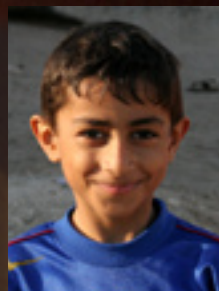


Praying Through the Arabian Peninsula III



Peoples and Topics

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Regional Statistics:		Main Religion	Islam
Total Population	58'000'000		
Indigenous Population	47'000'000	Indigenous people's	
Expatriate Population	11'000'000	commitment to Islam	99.99%



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Peoples and Topics

From the towering minarets across the Arabian Peninsula (AP), one can hear the words, "God is compassionate and merciful." Do the people who hear these words understand them? God desires to bless the humble, the meek and the pure in heart, to comfort those who mourn, to fill those who hunger for him with spiritual nourishment, to show mercy to those who seek him and to call the peacemakers his sons.

There are some among the people groups of the AP who love Jesus. Matthew 5 tells us that the persecuted will be blessed and that they must rejoice and be glad for their rewards are in heaven. Pray that the persecuted in the AP will understand this concept and will also gain comfort here on earth, knowing that we are daily lifting their needs to the Father.

It is easier to pray when we have specific information to pray for. As you use this guide, each day praying for a people group or topic listed, we hope that you will develop a burden for the lost of the AP, those who need to understand how totally merciful and compassionate God



is. We encourage you to use it throughout the year to lift these people before the throne of God.



You can also use the previous materials, especially the first two brochures. They are rich in insight and materials and will be a tremendous addition to this brochure. It is exciting to see the spiritual movement within the AP since people began to pray in power, beginning with PTAP 1 in 2003. We are now beginning to reap the fruit of those prayers, and we can sense the spiritual momentum building.

It truly is time to grasp the moment and turn the tide in the AP. This can only be done through prayer. People like you have already made a difference. That difference must now reach the next level of impact. We must keep the spiritual pressure on until the church is birthed.

Our vision in Praying Through the Arabian Peninsula is to raise up millions of prayer partners for the heartland of Islam, people who would pray with us to see God's kingdom come and his will be done in the Arabian Peninsula and among all the people groups in this land. Will you join us?



Peoples and Topics

The Word Gets Out

Two families, a local one and one from another country, lived side by side. Their children were similar ages. The foreign family began inviting the Arab family over to their home for special holidays. On one holiday, as the families came to the table to eat, the English/Arabic Bible was brought to the table, and Psalm 100 was read in both English and Arabic. Then the foreign father prayed about the year with gratitude to God for the blessings and the food He had given them to enjoy.

After the meal, the children went outside to play. While the teenage boys talked, the local boy asked the other if he could get a book like the one that was read at the table. He wanted it to be a secret, because he did not want his mother to know that he had it. So it was wrapped in a plastic bag and quietly hidden in the car before the rest of the family came outside.

Previously his mother had received a JESUS film and the book *More Than a Carpenter* in English and Arabic. The son and the mother do not know what the other one has because of fear that the family will find out what they are reading. The local husband has become more devout in his religious leanings. He has become a tyrant and a rigid enforcer of his Islamic belief system.



Pray that the fear of being a seeker will be overcome by the love of the Lord in their lives. Psalm 110 starts, “Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth. Worship the LORD with gladness; come before him with joyful songs.” May the peoples of the Arabian Peninsula come before the Father, Son and Holy Spirit with songs of great joy.

Pray for whole families to come to faith in Jesus.

Pray that God will give believing families boldness to share their faith and provide Bibles and other resources when asked.

Thank God that the Word is getting out by the radio, TV and Internet into the very heartland of Islam, and may this happen more and more.

Peoples and Topics

Yemen - Bedouin

“Move over” the soldier said, while pointing his machine gun at the development worker behind the steering wheel. Minutes before, the soldier had spoken kindly to him, warning him of the dangers on the road. Evidently, this man was not really a soldier. The worker knew that it did not make sense to try to escape. As the worker moved over, the ‘soldier’ got into the car and drove from the main road into the eastern mountains. Yemen has suffered kidnappings since the mid-nineties, and more than 160 foreigners have been taken hostage since then. All of the kidnappers come from Yemen’s desert region, stretching from the Saudi border in the north to the Gulf of Aden in the south. For centuries the inhabitants of this harsh region have survived by showing extremes of hospitality and violence. A well-known saying among the Bedouin living there is “First host your guest for three days, then ask him why he came.”

