

Email

Dear Friend,

This month we are praying for the Muslim communities of the Sahel and Sub-Saharan Africa. The region is vast, stretching from Dakar on the Atlantic coast in Senegal in the West to Somalia in the East, along with Comoros in the Indian Ocean. The Sahel marks the geographical transition between the Sahara Desert in the north of Africa to the more humid savannahs that lead into the tropical regions of central Africa. In a similar way, the Sahel also marks the transition zone between the predominantly Islamic north of Africa and the predominantly Christian south.

If you are interested in learning about the many and varied regions of the Muslim world, we regularly write about different regions in our 'Connected' magazine. If you would like to receive this in paper or email format, or would like to view previous magazines you can do that on this page:

<https://www.frontiers.org.uk/contact/>

Scroll to the bottom for sign ups and past copies of Connected.

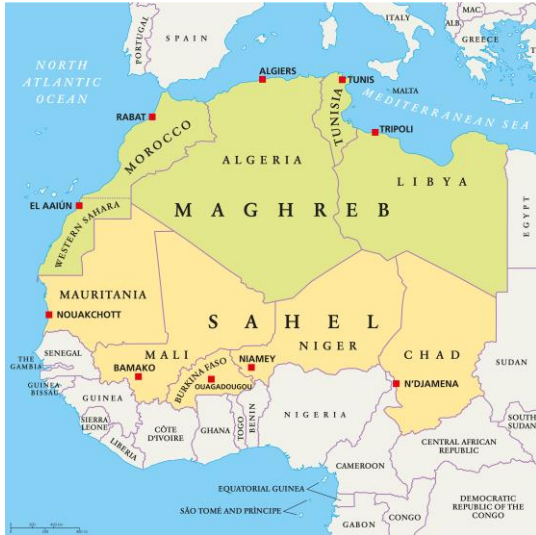
May God bless you as you pray and intercede this week.

For His glory in the nations,

Charlotte and Richard

Prayer Mobilisation Team

Monday 8th July



This week we are praying for the Sahel and Sub Saharan Africa, which amongst other countries includes, Chad, Sudan, Mauritania and Mali, Nigeria and Senegal. Many Christians live in parts of this region. But Islam's influence is expansive, stretching from the Red Sea down into East Africa and westward toward the Atlantic along the southern edge of the Sahara desert.

The Sahel, a semi-arid belt separating the Sahara from the savanna, covers a large part of this Muslim region. This landscape of grass and shrubs rolls across the breadth of the continent, providing cropland and pasture for farmers and nomadic herders.

Political instability and humanitarian crises have characterized some countries in the region. It is also home to several nomadic people groups with no access to the Gospel.

This region is a spiritually complex area where folk traditions intermingle with Islamic practice. Abundant opportunities exist to

advocate for social justice, serve the urban poor, and bring about Gospel transformation.

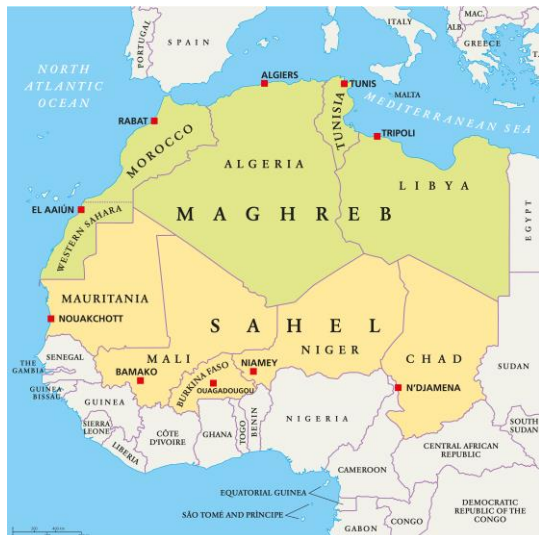
There are the beginnings of change in this region, and some people groups are seeing movement towards Jesus. Let's pray for more of this and for the many unreached in this area to know Jesus.

Prayer

- Praise God for all that he is doing in this region and the peoples that are starting to come to faith.
- Pray for more workers for this region, especially the remote and unreachable places.
- Pray for blessing on these desert regions and for a refreshing move of the Spirit.

For more information see <https://www.frontiers.org.uk/latest/pray-now.php>

Tuesday 9th July



The Sahel

“You, God, are my God, earnestly I seek you; I thirst for you, my whole being longs for you, in a dry and parched land where there is no water.” Psalm 63:1

The Sahel is a huge swathe of land stretching across Africa from Mauritania in the west to Sudan and Eritrea in the east, lying between the Sahara desert to the north and the savannas to the south. It is one of the poorest places on earth and is inhabited by people of different religions and cultures. This leads to constant conflict and animosity as groups clash while attempting to conquer each other, in pursuit of land.

