



Central * Eastern * Southern Africa

Ramadan Prayer Calendar

September 1 – 30, 2008

God's People Praying Together

Strategic Praying to Confront Lostness

When you think of Central, Eastern and Southern Africa you may think of tribal people, with bright colored clothes or wraps, wearing beads, singing with drums and shakers. But in the CESA region the increasing number of mosques and the influence of the Muslim faith impact most people groups. On September 1, with the sighting of the new moon, a time of fasting begins called "Ramadan". This month of fasting, one of the five Pillars of the Islamic faith, is a result of obedience and causes Muslims to remember the qualities of Allah. Because of the spiritual dimension to fasting, many Muslims study the Koran and visits increase to mosques during Ramadan. We would like to challenge you to pray for Muslims during this month by using this CESA specific prayer guide. Pray that many will hear and entrust their lives to Jesus.

1. A group of new believers, fruit from a volunteer team this summer, meet weekly on Sunday midway up the beautiful mountains near Morogoro, Tanzania. Please pray God will teach and grow them through stories and His word. Pray for D specifically to rise up as the teacher's helper of this group and that the ladies and others on the mountain will come to their worship time weekly. Thank God for this place for all the new believers to meet as a community.

2. "A" represented a typical Digo mzee (elder). The lines on his face showed his years and the scowl on his face showed his lack of joy. That was true until "A" met Jesus. "A"'s wife was headed to the big Digo meeting that was set up for believers in the area to come fellowship. With so little support from their communities and possible persecution, the meeting offered a time of encouragement and strengthening in their faith. After an invitation from his wife, "A" agreed to go along with her. There, he heard many testimonies of Digo coming to faith. They told of when they were saved and how God was moving in their lives. He also saw Digo being baptized. Others were boldly professing their commitment to Jesus before their Digo brothers and sisters. Days after the meeting, "A" made a decision to follow Jesus and wanted a group to study at his home. Now "A" represents more than a

typical Digo mzee, he represents the power of Jesus in a life living with the source of hope inside him. Please remember the next Digo meeting that gathers together believers from all over the area. Ask that there will be more stories like this one to share!!

3. Pray for M, who is wrestling over his own path to God. He is a person of responsibility in his family. While he knows that he is hearing the Truth, he has not yet had the courage to declare himself a follower. He is one of several who are at the point of personal decision.

4. Please pray for a group of Muslim women in Mozambique who are hearing the Word of God and express a desire to follow Him, but are afraid of their family, and are not yet ready to share the Good News with others. Please pray for a worker as she tries to disciple and lead these women.

5. Pray for the neighbors of believers in CESA who celebrate Ramadan. They work steadily each day to prepare a place with sufficient tables and chairs, food and a sound system for music. Each night around 10:30 pm, family and friends gather to enjoy the music, the food and the dancing. Ladies, dressed in elegant and colorful clothes, dance gracefully in a circle around the floor. It is a time of celebration but true joy is missing from the festivities. Pray that these neighbors will have

opportunity to hear the truth of God's Word so that they will come to know Jesus Christ and truly have a joyous celebration.

6. T is a young Muslim man who helped out in the last 40 Days and 40 Nights new missionary orientation in Zambia. He asked many questions, read many Scriptures, and made a commitment to Jesus Christ. Pray for strength and protection for him and that he would be strong in his new faith and study of God's word. Ask that his family would see something new and different in him and want the same.

7. B., one of the three young Ngindo men translating the Bible into the Ngindo language, reported in August that the translation of the book of John has been through a first revision. Praise be to God! Pray that these words of life will be storied throughout this very unreached people group and that many would come to salvation and be disciples. Pray for the Q family who labors to see the gospel planted among them, that God would protect them and give them great strategic relationships.

8. Two DVDs, planned for distribution in the Muslim area of a major South African city, are the "Jesus" DVD and "More Than Dreams" DVD that gives testimonies of five Muslims who have accepted Jesus as their Lord and Savior. Unfortunately, there have been numerous and continual delays in the distribution. Please pray that the repacking of the DVDs goes smoothly. Pray for men from a local church as they assist in the distribution and outreach to Muslims of this city. Pray that the evil one will be thwarted in attempts to make things go wrong and that he will be blinded in this first-ever mass distribution in this area of the city. The Lord is all-powerful, all knowing, and will use this for good. Pray for the men who will be involved in follow up evangelism after the distribution. Please pray for fruit that remains!