History books tell us that the desert tribes often raided camels from other tribes. The people are characterized by harshness, suspicion and independence. No wonder the central government has little control over them. The best the government can do is bribe the tribal leaders with large sums of money to get their support. That support is vital, as most of the country’s oil reserves are found under the bare rocks of the Empty Quarter, the natural north-eastern border of Yemen. Still, God is at work. When the kidnapper took off his blindfold, the foreigner found himself in a room with a young man. After trust was established, the young man told him that he was a faithful listener to Christian radio. Before his release, the foreigner was able to give him a New Testament. God uses all things for the good of those who love him.

Pray that the Yemeni Bedouin characteristics of harshness, suspicion and independence would not keep them from humbling themselves, praying and seeking God’s face and turning from their wicked ways to the one true God. 2 Chronicles 7:14

Pray for Christian workers to be able to live among and serve the Bedouin, who often lack basic health care and education.

Praise God that He is using Christian radio to reach the Bedouin with the gospel. Pray that as they listen they would understand the truth and accept Jesus as Lord.



Peoples and Topics

Saudi Arabia - Arabs

The fish souq (market) is bustling with life. Men in white thobes (robes) flow through the crowd. Each wears a red and white headdress, like a sail directing them from stall to stall. One of the men is a father, happily walking away with the deal he bought for his family, fresh fish for lunch. He hears the call to prayer and stops to pray before making his way home. He arrives home and greets his children, who are being cared for by a Filipino nanny. He looks forward to the meal of rice and fish, eaten while sitting on the floor with his family, as the Asian servants stand by.

As the man prepares for the afternoon nap, he wonders if he will have a dream like he had the last five afternoons.



A man in glowing white appears to him and tells him to believe the Book which he is holding in his hand. This father received a copy of that same Book while he was vacationing in London last summer. Although the dream disturbs his normal Wahabi Islam belief system, he feels that the dream must be from God. He is perplexed.

Pray that many Saudi Arabs will have dreams and visions of Jesus and they would find believers who would be able to tell them more about the Man they see in their dreams.

Pray for the Christian maids and nannies working in Saudi families, who often have more interaction with the Saudi children than their parents (cooking their meals, helping with homework and taking them to school).

Pray that they will be able to share the gospel in these families, despite the difficult situation in which they work.

Pray that the Saudis who travel abroad will receive Bibles and other Christian literature, which is absolutely forbidden in their home country.

Pray for the few believing Saudis, some alone and some families, to persevere in their faith and for their growth in the knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ. 2 Peter 3:18

Peoples and Topics

Leaving Arabia

A young family left their home in Arabia to study in a western country. While there, they had Christian neighbors who took good care of them. The neighbors helped them adjust to a new culture, teaching them how to cook and drive a car, all the while talking to them about truths from the Bible.

As the years passed, this family lost the fear of not wearing the abaya (head covering) and of men and women sitting and talking together. They felt loved, and they trusted their friends so much that they let their young children go to vacation Bible school for “moral training.” It was a fun time with good friends. When the educational assignment was finished, the young Arab family left their adopted country. It was very hard to leave and go back to the strict customs of Arabia.

Surprisingly, when they arrived back in their own land and settled into a new house, their neighbors were just like their friends in the West. Their new neighbors even had children the same ages as the young family. They helped them find toys and good books to read and shared DVDs with good values and stories from the Bible. Time passed, and they became very close friends.

But now back in Arabia, the Arab family was pressured by their relatives to return to their customs and ways. They were not interested in getting to know the new neighbors. Whenever the relatives came to visit, the mom would quickly send the books, toys and DVDs to the neighbor’s house so the relatives would not see them. She would cover her head and wear the abaya again.



