ in our lifetime!”*

“We’ve got to be abiding, spending extravagant time with Jesus, being connected to him, and only when we remain connected to Jesus can we bear fruit and make disciples in the Muslim world.”

- Please pray for God’s Great Commission to be advanced and that all Muslims will have the chance to hear about our Heavenly Father’s love, grace and salvation through Jesus Christ.
- Pray for more teams of faithful labourers to sow the seeds of the gospel, make disciples of Jesus Christ and plant churches among Muslims.
- Pray for churches to work together and see the need to pray, give and go to see all Muslim nations reached with the love of Christ.

Source of some material:

<http://naijagospelradio.com/2017/11/08/vision-59-aims-reach-entire-muslim-world-2025/>

<https://globalfrontiermissions.org/gfm-101-missions-course/state-of-the-world-the-task-remaining/>

Tuesday 16th August

Today we turn to God's word in Acts. In Chapter 1:8 it says: *"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."*

As Christ's followers, we are told to be witnesses to our Jerusalem – our immediate circle of influence, such as our family, friends, neighbours and work colleagues; to our Judea and Samaria – those in our town or city, including those who are culturally distant; and to the ends of the earth – such as Muslims in other countries who have not heard the good news. For some it is a burden to pray, for others a call to go.

The book of Acts tells us of the witness of the church first to Jerusalem, then to Judea and then to the ends of the earth. In the first few chapters, the apostles stayed locally in Jerusalem. The growing church then, like many of us today, stayed in its own comfort zone.

In chapter 8 verse 1, God sent his witnesses, Philip, Peter and John, out into Judea and Samaria through a great persecution. "On that day a great persecution broke out against the church in Jerusalem and all except the apostles were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria."

The Holy Spirit then led Philip to the eunuch from Ethiopia: "Go south to the road – the desert road – that goes from Jerusalem to Gaza." (8:26). Here we see Philip crossing cultural barriers to bring the gospel to Africa through the Ethiopian.

In chapter 13, the church, through Paul and Barnabas, preached in Cyprus and Turkey before returning to Jerusalem and so witnessed to the ends of the earth.

God has a heart for mission today. He empowers those he has called to overcome all obstacles to go and be His witnesses to the ends of the earth.



- Let's pray we all play our part in witnessing locally and cross-culturally.
- Let's pray for every obstacle, including pride and fear, to be overcome so that many go to be God's witnesses to the ends of the earth.
- Let's pray that people will start on the pathway of mission and that through them, many more Muslims will come to know of the good news of Jesus Christ, that there is "salvation in no-one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved." Acts 3:12.

Wednesday 17th August

Matt's story

Matt has worked with Frontiers since 2001. This is his story about God's call on his life to go and work in the Muslim world.

During his gap year between school and university, Matt went travelling in India and fell in love with the region of South Asia and its people. During that, his faith also deepened. Returning to the UK and life as a student at university, he heard talks from mission agencies about the unreached people of the world. He was really struck by the sheer numbers of unreached and by how few workers were going to reach them with the gospel.

He prayed and was drawn to Isaiah 6:8: "Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?""

Matt's immediate response was: "Here I am Lord. Send me."

To see if this call was real, Matt went on two short term mission trips while at university. One was to a Muslim country, where he had had opportunities to share the gospel. Impacted by what he had seen and experienced, he knew the call was real.

On graduating, but being young in his faith and experience, Matt realised that he needed to spend a few years deepening his walk with God before going abroad. He decided to train as a teacher - a skill he felt would be useful to have both to take abroad and to fall back on if things didn't work out. He also knew he needed to strengthen his ties with his local church, as they would be supporting him

financially, and to gain cross-cultural training to better prepare him for living in a Muslim country. It was during his training that he got to know about Frontiers.

Matt trained as a teacher and worked at a grammar school, teaching Classics. Three years into his teaching career, his mentor reminded him of the call on his life.

Watch the rest of Matt's story here in this short video clip. <https://tinyurl.com/y9px4keb>

Matt had a choice to make, to stay or to go. He knew God's call on his life, but he could have stayed and been comfortable rather than launch into the unknown. His nine years in a South Asian country where he taught in schools and a university, changed his life and has given him a continuing burden to reach Muslim people with God's message of freedom and abundant life.

- We thank God for the obedience of so many like Matt, who have answered the call to go to Muslim countries to bring the good news. Let's pray for those who also know God has called them, to step out in faith and go.
- Let's pray for many individuals and families to fall in love with Muslim countries and people and desire to go and be witnesses there.

"Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?"

Isaiah 6:8

Thursday 18th August

Discover the unreached

Imagine flying over the earth at night. As you look down over a community, you'll see lights shining up from the darkness. Those are homes reached by a power source.

Look down again, and you'll see areas that appear mostly in the dark. In these communities, few people have power.

