



Light the Darkness
6 June—5 July 2016

Praying for Muslims during Ramadan

DAY 1

Ramadan is the month in the Muslim calendar, in which Muslims are not allowed to eat during the day and in which the visit to the mosque is the most important duty to every Muslim man. At night the family comes together and breaks the fast with great meals. It is the most religious month in the Muslim life and the highlight of the year. Many Muslims would describe this time as a time to seek God and understanding and holiness. Some Muslims extend their fast and spend whole nights at the mosque reciting the Qur'an or reading religious books.

Here it is where we as Christians want to step in. If anybody takes effort to come closer to God, understand more, become holy, we want to support this effort with our prayer. May Jesus Christ use this exciting time to speak to many Muslims and help them understand that it is not Islam or Mohammad which saves, but Salvation and everlasting life is only found in Jesus Christ.

This prayer guide is designed to help Christians to pray for people, who are lost that they may be saved. There is no need to honour the Muslim calendar or Islamic customs. Muslims live in South Africa now for over 300 years and basically have never had the chance to hear and understand the Gospel. There are a few initiatives of individuals and churches to reach out, but they are far too little. It is about time that Christians don't stop telling what they've heard and seen and rejoice in the salvation by making it known to everybody. At least everybody must know the Gospel.

LET'S PRAY:

- Christians reconsider their own beliefs and rejoice in their salvation
- Christians take on the responsibility to tell everybody about Christ, so that everybody has a chance to understand salvation.
- May Jesus Christ build his Kingdom of Grace and Light and use us as his ambassadors

DAY 2

The following prophecy was given on the 30. April 2016 to Kamil Kiroglu, EGEIRO ministries. Please consider this prayerfully:

JHWH is the King of this land and Islam will not be able to conquer this land. God will continue to love, protect and use this nation for His glory and purposes.

Muslims that come to this land will meet Jesus here.

Some Muslims come to this country with animosity against Christ. But, here, in this country, they will fall in love with Christ, just like Saul/Paul (Act 9).

Islam is trying to push from north down to south, into this country. But Jesus will turn their plans up side down. Instead, the love, glory and gospel of Jesus will go from South Africa, up to north. No one can stop this, neither Islam, nor corrupt liberal theologians, not corrupt politicians. God said it, God will do it. The whole world will see this amazing move of Jesus.

South Africa is an Eagle. She will not give into fear and run. No, she will fly into the eye of the storm, use the momentum of the storm and eventually, soar above the storm. God made South Africa and eagle. Therefore, she will turn crisis into an amazing victory.

Come what may, Satan can do nothing. God is with South Africa. If God is with us, we are more than conquerors."

PLEASE PRAY AND PROCLAIM

these words of the Holy Spirit over our country and our people.

DAY 3

During the recent decades, countless Muslims - including myself - have received visions and dreams of Jesus and consequently became His followers. Doubtlessly, nowadays, visions and dreams have been one of the most common strategies Jesus used to reveal Himself to

Muslims and draw them to Himself. Most of the Muslim background Christians that I know have accepted Jesus after they have encountered Him in visions and dreams. Such encounters are so personal and so real that one can neither deny nor ignore them. This exciting phenomenon immediately reminds us of God's promise in Joel 2:28-29. There is no doubt that even now The Holy Spirit is visiting many Muslims and revealing Jesus to them through visions and dreams. Certainly, Jesus is on the move in the Muslim world through personal revelations to many Muslim individuals.

Your Muslim friend and neighbour may reject your testimony of Jesus or may argue against your presentation of the Gospel, but he/she cannot reject or argue against a personal and supernatural vision or dream of Jesus.

LET'S PRAY

- God will continue to pour out His Holy Spirit upon Muslims all over the world as it was prophesied in Joel 2:28-29 and repeated in Acts 2:17-18.
- for our Muslim friends, neighbours and colleagues that they shall be visited by the Holy Spirit and they shall receive a personal revelation of Jesus which they can neither reject nor ignore.

DAY 4

During the second half of the 20th century and in the 21st century, increasing numbers of Western Christian women converted to Islam after marrying Muslim men. This is partly due to the fact that many Muslim men intentionally target vulnerable Christian ladies to lure them into Islam via marriage. This has been one of the most effective strategies in the Islamisation of Judeo-Christian Western nations. This problem first emerged in Europe after World War 2 when thousands of Muslim men that came in as workforce married to European Christian ladies and converted them to Islam. During the recent decades, this practice spread to all over the world. It is not

any more limited to Western nations, but it is a problem in all Christian communities. More and more Christian ladies get married to Muslim men, convert to Islam and raise their children as Muslims. In most cases, these Christian ladies step into these marriages and convert to Islam without really knowing what they are getting into. Some of these ladies, later on, realise what a big mistake they made and with great difficulty try to get out of the marriage and Islam. There are also others like Samantha Lewthwaite from Britain, who became a Muslim terrorist after marrying a Muslim man.

The sad reality is that many of these women end up in the bondage of Islam because of one poor decision they made. Together with these ladies, their children also suffer as they are raised as Muslims, without knowing Jesus or hearing the Gospel.