A severe drought in 2018 ruined crops, cattle and lands, making survival the greatest challenge. The deforestation, desertification and over-farming of the semi-arid land, isolated floods and the decline in river and lake levels further exacerbates the problem. Added to this mix are militant insurgencies. This has resulted in millions fleeing within their own countries or further afield. The more fortunate ones make it either to relatives' homes or refugee camps. Many perish.

But God is in this place. In these Muslim-majority nations in this region, churches are being planted and are growing and thriving. Muslim background believers are growing in their faith. In refugee camps, believers are providing care and counselling. Through translators, Christians coordinate prayer meetings in camps, often linking them with local churches.

Untold numbers of fleeing Muslims quietly come to Christ while being sheltered and cared for by Christian families or church communities. To the dying and thirsty, hope is springing up in this dry and weary land.

Watch a short 2-minute video about the displaced people of the Sahel:

<https://www.prayercast.com/displaced-people-in-sahel.html>

Prayer

- Pray for those whose livelihoods have been destroyed, that God will be their protection and provision.
- Pray for all those who are suffering, especially children separated from their parents and those who have lost family members - that God will be their comfort.
- Ask God for workers who are able to live simply in the very challenging physical and spiritual environments in this region.

Source of some material:

<https://www.prayercast.com/displaced-people-in-sahel.html>

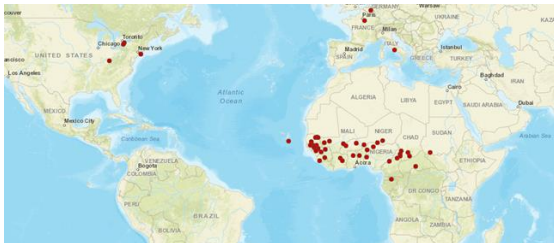
African Inland Mission have a 2-minute introduction video on this people group: <https://vimeo.com/243101308>

The Fulani believe that to be a Fulani is to be a Muslim. Many Fulani are revered teachers of Islam, who get much respect for their Islamic pedigree. Some are participating in jihads (holy wars) in an effort to eradicate Christian people from their midst, which adds a layer of enmity with believers. Fulani families have a mixture of Muslim beliefs and superstitious practices.

Wednesday 10th July

Fulani

The Fulani are a large tribe of which there are many people subgroups. They are an unreached people group numbering 40 million who live in a band stretching from Sudan in the North-eastern part of Africa to Mauritania in the west.



Family life among the Fulani is very different from a typical western family life. It's very common for men to have up to 4 wives, though usually 2 or 3 is more common, and also to have many children. Marriage is supposed to be more of a 'contract' for the purpose of having children and giving social status.

Prayer

- Let's ask for a widespread move of God's Spirit, with thousands and thousands of Fulani turning to Christ.

PRAYNOW

- Let's pray for the Fulani to be brought into the light of God's Kingdom.
- Let's pray for more gospel workers to reach the Fulani with God's blessing.

For more information see

<https://www.frontiers.org.uk/latest/pray-now.php>

Thursday 11th July

Nomads

“May nomads have power, together with all the Lord’s holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ.”
Ephesians 3:18

There are many nomadic people groups across the Sahel and Sub Saharan Africa, including some of the Fulani that we read about yesterday. The Church, composed mainly of settled people, struggles to engage with nomads. Few nomads have embraced Christ and those that have met gospel workers or the wider Christian body, have often understood that Christianity is a religion for settled people. Talk of “the Sower” or being “fishers of men” is often alien and consequently not readily understood.

We cannot and should not expect nomads to take on values and practices bound up with a settled way of life - these are not part of the gospel! Does church for a nomad consist of meeting in a building or chatting and praying around a camp fire or water-hole about the Good Shepherd? One Somali nomad was heard to remark, “Show me how to put a Church on my camel before you talk to me of Jesus.”

We can serve these neglected people, meeting needs such as healthcare for them and their animals, live alongside them for short or extended periods, but we must communicate with nomadic peoples that

following Jesus is compatible with their lifestyle.

In David Phillips’ book, “Peoples on the move” he writes: “The nomads need us to live as Christians within the nomadic life, at their level as much as possible. The great Shepherd looks for committed disciples to befriend the world’s nomads, to learn the nomads’ languages and skills and, through the shared experience of their lives, to make Him known. His love needs to be shown in practical ways to enhance the people’s nomadism, in education, community health, veterinary and medical help and land management.