Pray that believers all over the world would see how important it is to reach out to the internationals from these very closed countries. God has brought them to us and has given us an open door to them.

Pray for release from fear and for forgiveness for not seizing the opportunity to share with Arabs with whom we come in contact. Pray that we believers would have divine appointments with those who are from other countries, especially the Arabs, sharing with boldness and wisdom.

Pray that Arab families would meet real believers who will show them the true love of Jesus.

Pray that Christian Arabs (who were exposed to Him overseas) would become springs of living water in their families and neighborhoods. John 4:14

Peoples and Topics

Kuwait - Bedouin

Lena gets ready for the weekly gathering. This is a weekly ritual for the ladies in her community. She arrives about 7:00 PM, even though many of the women have already been there for several hours.

Her children politely greet the ladies and quickly scamper off inside the house to watch satellite TV and play the latest Wii games. After going around the room, shaking hands and kissing each lady on the cheek, she settles in to her usual spot next to Zeina. Zeina quickly begins chatting; they both use many gestures and hand motions as they talk. Lena gets so cross at herself for this because she knows Arabic, but she cannot quite understand the older Bedouin accent that Zeina has. They are a sight-Lena and Zeina-gesturing and laughing and looking for someone to explain to Lena a phrase or two in English. This week Zeina pulls out a picture of herself; it must be from the 1960s. She's wearing a short skirt and not covered at all. "Wow, she really was a knockout," Lena thinks. Amazing how things have changed. Now most Bedouin ladies wouldn't imagine going out of their homes in anything less than the black abaya, and many cover all but their eyes. People say it's only changed since the invasion in 1990 and the subsequent wars. People are becoming more conservative, returning to the traditional values, especially among the Bedouin.

Suddenly all eyes in the room are shifting toward Lena; she glances at the TV in the corner and understands why. She sees a Western convert to Islam extolling how wonderful his life is since he converted. Shortly after that,



Zeina sits next up to Lena again. She's always courteous and polite but obviously has an agenda to convert Lena. Lena wonders if her friends feel this from her.

Many of these Bedouin women are inside the home most of the day. **Pray** that they would see Christian programs on TV and believe in the Lord Jesus.

Declare Psalm 33:8-9 "Let all the earth fear the LORD; let all the people of the world and the Kuwaiti Bedouin revere him. For he spoke, and it came to be; he commanded, and it stood firm."

Pray that Lena and other believing foreigners will learn Arabic well so that they can proclaim Jesus clearly in love and power.



Peoples and Topics

United Arab Emirates - Shohouh

Khaled drives his Toyota pick-up down the steep gravel road early each morning. He lives in one of the remote mountain villages of the eastern United Arab Emirates. Khaled is part of a people group called the “Shohouh” who have lived in these mountains for centuries, since the Portuguese traders came to this region. Over time, Portuguese sailors and soldiers inter-married with the local women.

Khaled’s trip takes him to one of the cement factories. The hour ride is uneventful, with little traffic before reaching an expanding city of 350,000. When he was a boy, his father, uncles and older brothers worked in the mountain villages and rarely went to town except to purchase staple goods or for seasonal work on a pearl-diving or fishing vessel.

Times have changed; pearl diving is an industry of the past, and fishing is less attractive than factory work. Khaled, strong with leathery brown skin, is clever with his hands. He enjoys working in the cement factory; it gives him a fair income and the ability to keep his wives and daughters away from the vices of the city.

Only those from his particular people group speak Khaled’s mother tongue. Years of isolation from the mainstream Arab population, coupled with the mix of Portuguese words, make it unsuitable for use in the marketplace. He cannot read Qur’anic Arabic but recites portions of the Qur’an from memory. Reluctantly, he prays at the factory’s mosque. He prefers praying at his village mosque with its particular and comfortable customs, in the company of his sons and other villagers.

Khaled has never seen a Bible; there are none in his language. He has met a few foreign Christians who manage the cement factory. Although the gospel is unavailable in his heart language, Khaled and his family could understand an audio Arabic message.

