

## Email

In a recent team prayer meeting we looked at the passage in Exodus 30 which details the exact recipe for the incense that the priests were to burn in the temple, and then looked at what God's recipe might be for our prayers for the Muslim world. With that in mind we have put together a recipe to help us pray for our workers as they minister to the Muslim world.

If you have a connection with a specific worker or place please feel free to pray for that person or workers in that country, or if not pray generally for all our workers. Our next Connected magazine, which is coming out later this week, is on the theme of prayer and contains lots of ideas on ways to pray for the nations. If you do not already receive a physical copy of the magazine please reply to this email with your name and address.

For His Glory in the Nations

Charlie

Head of Prayer Mobilisation

**Monday 20<sup>th</sup> June**

## **RECIPE FOR PRAYER**



In the Old Testament the Lord told the Israelites he wanted his Tabernacle to constantly be full of the smell of incense, representing the prayers of his people. He also gave them his own exclusive recipe. What might God's recipe for our prayers be as we intercede for those working on the frontlines? This week we will be working through 6 biblical ingredients to help us pray.

### **Pray for open doors**

While under house arrest Paul surprisingly asks for prayer that, *"God may open a door for our message."* (See Col 4:3) We also need God to open doors to unreached peoples and places that are hard to get to.

Here is what one Frontiers team leader reported:

"We have been longing for ways to connect well with the local unreached people group and speak into their lives. Here identity is crucial; without a strong identity people will dismissively say you are a missionary or a spy! As business people we have an identity, the locals are excited that we are here and people want to know what we think. The business also gives us wonderful opportunities to visit rural farmers which would otherwise be viewed with suspicion. We are also able to bless the community through the product, employment, training and ploughing back the resources the business generates.

"There have been some headaches with bureaucracy and building the factory, but we have received a huge amount of help from the local government. Other challenges include finance and upskilling in areas I was not familiar with as my background is in agriculture. Therefore we have greatly valued the input of experienced business coaches.

People think business is not a good option because it will be all consuming and leave no time for people. Previously I had to struggle to spend time with people, but the business means I spend hours with people each day and it gives us natural reasons to chat with our neighbours as well. Doing business is totally compatible with making disciples."

Prayer points:

- Thank God for the openings he gives our workers to share everyday life with Muslims.
- Pray that Governments will view them with favour and provide visas and support for their work.
- May workers' activities open up to the communities they live amongst to the gospel message.

Tuesday 21st June

### Pray for clear speaking

Paul asks for prayer that he might proclaim Christ 'clearly' (Col 4:4). The gospel is a message that must be heard. Let's pray for workers as they learn to tell the good news of Jesus in a new language, that they may speak clearly and into people's hearts and minds. As well as learn a new language workers need to be aware that some religious words often have a different meaning to a Muslim. Five key examples of the Muslim understanding of words Christians use are:

- Sin: something declared unlawful not evil itself
- Prayer: a ritual performed 5 times a day.
- Sonship: Jesus is the Son of God in a physical sense, not spiritually.
- Faith: believing the *Shahada*.
- Heaven: a place of sensual pleasures.

Here is how one worker began to explain the Sonship of Jesus:

"One day in a taxi on the way to catch a train the conversation quickly got onto spiritual matters. I did not want it to just be a dry and lifeless theological discussion along the lines "you believe this, but we believe that." The driver, from the Horn of Africa, started along the lines I feared and said, "You believe that Jesus is the Son of God." While true, I knew my new friend understood it literally so asked him to explain what he understood by the title. He did not want to explicitly state that he understood it to mean that God had sex with Mary, so I helped him out and then explained I was equally dismayed by such an idea. The title "Son of God" meant something entirely different.

"I used a short Bible story to explain what I meant: I said Jesus had two followers called James and John and the Bible says he called them "sons of thunder." I asked if that meant that the thunder had relations with their mother – after all that was that same reasoning he had applied to the "Son of God" title. He immediately said, "No." "So what does it mean?" I enquired. "I suppose it means they were angry people." he replied. I agreed - Jesus was describing something about their character.