Nevertheless, all hope is not lost, Jesus can still turn the tide around and save these ladies and their children.

LET'S PRAY

-for these ladies who are lured into Islam via marriage, that they will turn back to Jesus, and Jesus will become their first love.

- for the salvation of their children and Muslim husbands, that they shall hear the Gospel, learn about Jesus and be ministered to by the Holy Spirit.

DAY 5

Perhaps, the most fascinating conversion story in the New Testament is the story of Saul. As a staunch religious leader, he persecuted the followers of Jesus Christ. He was instrumental in starting the "great persecution" against Christian Jews in Jerusalem as he supervised the stoning to death of Stephen (Act 8:1). His desire to persecute Christians was so strong that he even obtained special letters from the high priest, authorizing him to arrest and persecute followers of Jesus in Damascus (Act 9:1-2). He

was feared by many Christian Jews as a terrible persecutor. No doubt that if he had lived today, we would call him a terrorist. However, in his own eyes he was neither a terrorist but a faithful servant of God.

On his journey to Damascus - authorised to arrest and persecute Christian Jews - something unprecedented happens: Jesus Himself confronts Saul, blinds his eyes and sends Ananias to him - a Christian Jew in Damascus - to be prayed over and to be discipled as a new believer (Act 9:1-19). Consequently, the terrorist Saul becomes Saint Paul.

Today, many Muslim terrorists think and act almost exactly in the same way as Saul did. They roam around the world with the intention of persecuting and killing Christians just as Saul did.

After, his radical conversion, Paul became the most influential and fruitful servant of Jesus. There is no other man known to be as effective, as influential and fruitful as Paul in the service of Gospel of Jesus Christ.

LET'S PRAY

- that Jesus will do to Muslim terrorists as He did to Saul. As the persecutor Saul got trans-formed by Jesus from a terrorist to a saint, so shall the Muslim terrorists be trans-formed by Jesus into saints and servants of Him.
- today's Muslim terrorists shall become tomorrow's most effective servants for the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

DAY 6

Saul would have never become the Saint Paul without the courageous obedience and initiative of Ananias. Saul was confronted and converted by Jesus on the way to Damascus (Act 9:1-9). However, it was Ananias who baptised and possibly sheltered and discipled Saul (Act 9:10-25). At about the same time Jesus confronted Saul, He also visited Ananias in a vision and instructed him to go and pray for Saul. If Ananias did not meet Saul and pray for him,

Saul might have never become the Paul we know. Ananias' obedience in meeting and praying for this dangerous person resulted in the Saul becoming the most effective servant of Jesus throughout whole Christian history. Most probably, Ananias did not only pray for and baptise Saul, but also helped discipling and sheltering him after his conversion.

Similarly, there is no doubt that, today Jesus is visiting and even converting many Muslims as he did with Saul. He is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow. At the same time He is looking for modern-day Ananias' to go to those Muslims, pray for them, baptise, disciple and even shelter them after their conversion.

Could it be possible that you might be an Ananias to go to a specific Muslim who has already been visited by Jesus?

LET'S PRAY

- that we will be attentive to the guidance and directives of the Holy Spirit when He calls us to go and pray for others, even a Muslim terrorist.
- that, we will not stop by only praying for them but also baptise, disciple and even shelter them if need be.

DAY 7

Did you know that a great majority of Muslims do not really know what their religion Islam is all about and do not have any personal relationship with their god Allah. Most Muslims have never read their so called holy book Qur'an even once. In fact, they never chose Islam as their religion. They were born to a Muslim family, raised in Muslim society and told that "they were Muslims". Islam, for them is not a personal choice of free will but a social compulsion that they have to endeavour. All Muslims know well that if at any stage they denounce Islam and embrace Christianity they will be cast out of their families and communities. Furthermore, they might even get

killed by some zealot or family members. Therefore, no matter how discontent they may be with Islam, they can never denounce this religion due to fear of persecution and murder. For most Muslims Islam is not a religion of their free choice but a religion of compulsion and fear. They live and die in fear: fear of Allah, fear of other Muslims. Those Muslims that denounce Islam and embrace Jesus do so by risking literally everything and daring the devil.

LET'S PRAY

- that God will pour our His love over Muslims. God's perfect love shall cast away their fears and they shall run to freedom of Jesus (1 Joh 4:18).

DAY 8

When He was crucified, Jesus said „Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.“ (Luk 23:34). These words of Jesus perfectly suit the majority of the global Muslim population. Truly, they do not know what they are doing. They do not know who they are worshipping. They do not know who they are following. They move around the world in great numbers in the name of Allah, thinking that Allah is God. But they do not know the true God. Apostle Paul writes that “Satan disguises himself as angel of light” and deceives many (2 Cor 11:14). However, in the case of Islam, Satan goes even further and masquerades as God, with the name “Allah” and deceives many nations.