They have a television and short-wave radio at home, as do others in their village. They can pick up Christian TV and radio broadcasts, but there is no way of knowing how frequently they listen to or view these programs.



Pray that Khaled and the more isolated village women would listen to Christian radio and watch Christian TV programs, so that Jesus would be known in their hearts and families.

Pray that the Holy Spirit will come and challenge the men, young and old, that they will feel the emptiness of riches and look for real meaning in life.

Thank You Father that “we all, including the Shohouh, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on (Christ) the iniquity of us all.” Lord you died for the Shohouh. Isaiah 53:6

Declare that the Shohouh would “not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.” Matthew 4:4

Peoples and Topics

Eating Disorders

Walking into the women's weekly gathering, everything is like a carefully scripted show. The pink furniture ornamented with gold trim, serving trays and cups of fine glass and gold, and all the glittery necessities of a good Arab party are ready and waiting. Preparation is an all-day affair. Some have been to the salon to have their hair and make-up done. Everyone is wearing a glamorous new outfit. It's like a beauty pageant contest, with approval as the prize.

Outward appearances are crucial in Arabia. The prevailing view is "Your outward appearance is who you are." Since many upper-class girls travel frequently, the runways and fashion magazines of Europe set the standards for their appearance. This has led to an obsession among upper-class girls to be thin. So that they might feel accepted and have a greater self-esteem, many girls have adopted unhealthy practices resulting in eating disorders.

At a party, one girl faints. Her friends explain that she hasn't eaten in two weeks. She is trying to lose weight. At 120 pounds, her face is already sunken and gaunt. However, her goal is to reach 100 pounds. When she regains consciousness, she is shaking. She is offered juice to drink, but she refuses.

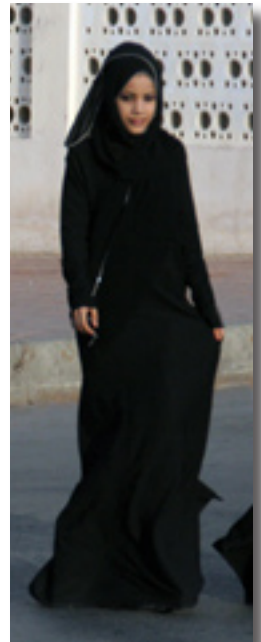
In an English communications class, another girl shows a picture with the opening lines, "Who is the fat girl? That was me." She continues her speech by saying that the picture was taken the day before her gastrointestinal surgery. She had her stomach stapled so that she would not eat so much and lose weight. After she reached her desired weight, she tells how her mother, sisters, and aunts all had the surgery. The surgery had the desired effect; all of them were seeking the approval she had found.

In a discussion group, another girl explains how she will get her mouth wired shut next

week. She wants to lose 40 pounds. Wiring her mouth shut will stop her from eating. This is the only way she knows how to shed the weight that stands in the way of her acceptance.

Pray that these women will know the true love and acceptance of their heavenly Father, able to cease their striving and abide in the acceptance and peace that only comes from above.

Pray that these women would, "in view of God's mercy, be able to offer their bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God — this is their spiritual act of worship" and would "not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of their mind. Then they will be able to test and approve what God's will is —his good, pleasing and perfect will. Romans 12:1-2



Peoples and Topics

Bahrain - Shi'a

The main streets in Bahrain are strangely deserted. Today is Ashoorā, the anniversary of the day in 680A.D. when Hussein, Mohammed's grandson, was killed and beheaded in the battle to determine the leadership of the new Islamic movement. Each year Shi'a Muslims observe 40 days of mourning to seek forgiveness for failing to protect their leader. As you leave the main road and enter into the alleys, black flags flood your view.

Preparations for this community event have been going on for weeks. Over the past ten days, nightly speeches have been heard in the mosques and processions have occurred in the streets to commemorate the story of Hussein. Loud speakers blare as a chanter affirms his love for Hussein. A group of 30 men march by in formation, flagellating themselves by beating their chests and whipping their backs. Many have blood on their faces from cutting themselves to identify with Hussein's suffering. Hundreds of groups like this will march by over the next several hours.