"In the same way the title "Son of God" was describing something of Jesus' character and nature. I continued and said the title means that Jesus is God. As we approached my destination, there was not the expected absolute rejection of such an idea. This is highly unusual as Muslims would consider this blasphemy. The reply disclosed an openness to God: "I'd never thought of it like that before." I can only conclude God's Spirit was already at work in this man's heart."

- Pray that workers may be inspired to learn language and culture well and overcome the challenges and discouragements.

- May they be able to explain Jesus clearly to Muslims in appropriate ways that will be understood.
- May they be equipped with the word of God that will penetrate to the heart (Hebrews 4:112)
- May they be so in touch with the Father that they speak words that are relevant to the people they speak to.

Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> June



### Pray to meet open hearts

When Paul and his team went to Philippi they spoke to some women at a place of prayer. One of those listening was a businesswoman, Lydia.

We read, 'The Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul's message' (Acts 16:14). Let's ask the Lord to open the hearts of those we're sharing with.

Several years ago a group of short termers reported open hearts in the refugee camps they visited:

We sat with a mother and daughter in the Syrian refugee home, hearing stories of the pain endured since the conflict began. After listening, we shared our own stories about things Jesus did and said.

The mother informed us that her back was injured and we told her of how Jesus healed people. We asked if we could lay hands on her, praying in the name of Jesus for healing to which she agreed. Then we asked a question we had been longing to ask: "Will you gather your friends and family to study more about Jesus directly from the Holy Books?"

She eagerly listed those she would invite. When we returned eight Muslim women were waiting to study the creation story from Genesis and start applying it to their lives.

Towards end of our study, we asked if the women had any problems that the group could pray about. Our hostess cut in and started speaking hurriedly in Arabic, telling the women that after we prayed the pain lifted off her back - standing up and sitting down to confirm her healing!

The women were eager to meet again to continue their study, so we set a time for several days later. We began down the road and heard yelling behind, we turned recognising the husband of our hostess running towards us. As single women, we hoped this wasn't a bad sign. Reaching us he said through our translator, "Bring men with you the next time! I want to study the Holy Books, too. If you bring men, I will get the husbands of the women my wife has gathered!"

By the end of our two-week trip, the women had met three times, a leader had been identified and taught to lead the studies who regularly meets a long-term worker to discuss

how the studies went and answer questions. Now it's really up to God to speak to these women through his word and draw them to Himself.

Prayer points:

- Pray that the Lord will open the hearts of Muslims, and reveal Himself to them
- Pray their hearts may be opened as they see His beauty.
- Pray for more short term teams to go out and bless longer term teams and discover God's heart for the nations themselves.

Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> June

**Pray for God's leading**

In Acts 8:26 an angel of the Lord tells Philip to go to a certain place. On his way he met an Ethiopian who was reading the Book of Isaiah. Philip explains what he's reading, and the Ethiopian believes and asks to be baptised. Let's pray that the Lord will lead workers on the field to those who are hungry for truth. **having discernment to see God's strategy**

**In Search of the Sower's Good Soil**

It was 2:30 p.m. on a Saturday afternoon when I met up with my language helper, Aqil, a burly, well-educated 28-year-old. We started our language lesson. Then after half an hour or so, I shared Jesus' parable of the weeds from Matthew 13:24–30. Aqil wasn't surprised to hear me share from God's Word. I often speak of Jesus and share about the Kingdom—not just with Aqil, but with everyone I talk to.

I've had many conversations about faith with Aqil. But this time, the parable sparked a conversation that lasted until about 9:00 p.m. It made him late to his night job, and I was late for dinner. The next day, Aqil came to my home for a short language lesson before helping me teach English to some local children from poor families in the neighbourhood.

After the children's English lesson, I gave Aqil a New Testament. I included a small note saying, "Continue seeking the Way, the Truth, and the Life. You have been a blessing in my life." Aqil read the note. With his eyes misting over, he responded, "No, you're the blessing in my life."