Consequently, millions of Muslims bow down to Allah, thinking that he is God. Hundreds of thousands of Muslims become jihadists (Muslim terrorist) killing Jews and Christians in obedience to the instructions of Allah, thinking that they serve God. However, they do not know that Allah is not God but Satan in disguise. They do not know that the true God is the Father of Jesus. Majority of Muslims are inherently not bad people but they are

deceived by Satan (Allah) to do bad things.
I was Muslim but now I am a Christian, because Jesus has revealed this truth to me when I was still a Muslim.

LET'S PRAY

- that God, the Father, will reveal the truth to them. Let us pray that they shall know the truth and the truth shall set them free (Joh 8:32).

DAY 9

When His disciples attempted to stop children from disturbing Jesus, He said: „Let the children alone, and do not hinder them from coming to Me; for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.“ (Mat 19:14). Do you think this includes even Muslim children? Do you think Jesus would like to save, sanctify and raise Muslim children as future leaders in the Kingdom of God? There is no doubt that Jesus loves Muslim children also. Therefore, we should pray for and work towards sharing the love and Gospel of Jesus with Muslim children.

The good news is that many of the Muslim families that live in countries such as SA, intentionally put their children into Christian schools, under the instruction of Christian teachers. This is actually a golden opportunity to for Christians to wisely and gently impact the lives of these Muslim children with the love and Gospel of Jesus. Do you know of any Muslim family?

LET'S PRAY

- for the the salvation, sanctification and the future ministry of those children in the Kingdom of Jesus.
- for Christian teachers and Christian schools that God shall equip and use them to love, save and disciple His chosen Muslim children.

DAY 10

The Islamic worldview is saturated with misconceptions about Jesus Christ, Christianity and Jewish people. No doubt that these misconceptions are fruit of the lies of Satan. After all he is the father of lies (Joh 8:44).

However, for an average Muslim man or woman these are not misconceptions but truths. They have heard them from their parents, learned them at their schools and they believed in them all their lives. Thus, for Muslims surely Jesus is not God, the Bible is corrupted and Jews are the cursed race. Naturally, these misconceptions produce prejudice: a very strong negative opinion about Jesus, Christianity and Jewish people. No matter how good and great person a Muslim individual is, still his Islamic worldview influences and even dictates his opinions. No matter how compassionate and friendly he may be, still his Islamic worldview demands that he should curse the Jews, should not befriend Christians and should reject the Gospel of Jesus. In other words, Islamic worldview dictates that a Muslim should be anti-Christian, anti-Jesus and anti-Semitic. Therefore, it is very difficult for a Muslim individual to believe in the testimony of a Christian, accept Jesus Christ as his Lord and bless the nation of Israel. On the other hand, those Muslims who can break free from the Islamic worldview and its misconceptions, find it so much more easy and even natural to befriend Christians and believe their testimonies, accept Jesus and even bless the nation of Israel.

LET'S PRAY

- that God shall open Muslim minds and set them free from the prejudice and misconceptions of Islam.
- for Muslim youth and students that they shall not take all they hear as truth, but rather diligently search for the truth.

DAY 11

“New neighbours moved in a few weeks ago and they are Muslims who follow their religion seriously, but they are not violent. Why do so many people get upset about Muslims being bad people?” This is a real response of people who grew up with the Christian teaching of loving others as yourself. Real love is careful, it is as “shrewd as serpents and as innocent as doves” (Matt 10:16). Jesus wants us to be able to discern what our Father’s will is. He Himself was wise and did not fall into the traps set by the Pharisees and Scribes. We need to have an honest look at what is beneath the obvious “face of Islam. Muslims grow up with the teachings of Muhammad in their ears. One Arabic word that is engrained into the teachings of Islam, is “taqiyya”.

Taqiyya according to “Wikipedia” is “dissimulation”, a means of telling un-truth (lying) to protect themselves and Islam. Taqiyya therefore makes no room for honesty as the Bible teaches us. It does not teach love and respect for other people, it encourages to destroy the world and possessions of others in order to show the “superiority” of Islam and thus actually degrading humanity. The teaching of Jesus was absolute honesty, even vulnerability as is documented in Matt 5:37. This honesty marked the life of Jesus, our Saviour, teacher and role model.

When we have Muslim neighbours, colleges, family or friends, let the Spirit be the guide to become more acquainted with who the Muslims are, what motivates them (fear, pride, uncertainty, or any-thing else). With this in mind, we can then live in honesty, even being vulnerable (but cautious) in order to show Muslims the unchangeable nature of our Heavenly Father – Yahweh!

LET’S PRAY

- For a divine encounter between them and our Heavenly Father.
- For the clear guidance of the Holy Spirit to lead us to say what He want us to say and be.