Watching the bloody procession, Hamad is one of a small but growing number of local Shi'a who has chosen to follow Jesus. He weeps as his people mourn. Like most Shi'a, Hamad was drawn to Jesus because of his suffering on the cross. In Jesus he has found a hope unlike anything he has ever known.



Bahrain shares a demographic similar to Iraq. Shi'a Muslims comprise over

65% of the local population, but Sunnis run the government. Shi'a, in general, are poorer and more underprivileged than neighboring Sunnis. A real concern exists that the sectarian fighting in Iraq and tensions with Iran could spill over into this country. Shi'a have traditionally been more open to Jesus because of the perceived similarities with the sufferings of Hussein. Many love Jesus as one of the prophets.

Pray that the Bahraini Shi'as may understand the real meaning of blood and how Jesus shed his blood for the forgiveness of their sins.

Pray that the Shi'a would be drawn to Jesus above all their other prophets and would seek to know more about him.

Declare the Lord's desire to turn their 40 days of mourning into dancing and to replace their sack clothes with garments of praise to Him. Psalm 30:11

Pray that the government would rule with wisdom and would end practices of favoritism and injustice that divide the community.

Peoples and Topics

Yemen - Northern

Sheikh Ali sits proudly in his muffrage (sitting room) as members of his tribe come to him with requests. His eyes do not miss anything and his mind is shrewd, though he looks very relaxed as he chews qat (a narcotic leaf) and puffs occasionally from the madaa (a tobacco pipe). Sheikh Ali has wealth and influence and, more importantly, the loyalty of his tribe.

The Sheikh and about four and a half million others make up the Northern Yemeni Arabs. They live in villages and cities surrounding Sana'a, the capital of Yemen, and throughout the northern highlands of Yemen. All are Muslim and speak Arabic. Though comfortable with their lifestyle, they are beginning to face the tensions of "East meeting West" as foreign ideas enter their homes through satellite TV, radio and the Internet. Mobile phone service is bringing about less dependence on tribal leaders for information and various arrangements.

Sheikh Ali meets with some men from the West who have come to his village. He serves them frothy camel's milk and a feast of rice, chicken, vegetables and lamb.



These men are religious but are not Muslims. The Sheikh is intrigued. They believe that Jesus is not a prophet but the "way" to God. He asks for more information, even though the imam (Muslim leader) beside him encourages him not to.



Pray that Sheikh Ali and all the Northern Yemeni Arabs will continue to ask questions about Jesus and that Jesus would become the "way" for them.

Pray that those who believe will come to Jesus in groups, so that they can support one another as they are discipled and grow.

Pray that the imams and other religious leaders will not hinder the spread of the gospel.

Declare that Northern Yemenis will sing a new song to the Most High God; for it is He that gives salvation to kings and sheikhs. Psalm 98:1

Peoples and Topics

Oman - Baluchi

We met Hussein at a public gathering. Typical of Baluchi hospitality, he invited us home to meet his large family. As we sat on the floor and talked, he shared how, although he had come to faith earlier in life, various circumstances led him into drugs, alcoholism and away from Christ's power.

Over the years, these habits resulted in him neglecting and abusing his family and spending time in jail. In spite of his poor example, others in his family have tried to improve their lives through education and expressed interest in the gospel message.

The Baluch are the largest non-Arab group in Oman. Though they have lived in the country for centuries, they continue to use their tribal

language, Baluchi, and practice their tribal customs. Many are in lower-income groups, living in older parts of towns. Being outsiders, they encounter a subtle discrimination, with younger Baluch showing signs of alienation.

Pray that the discrimination and alienation felt by the Omani Baluch will be replaced by hope and acceptance through Christ.

Thank the Lord that through the work of His Son, Jesus, there is no difference between Jew and Gentile and Baluch—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him. Romans 10:12

Pray that drugs and alcoholism will not lead believers away from Christ.



