



Join Us in One Week
of *Prayer* and
Fasting for
God to bring His glory
to *Oman*



October 18-24, 2009

Oman : A peaceful place to live

The Sultanate of Oman, easily accessible from Dubai, is situated in the north eastern part of the Arabian Peninsula. A little smaller than the United Kingdom, its major products and industries include petroleum, dates, citrus and tropical fruit, incense, mineral oil, fisheries, and tourism.

Oman's landscape is beautiful and diverse. White sandy beaches cover the eastern coastline of the country while endless sand dunes roll along the western border. In the middle of Oman, rugged mountains are broken by deep valleys where you will find many oases filled with palm trees and crystal clear water. The far south enjoys an almost tropical landscape with green mountain sides and waterfalls.

A Proud History

Oman has a long history particularly being the center of the frankincense and copper trade. It is thought that the frankincense given to King Solomon and Jesus originated here. During the 18th and early 19th centuries, Oman's seafaring empire reached its height and extended from East Africa (Zanzibar) up to Baluchistan (near Pakistan).

Sultan Qaboos bin Said has ruled the country with a stable government for the past 39 years. In this time Oman has built up a modern infrastructure and is trying to enlarge its economy.

Friendly People

The Omani people are welcoming and friendly to friends and foreigners alike. They go out of their way to extend hospitality, especially to strangers. Meals are shared together and food is offered to the guest until he cannot eat any more.

Oman Quick Facts

Population : 3,418,085 (577,293 non-nationals) – approx. same pop. as Panama

Size: 309,500 km² – approx. same size as Poland

Religion : Islam (Sunni, Shia, Ibadhi)



Day One (Oct 18th): Oman & Leaders

Under the leadership of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said, Oman has been transformed from an isolated country with tribal in-fighting to a unified country that is rapidly moving forward into the modern age. Sultan Qaboos rules his people fairly and attempts to establish a peaceful and stable society. Unlike some of the other Arabian Gulf leaders, Sultan Qaboos attempts to distribute the country's oil wealth to the Omani people and initiate projects to improve the Omani standard of living.

Oman's seafaring history created a diverse ethnic culture with an attitude of hospitality and tolerance. However, the people are religiously conservative and very content with the benefits and security of Islam.

I Timothy 2:1-2 "I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone – for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness."

Proverbs 21:1 "The king's heart is in the hand of the LORD; he directs it like a watercourse wherever he pleases."

Prayer Points

- Pray for Sultan Qaboos and other key leaders that they may continue to rule justly with a greater openness to Christians meeting together
- Pray that government officials in important places of power would become believers in Christ
- Pray that God would reveal the brokenness and emptiness of the in Islam
- Pray that God would create a thirst and hunger for a deeper spiritual relationship with Him





Day Two (Oct 19th) : Desert & City Dwellers



The desert nomadic tribes (Bedu) in Oman historically roamed free throughout Oman living life as they pleased tending camels and goats. The Bedu have a strict code of honor and generous hospitality. Many Bedu live in poverty although the government is attempting to assist them. The nomadic life-style makes it difficult for Christian workers to reach them.

In contrast, the city dwellers (Haw-ther) tend to live a comfortable life driving decent cars and living in good houses. Materialism with its plasma TVs, luxury cars and elegant homes is a barrier to spiritual openness. Recently, life has become hard because the cost of living has risen sharply. Often, both husbands and wives must work to provide a good education for their children. Christian workers have had a consistent long-term witness in the major cities but little fruit.

John 7:37-38 "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him."

Prayer Points

- Pray that the Bedu will respond to Christian media (radio, satellite TV) and follow Christ.
- Pray that God would cause the city dwellers to be despondent in their materialism and truly thirst for the living water.
- Pray that both the Bedu and Hawthor would come in contact with Christian workers and discover more about Jesus.



Day Three (Oct 20th) : Non-Arabic Speaking Omanis



As the Omani landscape is diverse, so are the Omani people. As a result of the seafaring empire history, many Omanis are non-Arabic speaking who derive their ancestral roots from East Africa or Baluchistan. The Zanzabari Omanis from East Africa speak Swahili as their first language and the Baluchi Omanis speak Baluch.

While they are sometimes considered inferior by the Arab speaking Omanis, the Zanzabari and Baluchi Omanis enjoy a zest for life including tribal dancing and throwing great wedding celebrations. They normally speak very good English and work in the cities with Christian expatriate workers. The non-Arabic speaking Omanis also tend to be more open to talk about spiritual matters.