DAY 12

So many people on earth live in constant fear. Often it is peer pressure, but in the House of Islam it is the constant uncertainty about if my good works will ever be enough to give me a passage to paradise. The words “Insha Allah” (freely translated as “if Allah wills) are commonly used as an equivalent to the Latin words “Deo Volente” (if God wills). In the first case there is the underlying uncertainty imbedded in the character of Allah – far away and unreachable! In the second case it stems from an intimate relationship with God as a loving Father who knows what is best for his children and always gives his children the peace of mind to rest in his providence. The underlying and constant uncertainty about the life after death in Islam pushes all Muslims to try their utmost best to ultimately attain eternal life with all the blessing as described in the Qur’an and Hadith. Still the necessary certainty about life after death for a Muslim can only be attained by dying in a Jihad (holy war). It is true that Muslim clergy teaches that the great Jihad is against the sins (as defined by the Shari’a) in every person and the lesser Jihad is against the enemies of Islam. It is understandable that the easiest of the two is the outward fighting – the lesser Jihad is inwardly directed to a better lifestyle and needs a deep theological knowledge. The joy which Christ gives to every remorseful follower of his, might become the focus point of a Muslim’s curiosity. Let our freedom from fear for what reason there may be, pave the way for Muslims to find Jesus Christ.

LET’S PRAY

- that the fear Muslims experience will drive them to search for freedom from Jihad and not let them die in Jihad.
- that Christians in their nearby vicinity will be sensitive and fearless enough to reach out in the strong love of Jesus.

DAY 13

There are many deceptions of Islam, but Avi Lipkin highlights the five most prominent deceptions in a Youtube video (<https://youtu.be/4qgbWMEedJM>). The first one is that Islam is a religion of love. So often Christians assume that Islam is also based on love, as is the case with the Christian religion and the teachings of Jesus Christ. It is true that “love makes the world go around”, but the definition of this love is of crucial importance. In Islam the teachings of Jesus do not play the role as in Christianity. It is a deep human desire to live in the loving way Jesus prescribed but neither the Qur’an nor the Hadith command loving Allah or loving any human beings as yourself!

The second deception is that Islam is a religion of peace. Islam is a religion of the sword, as the flag of Saudi Arabia symbolizes where the sword is underneath the Muslim creed in Arabic. There will be no peace according to Islam until Islam rules the world. Anyone who is according to radical Muslims, not “Muslim enough” will also be slaughtered.

The third deception is that Allah is equal to Jahweh, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Ismael was a violent man (Gen 16:12) who ridiculed Isaac (Gen 21:9-10), the promised one and so also Esau, who later married the daughter of Ismael (Gen 28:9). The Bitterness of Ismael and Esau paved the road for the people from whom Muhammad came. Allah is not the God of love or peace as Jesus portrays our Heavenly Father. So often Muslim say to Christians: “We serve one god!” Indeed they serve one god, and the Christians serve one God, but it is a very different God!!!

The fourth deception is that Jesus Christ of the Bible is the same as Isa in the Qur’an. Ismael is not mentioned in the genealogy of Jesus Christ. The Isa of the Qur’an is definitely not divine, but only human. Although Isa did perform miracles, he did not die, but ascended to heaven. Isa is according to Muslims still alive, but Muhammad’s skeleton is in the tomb!

The fifth deception is that the Bible is equal to the Qur’an

and therefore the divine word of Allah. Muslims accept the books of Moses, the wisdom literature and the Gospel of Barnabas as books preceding the Qur'an. They however do not believe that later revelations are the fulfilment of previous revelations, but the replacement of previous revelations. Therefore they do not know and understand the Bible.

LET'S PRAY

- that Muslims will start reading the Bible with an open mind and listen to the guidance of the Holy Spirit.
- God will protect every searching Muslim who realizes the deceptions of Islam and turn to Christ.
- Christians don't follow the Muslim's misconception but are able to answer Muslims, when they doubt.

DAY 14

Neville Truter (OM at GMO):

"But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect..." (1 Pe 3:15).

In Matthew 28:19, Jesus leaves a message for every believer. It's summed up in two simple words:

"Share Jesus."

Today technology reaches into countries where missionaries can't go and helps seekers to grow in places where a mention of the name of Jesus can lead to death. Volunteers, apps, secure response systems and Online Missionaries come together as a new model to share Jesus with every person on Earth!

Global Media Outreach exists to share Jesus online, grow people in faith and connect them to Christian communities.

Muslims who are searching for answers and open to learning more about Jesus connect with an Online Missionary (OM) at Global Media Outreach (GMO).

Negative Contacts

Pakistan: "You should study the quran first and i hop your mind will accept islam's wealth." (Arif)

"You think you're right .Jews think they're right. I'm am a Muslim ,I think I'm right." (Hassan).

Positive Contacts

Yemen: "You advise me that best place to start is at the basics,so what are the basics of Christian faith?" (Abdullah)

Uganda: "My parents are muslims, they tell me islam is the true religion. My christian friends from christian family say their parents say christianity is the true religion, i am confused to make a decision, what can i do?" (Malufa).

Many Muslim seekers come in touch with GMO OM's asking heart-searching questions about Jesus, the Bible, the God of the Bible and the afterlife!

Before responding to a contact OM's pray and trust in the work of the Holy Spirit to open blind eyes and soften hearts and bring true conviction of sin and create new life (Romans 8:26, John 16:8).

LET US PRAY

- for vast numbers of Muslims to come to Christ as a result of supernatural encounters like dreams and visions of Jesus.
- pray the Holy Spirit will raise-up many workers (OM's) for this vast harvest by utilising Internet Ministries. (Rev 14:6).