Peoples and Topics

United Arab Emirates - Bedouin

Nasser, now in his sixties, was born into one of the many Bedouin Arab tribes that roamed the area now known as the United Arab Emirates. His family lived in tents or areesh



(huts made of palm branches) in the desert, moving from place to place on camels with their goats and sheep. They crossed the sand dunes to find the oases,

where water was plentiful and gardens of date palms flourished.

Nasser has just finished building a huge two-story villa in a walled-in compound where he and most of his eight sons live. Some sons are married and live with their families in the same compound. Others live in the same neighborhood.

Although Nasser, his family and his tribe would no longer be considered desert dwellers, living a nomadic Bedouin lifestyle, they still have strong ties to their desert culture. Almost every evening you will find Nasser with some of his sons, grandsons and other neighbor men, sitting outside his villa in a small tent, leaning on cushions, drinking coffee and sharing news and stories around a small fire. Many of Nasser's neighbors also have tents, either inside or outside the walls of their compounds. Nasser's sons and their friends often go outside town to ride their Land Cruisers and ATV's up and down the sand dunes. They also sit around fires in the desert until the late hours of the night. Often, some will bring their trained falcons with them.

Just as Nasser and his family were born into tribes and clans, they were also born into the religion of Sunni Islam, and as they would

defend their tribe, they would also fiercely defend their religion.

Pray that those who believe will be able to remain among their people and boldly make know the mystery of the gospel to their family and tribe, "according to the revelation of the mystery hidden for long ages past."

Romans 16:25

Praise God that "with His blood the Lamb has purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation (including the Bedouin Emirati Arabs)."

Revelation 5:9

Pray that the Lord will open their eyes to see Him as they lie under the heavens that declare



the glory of God. Ask that great stories of the might of Jesus would be passed on from tent to tent and house to house.

Peoples and Topics

Qatar - Arabs

Arriving at the Ritz Carlton, the guests go through a metal detector. Purses are checked for camera phones so that no one can take photos of the women inside.

The women, wearing long brightly-colored sequined dresses, greet the guests as the new arrivals remove their black cloaks, black headscarves and black face coverings. The bride is nowhere to be seen. Lavish decorations adorn the tables. There are women only at this party; the men have their own wedding party, somewhere nearby.

The air is energized with excitement. The live music begins, and the all-female band plays Arabic music suitable to a Qatari wedding. The women gyrate their hips, swing their long, dark hair and sashay back and forth. They dance boldly for an audience of women. The lights dim and the bride arrives, flanked by her sisters and walking slowly across the room towards the stage. Her dress is a white wedding gown with Arabic flair, complete with sequins, feathers and a very long veil. The band sings about the bride's loveliness and her wonderful attributes. She sits down on a large gold and purple throne located in the middle of the stage. Suddenly, the women start disappearing under their black cloaks. The sea of bright color turns to black – the groom has arrived. Her sisters hide the bride from his view by a black blanket.

The groom opens the door, and accompanied by his male relatives, he approaches his bride. The wedding party continues on around the bride, but she is completely covered and is not allowed to participate.

What a visual of the Qatari church! She is the bride of Christ, and the wedding party has begun. Yet, she is hidden from the arrival of her groom! He desires to see her face-to-face, yet she feels that she is doing the right thing by



keeping herself blocked from his sight.

Pray that Qataris will be able to lift the black veil that blocks their view of Christ and that a beautiful church will enter into Jesus' presence, for "whenever anyone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away." 2 Corinthians 3:16

Qatari society is unbalanced, as women opt for education while the men are assured of a good income because of their nationality. Men spend their time in coffee houses, walking the malls and cruising around town. They seem to have everything. The extreme wealth of the country deprives the men of a reason to get out of bed in the morning. Whether they have jobs or not, they have an incredible allowance as the government shares its wealth among the people. They don't seem to be asking a vital question. What is the reason for life?

Pray that the new openness to education and information will result in many reading the Word, watching Christian videos and satellite TV, and finding Christian chat sites on the Internet.

Pray that the Holy Spirit will come and challenge the young and old men about their reason for living. May they come to know the God whom they can know and love: a God who loves them.