As in the parable of the sower in Matthew 13, I find people in my host country who are on the path where the seed gets trampled underfoot.

I find the rocky soil—people who get excited about the Good News. But then no roots develop, and they fade away quickly.

I find the thorns that choke out the Word that was spoken.

And I find the good soil, where the Word takes root, sprouts, and is nurtured. And in time, it will produce a crop that is a hundred, sixty, or thirty times what was sown.

Every person I spend time with hears me share the Gospel. Not every interaction goes as smoothly as it did with Aqil. But in order to find him and the many other Muslims whose hearts are being tilled by the Sower, I keep sharing the Word.

You are a part of this. Your prayers and your financial support make this possible. We cannot do this without you. You are a critical part of a team, working to see the world reached by the Gospel for the Kingdom of God.

- Praise the Lord of the Harvest for using every prayer and gift for His Kingdom purposes.
- Thank God for working in Aqil's heart, and pray that the Word bears fruit in his life.
- Ask the Lord to send more laborers to the Muslim world to bring the Gospel to those whose hearts have been prepared by God.

*\*\*This account comes from a long-term worker. Names have been changed for security.\*\**

Original article: <https://frontiersusa.org/blog/sowers-good-soil>

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> June



### Pray for unity

One of the greatest silent witnesses of the work of Christ in us is our unity. Jesus stated it clearly in John 13:35 and prayed for it passionately in John 17. There are lots of opportunities for followers of Jesus to fall out with each other but let's pray that our workers on the field and the churches they plant will be known for their grace, forgiveness and love for one another.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d48-qbcovVY>

Listen to the worship song above. This is the worldwide blessing which is made up of many believers across the world singing the same song. This is a small picture of what it will be like in heaven when there will be a great number “from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands”.

Let's pray that just as we will be unified in heaven with believers from every nation, tribe and tongue, our multicultural teams, living in cultures that are not their own would also demonstrate this amazing unity.

- Pray for our teams that they would have a supernatural unity that comes from the Lord
- Pray that those around them would see their unity and that it would draw them to ask questions about Jesus.
- Pray for fledging churches and small groups that our workers are part of, that they will also have the unity of being part of the body of Christ.

**Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> June**

**Pray for courage**

“Don’t worry for us,” says Steve, a Frontiers worker living with his family in an unstable Muslim country. “We’re learning another lesson in trust. Please pray for us.”

Amid intensifying uncertainty, the country his team lives in is experiencing a rise of violence, and the borders are closing.

“We are on super-ultra-mega-high alert,” Steve shares. “We have been doing everything we can to mitigate unnecessary risk.”

Recently one of his closest friends in the country, a Muslim named Mahmoud, told Steve, “Everyone here is afraid.”

“That is not exactly true,” Steve responded. “We are not afraid.”

He writes to friends and supporters back home,

Don’t get me wrong, I’m concerned about what has been going on. I am vigilant for my young children and my beautiful wife.

These escalating events weigh heavy on my heart. Many people in the country have gone and ‘met their Maker’ and, statistically, it is safe to assume that none of them were ready to stand before our King. That is terrible, painful, and heart-wrenching. These beautiful, hospitable people are stuck here, and they have no hope.

But we have hope. That’s how we are different from our Muslim friends. That is why we are not afraid. We have so much hope. Either our faithful King will protect and sustain us, or He will take pleasure in our joyful obedience as we give up our lives, reaping the rewards He reserves for us. It is really a win-win. We cannot lose.

In difficult places like this, Frontiers workers are often among the very few who know and can share the hope of lasting peace.

Praise God for allowing Steve and workers like him to continue shining the light of Christ amid the terror of uncertainty and the darkness of death.

- Pray for God to grant Frontiers workers the grace to stay as long as He wills, with their hope shining brilliantly where it is needed most.
- Ask the Lord to protect workers and their families from harm as they count the cost of staying on the field for the sake of the Gospel.
- Pray that Muslim families living amid violence and uncertainty will discover eternal life through Jesus Christ.