Likewise, there are communities all around the world with very little access to the gospel message. Populations that are less than 2% Christian are called unreached. Churches are present—but in very small numbers—and they need help to meaningfully impact the cultures surrounding them.



Now imagine flying over a community in total darkness. There are people there, living as they always have. But not a single household has power, and there's no effort to bring it to them. If nothing changes, they'll go on living and dying in the dark.

These are like unengaged people groups—populations with no long-term, sustainable gospel witness in their midst. They have no church and there is no effort to introduce them to Jesus Christ.

Frontiers currently have long-term workers sent from many countries around the world to reach the unengaged Muslim people groups. Hundreds of churches have been planted through their efforts and prayers.

But more than 1,000 unengaged Muslim people groups still have no one bringing them the gospel.

“And thus I make it my ambition to preach the gospel, not where Christ has already been named, lest I build on someone else's foundation, but as it is written: “Those who have never been told of him will see, and those who have never heard will understand.”” Romans 15:20-21.

The men, women and children in these people groups are like the communities with no access to a power source: if no one tells them about the Source of Life, they'll go on living and dying in the dark.

- We pray for the many Muslims living around the world who have not heard the gospel or met a follower of Jesus. May God stir the hearts of people to go.
- We pray for continued translations of material into local language and dialects, so workers are equipped with Bibles and resources.
- God loves Muslims everywhere, if only they knew. We pray that where there is darkness, the light of life will shine.

Friday 19th August

A Call to Fulani Muslims in Africa

Read this account from a current Frontiers worker who has been in Africa with her family. She answered the call to go.

Some days we are pushed to the extreme; desert life is hard, but this is where I get my strength. My roots grow in search of spiritual water, trailing out to the left and the right to find the nutrients I need. I sit down more, wait more and learn to breathe again. Days merge into one and the phrase – ‘this too shall pass’ comes to mind.

I wish I could send you all the things we use our senses for to capture this part of Africa. The smell of mint tea, Neem trees, fresh fruit, the fish truck from the capital, the dust, the taste of cold water, a square of frozen chocolate or a fresh mango, the feeling of being cold after a shower in hot scorching water, the breeze when it comes, the sight of fresh new leaves growing on trees, new babies, the sound of birds chirping.



The realisation I have had recently is that living this life, no one is ever truly going to understand me like my husband, my kids or my team members do. I have no words to describe the changes since I moved here; words do no justice. I am used to strangers

greeting me, asking about how I am, my family, my husband’s job, the heat, my body, my kids. But there is One who knows my every thought, my every move, nothing surprises Him. In the moments when I cannot seem to catch my breath, think about cooking dinner in a hot sweaty kitchen, I remember...He has called me here. He has called me to reach out to my Muslim neighbours and community who need to hear about Him and His love for them.

I can truly say that I have seen God’s hand and blessings on our lives here. He has opened doors of opportunity for us to share our faith with our neighbours and put on our hearts the outcasts, the orphaned and so many others in real need. We can be Jesus’ hands and feet in this place, as we share His love for the Muslim people here.

"Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance." James 1: 2-3

- Pray for those who are called and are obedient to go - to leave home and friends, despite the many hardships. Let’s ask God to bless, protect and encourage them as they depend on Him and live out their calling.
- Ask God to open doors of opportunity to reach Muslim friends and neighbours with the hope of eternal life.
- Ask God to lead workers to those in the Muslim community who will be receptive to the gospel message and be key people in spreading the good news to their Muslim brothers and sisters.

Saturday 20th August

In an effort to mobilise the UK church to take up the great commission and go and make disciples of all men, Frontiers organised a trip to South Asia. They took five leaders from churches in the UK that they felt would catch the vision.

On the week-long trip, they prayed with Muslims, saw people very interested in the gospel and even saw one or two healings. And the Muslims living there certainly had a love for the name of Jesus.

The team also witnessed favour from their guards. Policemen, who were ostensibly sent to protect the team (and perhaps also to ensure they didn't stir up trouble!), were more than happy to oversee them as they prayed for the sick in two of the mosques they visited.

From this trip, a series of videos has been produced. The aim is to stir an interest in churches in the UK to send more long-term workers to the Muslim world; to be more strategic and intentional in making this a priority. Time is short. The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few.

One of the videos that was produced was Matt's story, which we have included in Wednesday's article.

All the videos have been posted on YouTube. You can see them here:

<https://tinyurl.com/ycrk8nfa>

If you have time now, watch "To Be a Missionary" here:

<https://tinyurl.com/y8jjpsyf>

- Pray for fruit from these videos. Let's pray that as a result of seeing them, people are stirred to go to the Muslim world.
- Let's pray that many, whom God has already called to go, see these videos and are impacted and motivated.

Let's pray the videos are seen in the UK and far beyond; that many different nationalities are burdened to go to the Muslim world with God's message of hope, fullness of life and eternity with Him.