Peoples and Topics

Yemen - Tihamis

Every Thursday is busy; it's market day. The dusty streets of the otherwise quiet town bustle with men buying and selling cattle, firewood and many other things.

Emad is working hard in the restaurant, preparing different dishes for lunch. He does not like his work very much. It pays poorly, and the restaurant owner and the customers always shout at him that he must serve them quickly. This is the result of being a dark Tihami (a Tihama Arab). Other Yemenis look down on people from the Tihama, the coastal area of Yemen along the Red Sea. Stretching from the border with Saudi Arabia in the north to the end of the Red Sea in the south, it is home to over four million people. In the eyes of the tribal mountain people, the Tihamis are dirty, backward and not religious. Their big flat noses and round straw huts point to past African influence. They are the poorest and most illiterate people group in Yemen. The government takes no interest in them. Yet Islamists pressure fathers to have their daughters veiled completely, and beautiful white mosques appear everywhere, being built with money from neighboring Saudi Arabia.

Emad is a little bit surprised when a man walks into the restaurant and sits down next to where he is working.

He is happy to chat with him. When the stranger asks him whether he listens to Christian radio, his heart starts beating faster. With a big grin he admits that he listens daily. He loves to hear the stories about the prophet Isa (Jesus). He does not understand it all, but he always feels so peaceful when he listens to the program. The man offers him an Injeel (New Testament). What a special day today is. He thanks him for this great gift and quickly puts it in his pocket. The man disappears, but the joy in Emad's heart remains. With a smile, he continues his work.

Praise You Father, for You have fashioned the Tihamis hearts and you consider all their works. You have caused Emad's heart to rejoice and given radio programs that teach of You.

Very few Christians live in the Tihama with its hot and humid climate. **Pray** for more people to be called to give up their comforts and share their lives with these needy people.

Pray that the Tihamis know God's eternal love, which is stronger than any rejection by other people.

Pray that the light of the gospel will penetrate the hearts and minds of the Tihamis and that they may grasp their true identity in Christ. According to 1 Peter 2:9 ask that "the Tihamis may declare the praises of him who called them out of darkness into his wonderful light."



Peoples and Topics

Bahrain - Sunni

Arab music blares, coffee aroma circulates, and fruity tobacco smoke wafts in the air. All are part of the sights and sounds of the Arab coffee shops. Filled with the young and fashionable, these coffee shops and the nearby shopping malls are evidence of the rapid social change in this society. Just ten years ago few places existed where men and women were able to meet in public. Now, discrete dating, facilitated by Bluetooth-enabled mobile phones, takes place regularly. Most of the women still wear the traditional head-to-toe black Muslim outer garment, though it has been retooled for the fashion-conscious with colored trim and embroidery.

Raised by English-speaking Filipino nannies, educated locally in English-language schools and then traveling abroad in the US or UK for university, young Bahrainis' proficiency in the Arabic language is diminishing. Wealth and the pursuit of "things" have ensnared this new generation of Bahraini Sunnis in materialism. Conversely, some, who are offended at this perceived moral decay, respond by turning to a more radical form of Islam.

Back at the coffee shop, a foreign woman enters, searching for her Sunni friends among the sea of women dressed in black. Laila waves from the corner, and the foreigner finds her way to their table. Warmly kissing them on both cheeks, the foreigner silently prays that God will provide opportunities to share more of Jesus with these ladies.

After the formalities of asking, "How are you?" at least five different times and in five different ways, they settle into discussing the coming Islamic holidays after Ramadan. Suddenly, Laila says, "Tell me about your Christian holidays." In awe of her answered prayer, the foreigner starts to explain the life of Jesus within the context of our "Christian holidays." At several points in the conversation, Laila shows a visible softening and real interest about these stories of Jesus.



Pray that the people who are caught between the two traps of materialism and radical Islam will understand that they can find freedom in Jesus.

Pray that modern technology, travel and changes in society will bring Jesus into the lives of Bahrainis.