9. Through a concentrated effort of reaching and teaching more people about Islam, leaders in this religion are sending out their "missionaries" to other countries to share and convert. The border areas of Uganda are feeling this infiltration. The

few Christians in these areas are being persecuted, live in fear and find it difficult to share God's Word. Pray for these Christians to remain true to their walk with the Lord and be alert to opportunities of witness about God's love and salvation through his Son.

10. Morning, noon, and night the Muslim old men of this island lounge on benches, sit on the curb, or lean on nearby cars at certain street corners. They talk politics and current issues while drinking strong, ginger-infused, black coffee. Workers here often stop for coffee and conversation. Please ask God to lead their conversation toward Him.

11. "Accomplices arrested and interrogated by the Anti-Terrorism Police" – this is not dialogue from yet another TV drama about terrorists. These words were found in a local Nairobi newspaper a few days before the 10th anniversary of the bombing of the US Embassy in Nairobi. The word *terrorist* brings fear in our world today – it can also be a reminder to pray. Many of the terrorists only know of Jesus as a Prophet. Pray they will come to know Him as their Saviour, the true giver of peace and of eternal life. Pray that they will come to understand His teachings of the greatest commandments – to love our heavenly Father with all our heart, soul, mind and strength and to "Love your neighbour as yourself" (Mark 12:28-31).

12. Please pray for the Zigua people as the first trial printing of the book of Mark took place several months ago. Field testing for the book of Luke is scheduled to take place soon. Please continue to pray for these translators that they will be led by the Holy Spirit and that the project will continue well. Once the book of Luke is translated and tested the hope is to have the Jesus Film translated into Chizigua. Please pray that the Lord will be glorified in all of this.

13. They are seen all around Lilongwe, capital city of Malawi, especially in the many shops that they own. Most are very friendly and want to talk. Ask the Lord to direct the paths of missionary women to these South Asian Muslim women. Pray that He would give discernment and creativity in knowing how to get to know them better so that a door to the gospel would be opened to share with them. Pray

that He would place in their hearts a desire to know Him.

14. During a several hour flight, an on-field worker was seated next to a lady traveling "home" to be with family for Ramadan. Knowing this was a God ordained appointment; the on-field worker was able to share the gospel with this woman. Please pray that as this woman is going through all of the Ramadan rituals, she would feel a vast void of emptiness that can only be filled by the Lord. Please pray that she would have visions and dreams that would point her to belief in Him.

15. Pray that Satan, who has ruled along the coast of Eastern Africa for thousands of years, would be bound. Ask that God would speak to Muslims through dreams & visions during Ramadan. Pray that workers would find persons of peace and that relationships would be built in order to boldly share the Truth. In the middle of heat, rough roads, a different language, limited water and electricity, resistant peoples, pray that workers would not grow weary but persevere in the task set before them.

16. The Koti are a relatively unreached Muslim people group of approximately 85,000 living on the northeastern coast of Mozambique. In the past there has been work among them by a variety of groups. Please pray that God's Spirit would stir in the hearts of the Koti and that they will be open to the gospel message as workers engage this people group again. Please pray for the logistics involved in getting among this people group. Ask God to work out all the details so that there will be light and salt in the midst of the Koti.

17. Please pray for the Indian Muslims of Durban. There are approximately 100,000 who bow the knee to Allah, believing that their good deeds will in some way appease them. Pray for more workers and for wisdom to know how to share the Truth effectively. Please ask God to give dreams and visions of Himself to Muslims and that they will be saved.

18. Pray for Muslim background believers in Malawi who are involved in story centers. Pray that the Word will continue to spread even as workers move to Mozambique. Please ask God that these

believers would mature in Christ and that the Truth will penetrate the hearts of those who hear and for obedience will follow.

19. Please pray for P, M, J and E, Muslim friends to IMB personnel in Zambia. They have heard the Good News of Christ in personal ways. Pray that God would continue to draw them to Himself and to continue to reveal Truth to them. Pray missionaries would live righteous lives and that they would be sensitive to every opportunity to share.