DAY 15

For the last three years I have befriended a young Muslim lady I met at work. Gradually we got to know each other and we developed a trusting relationship. She knows I am a committed Christian and I'm very thankful that I've been able to share more and more with her about the Lord. One of our recent discussions was about miracles and answers to prayer. We had a wonderful time talking

about many things and she really opened up about some problems in her family. So you can imagine how shocked and saddened I was when she eventually told me that she is moving to Pakistan to marry a man she barely knows.

Amazingly, God answered my prayer to have some private, personal time with her before she left. The day before her departure, she agreed to go out for coffee. Yet it turned out to be a rather discouraging visit because every time I tried to direct the conversation to Jesus, she immediately responded with words about her dedication to Islam.

I must not lose heart. Many Christians are praying for her. I hope she will keep her promise to stay in touch via email. I know God loves her and nothing is impossible for Him. I will continue to pray for her and ask Jesus to reveal Himself to this lovely young woman whom He has brought across my path.

LET'S PRAY

- for young South African Muslim women who are sent to Muslim countries to marry into a family they don't know.
- Pray by name for the Muslims who God has brought across your path.

DAY 16

Since the beginning of this year there has been on average 18 women with some of their children at the shelter. A few of them have older, married children, others are living with grandmothers, some are in foster care. The women identified their needs and our group of Jammelah ladies are each praying for 2 or more. Prayer updates are sent out as new ones enter. Every week we do a craft which is followed by a story – currently using “Chicken Soup for the soul – Tough Times, Tough Peo-

ple and The Power of Positive." A spiritual application is drawn pertinent to their lives and situations.

The women are all aware that we and friends are praying for them. We recently had two Muslim women spontaneously thanking us for the prayers – the one's son got a job and the other one said that her relationship with her son is improving! The day after our session another young Muslim woman had to go to court for a maintenance case. She asked us to pray, which we did there and then. We hand out backdated JOY! Magazines and Daily Bible Readings and these are avidly taken by Muslim as well as the non-Muslim women.

LET'S PRAY

- Praise God that we still have relative freedom to speak about the Lord at the shelter and that it may continue to be so.
- that those who hear and read about Jesus will hunger to know Him more.
- that through their prayers being answered they will believe in the power of prayer.

DAY 17

The outreach & equipping programmes that are operated by the Bridge team (17 members, team leader: Pastor Abraham Jun) aim to:

- equip Christians with a deep Biblical knowledge of their own faith and an understanding of the principles of Islam in order to reach out in love to Muslims with the saving gospel of Jesus Christ.
- equip churches and facilitate their direct involvement in cross-cultural evangelism.
- mobilize local church leaders and get them involved in effective training in cross-cultural evangelism.
- initiate Bridge programmes to enable local leadership to be active in discipling in cross-cultural evangelism.

There are different courses (for example: Awareness preaching on Sunday morning, Quarterly awareness

seminars, Quarterly convert care study seminars, Bridge team open seminar, 24 sessions Battle For The Hearts Series monthly programme, Youth seminars, One-to-one consultation, etc.) to suit the different needs of the groups/churches wanting to learn about cross-cultural evangelism which may be followed under the guidance of the facilitators of the Bridge outreach & equipping programmes.

PRAY FOR:

- wisdom and insight in teaching and training cross-cultural evangelism at local churches in Cape Town and also pray for attaining fruit (awareness, producing disciplined disciples) and the goal (depending and ex-panding the kingdom of God).
- the believers to be aware of the religion and to make relationship with Muslims through Jesus' love, and to have life evangelism.
- the churches which are involved with a phased education of cross-cultural evangelism to manage functioning dynamics of evangelism and the runners of missions.
- safety on the way to the ministry field in the evenings.

DAY 18

At Bible Institute South Africa, BISA, I am involved with the Christian Leadership Program. This means I teach 20 students in Khayelitsha for 2 hours per week, over 8 weeks. This gives me an opportunity to talk about missions, Muslims and motivation.

At George Witfield College I teach African and Islamic world views. We did two hours per week on Islam. Our text book is "Ask your Muslim friend". I have 14 hours of teaching available. We also visit the Bo-Kaap and UCT mosque.

I am currently training Rodney Adonis, an SIM appointee, so we share the teaching load.

A local church is sponsoring more than dreams dvds which some students and I distribute.

I take church meetings when available and either preach

on Missions and or Muslim Evangelism.

I also assist some students with Honours programs, but not many are encouraged to work in missions or research Islam. This seems to be a pity. One Kenyan student may pursue this program, subject to funding.

I am currently working on a book which deals with the life story of Joseph as found in Genesis and in the Quran.

LET'S PRAY

- for the different teaching sessions. Pastors, churches and students to be encouraged to reach out to Muslims and become living testimonies to Jesus Christ
- for Rodney Adonis to become an effective minister in Muslim evangelism
- the book on Joseph to become an effective tool in Muslim evangelism

DAY 19

Yes, I am glad to be able to share with you how good God is and how he is blessing his work through the Jameelah ministry.