Isaiah 35:6 "Then will the lame leap like a deer, and the mute tongue shout for joy. Water will gush forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert."

Psalms 149:3,4 "Let them praise his name with dancing and make music to him with tambourine and harp. For the LORD takes delight in his people; he crowns the humble with salvation."

Prayer Points

- Pray that God will raise up workers who speak Swahili or Baluch to witness to the non-Arabic Speaking Omanis
- Pray that God would bring dreams and visions of Jesus
- Pray that groups and families would come to faith in Christ together so the gospel would spread quickly





Day Four (Oct 21st): Expatriates & Christian Workers

As Oman develops into a modern country, it depends on the assistance of expatriate workers. Of the half million expatriate workers, most are Indian construction laborers. However, many Christian believers ranging from British architects to Phillipino housemaids live and work among the Omanis.

Believers are not allowed to meet in their homes for worship and it is illegal to share the gospel with an Omani. Many of the expatriate Christians are fearful to share their faith because they might lose their job. Western expatriates are pursuing a worldly lifestyle which gives a poor witness to the name of Christ. The few active Christian workers are faithfully sharing with their neighbors and co-workers but get discouraged at times with the lack of spiritual response.

1 Peter 2:11-12 "Dear friends, I urge you, as aliens and strangers in the world, to abstain from sinful desires, which war against your soul. Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us."

2 Timothy 1:7 "For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline."

Prayer Points

- Pray that expatriate Christians would not fear but be bold in their witness specifically for the Christian maids whose daily witness is influential.
- Pray that Western expatriates would flee from pursuing worldly lifestyles and live for Christ's kingdom.
- Pray that God would invigorate the active Christian workers and encourage them to be bold.
- Pray that God would blind the eyes of authorities working against his kingdom



Day Five (Oct 22nd): International Omanis

Annually, thousands of Omani students travel internationally to attend university in the Western nations. University life provides opportunities for Omanis to discover more about Christianity through dialogue with fellow students and other Westerners.

Each summer, many Omanis escape the heat and travel to Europe. Some Omani families live and work permanently in other countries. Generally, these international Omanis are more open to Bible study and discovering about Jesus than when they are in Oman. Many opportunities exist for the Christian church to reach out and show the love of Christ.

2 Cor. 5:20 "We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God."

Prayer Points

- Pray that Christian families and other students would reach out to Omani university students and allow them to see the love and light of Christ
- Pray that Omani university students would become believers and return to Oman as ambassadors for Christ
- Pray for Omanis working and traveling abroad to attend churches, meet Christian believers and put their faith in Jesus Christ
- Pray that God would bless the organizations that distribute literature to traveling Omanis





Day Six (Oct 23rd): Omani Women



Traditionally, Omani women are homemakers and mothers to a large family of 6-10 children. They work hard to take care of their husband and children. In villages, some women fear that their husbands will take a second wife. Women have strong relationships within the family and their neighbors.

In cities, women are working more due to the increased cost of living and prefer a smaller family size (3-5 children) in order to give their children a good education. One of the downsides is that many Omani children are left in the care of a housemaid or daycare. These pressures are affecting the families. Divorce is becoming more prevalent.

In both villages and cities, the family honor is linked with the actions of wife and daughters. There is significant social pressure on the women to live a conformed life and get married at a young age.

Psalm 62:1-2 "My soul finds rest in God alone; my salvation comes from him. He alone is my rock and my salvation; He is my fortress, I will never be shaken."

Matthew 11:28 "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."

Prayer Points

- Pray that Christian women would connect deeply with Omani women and share how Jesus can carry their burdens.
- Pray that Omani women's hard lives would lead them to find true rest in God.
- Pray that Christian media might be effective in reaching Omani women.



Day Seven (Oct 24th): The Future Omani Church



God has promised in His Word that people from every tongue, tribe and language will worship before His throne. Omani believers will be counted among the worshippers!

Currently, only a handful of believers are known to exist and are isolated from one another. Social pressure and fear of persecution silences a bold proclamation. We long to see the day when God pours out His Spirit on the Omani people and the Omani church worships, prays and fellowships together. Our great God can do the impossible. Let us ask Him in faith!

Matthew 18:20 "For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them."

Acts 2:42 "They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer."

Prayer Points

- Pray for the secret Omani believers to persevere despite loneliness and isolation
- Ask the Lord to harvest the seeds that have been sown for many years.
- Pray that God would gather his church together and they would be united in love.
- Pray that persecution would strengthen the believers' faith in Christ.
- Pray for godly elders to shepherd the church.