20. When Muslim men or women convert to Christianity, life as they know it turns upside down. Many lose jobs and the support of their families. G is such an example. Her ex-husband, still a Muslim, recently took her to court accusing her of hitting him. There is much animosity on his part because he can see that she is never coming back to his religion. The judge totally dismissed the charges against her! G is a strong Christian and is waiting on the Lord in regards to her future. Living next door to her ex-husband, G prays that she will be able to escape these living arrangements. She finished a floral course and is hired by a florist. Praise the Lord that she sees blessings from the Lord in the midst of her trials. Pray for her to stay strong, to live confidently day to day in front of the children who are still at home asking God for their salvation.

21. One island woman recently fasted for seven days, begging Allah for a baby. If she doesn't get pregnant, her husband may divorce her. Another woman was told she had a demon in her belly which made her look fat. Please pray that the Author of Truth would shed His light in the hearts of young women across this island.

22. A missionary in Malawi was having a new wall built at the back of her house. She decided to share devotions each morning with the workers who were building this wall. One of them was a Muslim from the Yao people group and he became very interested in what this missionary was sharing. He later accepted Christ as His Savoir and now, after two years leads the youth group in his church. He has led several of his Muslim friends to Christ. Pray for the Yao people who are dispersed all over Malawi to be confronted with the truth of the gospel

just as this young worker was. Pray that God would place in the heart of Christians to have a deep love and burden to share Christ with those Muslims who live near them and with whom they work.

23. Late one Saturday afternoon a young man appeared at the gate of missionaries living in a small town in Swaziland. When asked what he wanted the man explained he had been working for South Asian Muslims in town as well as considering accepting the Muslim faith when he quit his job. His employers told him if he quit working for them and left them he would die. He came to ask the missionary if this was true. It is quite apparent that the Muslim faith is growing among the Swazi people. Pray for Swazis who are being misled and confused by Islam. Pray Christians will see the urgency to witness to their loss friends and neighbors.

24. "A" & "N" came to the Lord about 6 years ago out of Islam. An IMB missionary couple mentored them. They grew quickly, absorbing everything like a sponge and were very involved in a local Baptist church becoming involved with a prayer group. This prayer group helped them raise support for a missions training time. After returning from the training, this prayer group apparently caused this couple to question several issues and they have moved to another evangelical church. Pray that the Lord will confirm their call and that they would step out in faith. But regardless pray that they would evangelize other Muslims and spread His word in their home country. Pray for "A" & "N" and for the Muslims of South Africa.

25. Small shops line almost every street of this African town. Many of the shopkeepers spend most of the day sitting in front of their shops, chatting with their neighbors. As workers walk these streets, pray for discernment regarding where to stop and with whom to talk. Pray for conversations that lead to Him.

26. Muslims in the Gauteng Province of South Africa fall into four categories, Indian-Asians; Colored; Black and White. The major settlements of the Muslim population are in the Johannesburg township of Lenasia and Pretoria township of Laudium. These townships are populated by

Muslims from the Gujarati area of India but also include Punjabis, Bangladesh, Pakistanis and Africans. Pray for a missionary that will facilitate an evangelistic approach to reach all Muslims in the Gauteng Province. Pray that Muslims of Lenasia and Laudium townships will have a chance to hear the Gospel message and experience the love of Christ.

27. Among a Muslim people group in the mountains of Tanzania, fifty people came to faith in Christ after several volunteer teams and a Hands On Africa group lived among them with the help of Tanzanian university students. Fifteen were baptized. Please pray for these young believers that they would grow in their faith in Christ and that the villages in these mountains would never be the same.

28. Pray for the Ngindo people. This is a time that Muslim people feel especially close to God. The Night of Wonders is the 27th night of Ramadan. This year it is September 28th. It is the night that Muslims believe that God gave the Koran. Many believe it is the night that God is the most accessible to them and that on this night God, Himself, hears prayers directly or through the angel Gabriel. So it is a time that many people ask God to give them visions and dreams. Pray that the Ngindo people will have dreams and visions of Jesus during this month. Pray that they will come to know Jesus as Lord and Savior.

29. Praise the Lord for the open doors that missionaries across CESA have in sharing their faith with Muslim peoples. Pray that every opportunity would be utilized and that they would boldly share the claims of Christ in an understandable way.

30. As Muslims across CESA break their fast and celebrate, please pray that they recognize the emptiness of their faith and they would want to know more about Jesus.