Quite a few ladies have come to join our group, we have regular meetings every third week of the month. We meet for prayers at different ladies homes every second Monday as well. I find it so amazing to have prayers at the CMBBs homes which is very exciting because we can also reach their children and family members for Jesus and share the gospel with them.

The group consists of 15 ladies in total. We are trusting the Lord to add to our group through witnessing and outreach to Muslim ladies in our community.

LET'S PRAY

- for the CMBBs in the group as you know how their Muslim families can be towards them especially during Ramadan when they actually try to persuade them to revert back to Islam, it can be very unpleasant for them.

- we trust that the Lord will always protect them under these circumstances.
- for the group on the cape flats as we will be celebrating our first anniversary this May.

DAY 20

The Experience of my SA Missionary Lady friend in one of the Hot Spots of Missions:

I feel it every time I so desperately try to express myself in a foreign language of which my knowledge and understanding is so very limited.

I feel it when learning the language feels like I am trying to obtain a PHD in metaphysics.

When the oppression in the air is so heavy and the mosque's call to prayer becomes my constant rhythm.

When I have to be aware everyday not to electrocute myself when leaving and returning to my apartment.

When there is No fellowship or worship in my heart language and I feel spiritually dry like the arid desert I am living in.

When I cannot connect with people on a deeper level because of the language barrier and people look at me wherever I go with mistrust and suspicion.

When once again I have bought drinking yoghurt instead of milk because the labels look the same to me.

When the bank declined my application for a bank account because women should not be allowed that.

When I don't know where to get my hair trimmed because it's a mans world and every salon is for men only, in fact every street corner has a man's salon, a mosque and a men's only coffee and shisha shop.

I feel it when I get hissed and spat at by a radical man with a beard and a Muslim hat who thinks I am worse than a dog because I am woman ...

So Jesus also suffered outside the gate in order to sanctify the people through his own blood. Therefore let us go to him outside the camp and bear the reproach he endured. For here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city that

is to come. Through him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledges his name. Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God. (Hebrews 13:12-16 ESV)

PLEASE PRAY

- for my missionary friend and sister in Christ, God knows here name;
- for other missionaries in middle-east Islamic "hot sports"
- for the Lord of the harvest to send in more labourers!

DAY 21

(continuation Day 20)

I feel it when I see the women in the streets that are completely veiled and walk quickly to where they are going, as they should not be out without a male relative.

I feel it when everything is so different from all I have known so far.....

To quote a friend of mine who is living in another difficult place on our globe: "Some call it Culture shock, some call it Home sickness, but it's really something between tiredness, sadness and a general confusion of how things are supposed to work"..... that is when I am reminded of the words of a song by Sara Groves...

"I don't want to leave here, I don't want to stay, it feels like pinching to me either way, And the places I long for the most, Are the places where I've been..... They are calling out to me, like a long lost friend, Its not about losing faith, it's not about trust, It's all about comfortable, when you move so much, And the place I was before was not perfect, but I had found a way to live, It wasn't milk or honey but then neither is this, The future feels so hard And I want to go back but the places that used to lit me cannot hold the things I've learned, Those roads were closed off to me. While my back was turned."

And all I know is that this feeling will pass.... My Sovereign Lord is not shaken or surprised by it all.... And He is Faithful as the lifter of my head, when I look through His eyes I am reminded of a passage I read that was written by a radical man:

“When you look at me on the street, you see my Muslim hat and my beard, and you are afraid of me. And, to tell you the truth, that is why we dress this way, to make you afraid of us. But you need to know—you need to know that inside we are empty. Don’t be afraid of us. We need the gospel.”

And the woman who wears the veil say’s “I veil myself because I have no identity and no worth. I am not allowed to think for myself, I am the property of my husband and yet I have dreams and visions of a man in white, whose love is nothing like I’ve ever known..... Please tell me about Him!”

“To those who are perishing, we are a dreadful smell of death and doom. But to those who are being saved, we are life-giving perfume. And who is adequate for such a task as this?” (2 Corinthians 2:16, NLT).

And so I sing the words of Sara Groves:

“I’ve got my hand on the Gospel plow, won’t take nothing for my journey now, keep your eyes on the prize, hold on, the wait is slow and we have far to go, keep your eyes on the prize, hold on.”

PLEASE PRAY

- for those knowing their call and still feel deep pain in following it.

DAY 22

Following the story of the “prodigal son”: To a son who returns home after scorning his father, it is natural to expect that he will not resume his former position in the home. The lost son returns in the hope that his father might take him as a servant or a slave. It is also natural while we carry a burden of guilt for our sins, that we serve God out of guilt and fear. When the father in the

parable responds the way he does, it comes as a surprise to the penitent son. It is not what he expected! A father's love goes beyond reason. So Christians can't simply expect Muslims to understand the father-heart of God.

The older brother in the parable also acts in the natural way. He resents the sibling who fell into disgrace and then comes back; (we find traces of this resentment in the attitude of pious Muslim's when Christian 'sinners' claim to be made right with God without having to do anything to earn it). The older son is also motivated by the apparent injustice of the father's forgiveness. "What then sets me apart? Me, the son who has worked so hard? Where is my reward?" But see how the father responds to the older brother's resentment: "Everything I have is yours." By which to say, "ultimately, you are not working for me, you are working for yourself, because you will receive everything I own as your inheritance."