We need to understand their beliefs and unanswered fears and introduce the nomadic shepherd God of the Bible to them. We need to demonstrate by example that the great Shepherd is really at home in the nomads’ tents.”

Only with nomads will the Church of Christ be complete. Nomads are strategic partners that can spread the good news not only to other nomads but also to settled people whom they meet as they travel.

Prayer

- Pray for gospel workers who are prepared to forgo many comforts to learn to share the gospel with nomads.
- Pray for the nomads who have come to know Jesus, to take the gospel not

only to other nomads, but to millions of settled people around the world.

- Pray for followers of Christ who are willing to reach nomadic Muslim people groups, no matter what it takes or what the cost.

For more information see

<https://www.frontiers.org.uk/latest/pray-now.php>

Friday 12th July



Mali

Watch this prayercast video:

<https://prayercast.com/prayer-topic/mali/>

Between Algeria to the north and Niger to the east is the West African nation of Mali. Once ruled by France, Mali achieved independence in 1960. This independence came at a price, though, as a dictatorship held power for over three decades. Yet from this political rubble has emerged one of the most stable democracies in Africa. Despite representing multiple ethnic groups, Mali has enjoyed peaceful relations among its people.

However, Mali is one of the twenty-five poorest countries in the world. With no coastline, Mali is dependent on agricultural exports and gold mining for revenue. The harsh Sahara desert in the north causes frequent droughts, damaging the delicate farming industry. Security issues continue to hinder efforts for tourism.

Mali also has one of the world's highest rates of infant mortality, with 106 deaths per 1,000 births. Almost half of the entire population is under the age of fifteen.

Yet, despite the struggles and poverty, God is still there. The church, though still small, has taken root in the cultures and hearts of the

Malian people. Ninety-five percent of the population is Muslim, though the Islam practiced is moderate and tolerant. At only three percent of the population, each year, the number of Christians is doubling. Due to the extreme poverty, Mali depends on the foreign aid of Libya and Saudi Arabia, who fund Malian schools which are based on Qur'anic beliefs. Most churches are combining outreach with the relief aid that is so desperately needed. Sixty percent of Malians are unreached, but there is hope in the small but fervent church that is taking shape. God's hope is prevailing.

Prayer

- Pray for the small church that has been established in Mali to be filled with courage, boldness and love for the unreached around them.
- Pray for continued stability in this region and for solutions to the debilitating poverty.
- Pray for more workers for the harvest for the peoples of Mali.

Information from:

<https://prayercast.com/prayer-topic/mali/>

For more information see

<https://www.frontiers.org.uk/latest/pray-now.php>

Saturday 13th July

Nigeria



Nigeria is Africa's most populous country and a strategic place for the spread of the gospel. The country's rich diversity is represented in over 500 people groups. Mangroves in the south, grasslands in the north, and wetlands along the coast emphasize this diversity geographically. Northern Nigeria is largely Muslim, feudalist, and impoverished with over 80% of the nation's poor. Southern Nigeria is more developed and majority Christian.

Constant tensions exist particularly in the northern and central states where Muslims and Christians co-exist. Since 1999, 12 northern states have imposed Sharia law, causing many human rights abuses. In 2009, Boko Haram — one of Africa's largest Muslim extremist groups — launched an insurgency in Nigeria intending to root out corruption and establish Muslim rule. Though they lost control of much territory, they remain a grave threat, primarily in the north. They continue to kill, loot, attack schools, abduct women and children, and conscript men and boys into their army.

Years of devastating violence has left millions displaced and tens of thousands dead. In addition, nomadic Fulani herdsmen are a violent threat across central Nigeria, brutally killing many farmers and competing for their

land. Though Nigeria is Africa's largest producer of oil, nearly half the population remains in poverty. Over 30% of the rural population lacks clean water. HIV/AIDS has also left an estimated 2.5 million orphans.

Nigeria is home to a large majority of West Africa's Evangelicals and Africa's largest church by membership, with roughly 65,000 weekly attenders. The Nigerian Church has also sent missionaries out. But with the nation's north-south divide, believers in the Muslim-majority north have suffered decades of persecution. Even so, Muslims are being drawn to Jesus and the Church is experiencing great growth.

Prayer

- Pray for the church in Nigeria to continue to grow in numbers and in depth and to reach out to many in their own country and the surrounding nations.
- Pray that every people group in Nigeria would have a witness of the gospel and a chance to hear about Jesus.
- Pray for peace and an end to violence in Nigeria.

Information taken from:

<https://prayercast.com/prayer-topic/nigeria/>

For more information see

<https://www.frontiers.org.uk/latest/pray-now.php>