How then can we become children of God? None of us enter God's family by natural birth. The Lord Jesus taught that "flesh gives birth to flesh" and "flesh counts for nothing". We become children of God by receiving His Spirit (the "imperishable seed"), when we are "born again" or "born from above" (see John 3).

"For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God. For, 'All men are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of the Lord stands forever.' And this is the word that was preached to you." (1 Peter 1:21-25)

As a man produces a child by putting his seed into a woman, God produces His children by vesting His imperishable seed, namely the Holy Spirit, into a human soul - so that Christ (the life of the son) may be born in us.

In conclusion let us be reminded and mindful of fact that Islam's "prophet" Mohammed had an orphaned childhood. The following two verses show the special love that our heavenly Father God has for those like Mohammed, those who grow up without any natural father:

"A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in his holy dwelling. God sets the lonely in families, he

leads forth the prisoners with singing; but the rebellious live in a sun-scorched land." (Psalm 68: 5-6)

"Though my father and mother forsake me, the LORD will receive me." (Psalm 27:10)

PLEASE PRAY:

- for the 'Spirit of Sonship', 'the Spirit of Adoption' to be poured out once more, through the Word of God. On the church, but also on the Muslims.

DAY 23

Let us begin by seeking to understand the meaning of "worthy". Everything has a value. No one will sell a brand new car for USD 100 (let alone R100). When it comes to our calling, to be the children of God, to be known by His name, what type of life is worthy of this honour?

Once we are joined to God in Jesus Christ, His honour is at stake. He is now identified with us, and our conduct can put Him to shame. Just like an unfaithful wife disgraces her husband, or a rebellious child his parents, so too we can bring disgrace upon the living God. The bad that Christians do will cause others to blame and slander God. The apostle Paul laments this in his letter to the Romans: "God's name is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of YOU" (Romans 2:24). He also wrote to Timothy: "For, as I have often told you before and now say again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven." (Philippians 3:18-20)

Our lives are visible. This is true! Everyone can see me for what I am - just as light cannot be hid. People see us speak to our wives, they see how we treat our children, they hear what we say about people behind their backs. They will discern what is driving our religion: whether

we are looking for money and fame, or the righteousness of Christ and the Kingdom of God! In the same way that this is sadly true, it is also true that a good testimony, a faithful witness, travels far and wider. I have heard many testimonies of people who become Christians, who were attracted to God because they saw & experienced in Christians a unique type of love & humility.

"I knew a very wealthy man who died some years ago. He once shared with me how he came to know his need of Christ. He used to like gambling and drinking and women. He was unfaithful to his wife. On one occasion he stayed out and came home in the early hours of the morning. On the dining room table he found the plate of food his wife had lovingly prepared for him. In the passage he found his slippers where his wife always left them, so that he could be comfortable when he got home. In the lounge he found the glass of sherry that she usually poured for him. He told me what happened next: "I walked to the bathroom, looked at myself in the mirror and spat at my face, and said to myself, 'I hate you, you despicable and disgraceful man'". The quiet suffering and faithfulness of his Christian wife over many years eventually brought this man to repentance and salvation," (Bro. Kevin Daly).

Someone once said: "Yes, 'Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.' And, if necessary, use words." But words are certainly necessary, so let our word and our testimony work together:

"In your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander" (1 Peter 3:15-16).

SELF-EXAMINATION

Please may we engage in a time of self examination, reflecting on Ephesians, chapters 4 and 5. Let us read these chapters, meditate on the appropriate verses and ask our Father in heaven to show us if we have disappointed Him in any way.

DAY 24

Especially in townships we find pastors, who see the need to reach out to Muslims. They are struggling as they don't know Islam and find it difficult to find a way to approach Muslims. Most families in their churches have Muslim family members and even then Christians find it difficult to overcome the barriers to reach out to the Muslims.

Especially in this environment it is common to think that we all Muslims, Christians and Jews believe in the same God. It was mentioned before, this is not true. It takes courage on the side of the pastors to contact people who could train them and it takes courage on the side of trainers to go into townships to train pastors and churches. This is more relevant in rural areas and Eastern Cape.

LET'S PRAY

- for pastors to be bold enough to admit their lack of knowledge and contact people with knowledge, so they can be trained
- for trainers to find contact to key pastors, so that training can be effectively organised.
- for families to be bold to testify of their faith in Jesus to the family members who don't know Jesus.
- for those, who have received training, to make use of their knowledge and even encourage others as well.

DAY 25

Every year there is one conference in South Africa that is meant to encourage everybody who is reaching out to Muslims. This year it will take place in Port Elisabeth. One speaker is invited to give teaching and a lot of time is reserved for the participants to connect among each other. Reaching out to Muslims is no work to be acknowledged greatly in church. There are many reasons to loose

hope for any “success” or to despair. So it is vital that one connects with others. Only a few years ago, people who were working among a special people group in different places in South Africa didn’t know of each other and got connected at such a conference! How helpful that is!

LET’S PRAY

- for this years conference that every single participant will be encouraged and gain new insights to work more effectively
- for many connections to be built among the different participants to encourage one another
- for the many technical details to make the conference as smooth as possible, so that everyone can concentrate on what this conference is for and doesn’t experience distraction because of unnecessary details

DAY 26

While going door-to-door in townships we come across very different people. There is Yussuf, who is only Muslim at work. His name is actually Joseph, but he has to cook for Muslims, so he can only cook, if he is a Muslim himself. At home he takes his Muslim cloths off, but he does not really know what to believe. He only tries to survive somehow.

We met Maria, who runs a crèche. She is a bliever but was totally surprised by the thought, she could be a witness to the Muslim parents, who drop their little ones at her place.

Abdulatif told us: Jesus and Allah is the same and he runs a shabeen. His theology is neither Muslim nor Christian. It is such a syncretistic mixture that it is not easy to help him sort out the truth. In essence he knows that much of what he does is wrong but he doesn’t want to admit so he can continue his comfortable living. Jasmin once had her face shining with joy because she had found Jesus. A year later her husband had made her life miserable and she was still looking for a church, as

she said. We tried shortly after that another visit, but she didn't have time at that moment. Some months later she was pregnant again and actually somewhat in order. She told us she would attend church sometime but it did not sound very enthusiastic.

LET'S PRAY

- People are struggling to survive and in that struggle don't know God and don't know how to know God. May Jesus reveal himself to them and let Christians be a useful tool in the hands of our Lord Jesus to make him known.
- for each of the named persons, that Jesus will become the one reality in their life.

DAY 27

The 27th day of the fasting month is very important for the Muslims. They stay awake the night through, praying for Allah's blessings and forgiveness. The Muslim tradition says that Mohammad went in a vision to Jerusalem that night and from Jerusalem into the seventh heaven. Muslim think by making this night a special night, they might experience an extra blessing of Allah as well. At least they hope to find closer to Allah.

LET'S PRAY

- at that night a miracle must take place in the hearts of as many Muslims. They must be reminded of the Resurrection power of JESUS CHRIST. Believe that nothing is impossible with GOD instead of Allah.

DAY 28

During Ramadan Muslims celebrate the breaking of the fast with an enormous meal "Iftar". For Arabs Almonds and dates are most precious and so this is of course true for all Muslims as well during Ramadan. To take some and bring it with you as a gift for a visit during Ramadan might be greatly appreciated and open doors for a good discussion on what fasting is about. It is always good to ask questions and show interest in what Muslims do and what the reason is. Most Muslims never thought of any reasons and just follow traditions. When we ask the question, it might help our friend to start asking himself and making his first step on his road to the truth.

LET'S PRAY

- for many Christians to start befriending their Muslim neighbours, colleagues, relatives
- for many opportunities especially during Ramadan, when Muslims generally try to be very religious to show the truth of following the true God.

DAY 29

South Africa is the destination of many refugees in the continent of Africa, and particularly those, who come from war torn countries. Life is such that the locals are not as friendly as they should be to the „visitors“, and unfortunately, this also includes Christians from every corner of the country.

Among them are people groups that are known as staunch Muslim and for the most part we don't even know of a single believer. It made me wonder even if in my humble efforts someone would come to Jesus, how would this person be able to survive?

Our living God in his Grace made it possible for me to

meet with one believer in Jesus Christ among this particular group. Above the challenge to disciple this blessed soul is the joy that our God makes more things possible than we can even imagine.

LET'S PRAY

- that the church will make use of the heavenly opportunities the Lord is giving us to share the gospel with non South Africans, particularly the ones that come from countries where being a Christian is prohibited.
- for those who have found the Lord since they have come to the country. Pray that they will be wise in how they live during this Ramadan, and that God will keep them safe.
- for the Christians, who get to know young believers that they have the courage and the wisdom and the love to disciple them in a way that makes God's Name great!

DAY 30

Reading and praying through this prayer guide has certainly made you aware of many differences. The contributions have been made by people who work with Muslims. They appear as different as the people they work with. The difference in the contributions has been kept deliberately to make the diversity appear clearly.

As you were praying through this guide, you might have realised that you don't have much opportunities to excuse yourself from further engagement. There are so different ways of being engaged in reaching out to the lost people that there is certainly a way for you to do it as well.

A friend of mine is using his art of writing poems to make people laugh and think at the same time. This is certainly a very special gift that not many people share. But it raises the question, what is your gift, your opportunity to be involved?

Prayer is so important and we need it more than just through Ramadan. Every worker thanks you with all his or her heart for every single prayer. And it is important

that you keep on praying. And if you find a way of reaching out to Muslims, don't let excuses misguide you. It is the Kingdom of Jesus Christ that we are involved with and it is worth every effort.

LET'S PRAISE GOD

- for providing opportunities to reach out to the lost and save their souls
- for Jesus Christ not getting tired of building his kingdom with ordinary people in ordinary places with all variety of methods
- for the Holy Spirit guiding us in all we do to make God's Name great!