Thank Him for the believers in Bahrain (Filipino nannies, Western and Arab teachers and businessmen, and local citizens) and ask that they be given strength, boldness and the ability to endure hardship.

Pray for an even greater door of opportunity for the availability of Scripture. Revelation 3:8

Pray that believers can use "Christian holidays" to explain the life of Jesus.



Peoples and Topics

Women Behind the Abaya

Shelly, a western woman, needed a walking partner, so she began to pray about the neighbors and whom she might ask to walk with her. A new lady moved into the house across the street. When Shelly went over to welcome the new neighbor, she found out that Shifa was newly married. One day as Shelly was praying, she saw Shifa come out of her door with the black abaya (covering) on and white tennis shoes beneath. “Ah ha,” thought Shelly, “this must be my new walking partner.” Soon the two women were walking together. As they walked, they talked about the challenges of Shifa’s life as a new bride.

Her husband had been married before, so that added more struggle to the relationship. Shifa had a college degree in nursing but was not able to work because of being married. The women talked about the heart desires of all women: to be valued as persons, to have a good marriage and relationships, to raise children in the right ways, etc. Each time a new topic came up, Shelly would share her views on life based on what the New Testament said. Shelly asked if she could pray for Shifa in the various situations they talked about. Prayer was never refused.

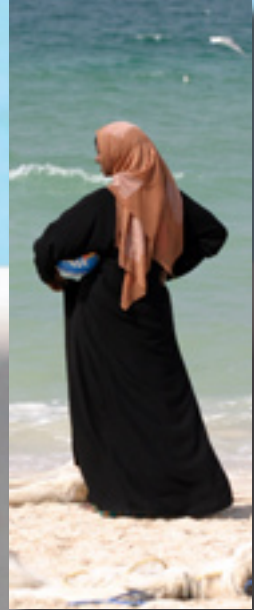
Sadly, the marriage began to fall apart within the first year, as her husband stayed away from home more and more, leaving Shifa alone and frustrated with him. She ended up being sent back to her family, and Shelly lost contact with her.

Pray that God’s plan for bringing a man and a wife together be understood and honored in Arabia. “For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.” Genesis 2:24

Pray that believers in the AP countries would be open to befriending and sharing their faith with the local women.

Pray that Shifa will come in contact with other believers who will tell her more about the Savior.

Pray for common interests to be built between Christian women and the local women of the Arabian Peninsula.



Peoples and Topics

Yemen - Hadrami

The hot, dry, desert wind blows just strong enough to create a dirt devil in the distance. It ruffles the clothing of the black, polyester-clad women but does little to ease their intense feelings of thirst and heat.

Day after day Hadrami women strike out before dawn bouncing along on wooden carts pulled by small, tired donkeys. They arrive at their destination with hands gloved, faces veiled and tall pointed straw hats perched on their heads. Their day will be spent in the family field cutting millet

close to the ground with a scythe. The women pause only long enough to have a swallow of water and to stretch their stiff backs and legs. All the while, two female family members remain at home to complete their daily chores of washing clothes and preparing the early afternoon meal.

Life is predictable and water is precious in the ancient Yemeni district of the Hadramaut. While the origin of this region is unknown, Bible dictionaries derive the name from a son of Jokton in Genesis 10:26-28. Hadramis live in dwellings made of mud bricks along the dry river beds, or wadis, in densely built towns. This tribal Yemeni society is said to have descended from Muhammad and remains traditionally educated and strict in Islam.

This proud people have almost no access to the gospel. Non-Yemeni believers in this part of the country are few and face difficulties at every turn as they seek to live in areas where

few internationals live.



Many of the Hadrami women cannot read or write. **Pray** that they will have visions and dreams and that the Holy Spirit will move in their hearts and lives. Acts 2:17

Pray that boys attending Islamic religious schools, or madrasas, will come to see and understand that what they are being taught is not truth. 3 John 3-4

Pray that non-Yemeni believers may obtain the necessary permits and licenses required to live and work in this part of the Arabian Peninsula.

Pray for the children as they are raised in this traditionally strict, conservative society; may they be trained in the way of the Lord Jesus.

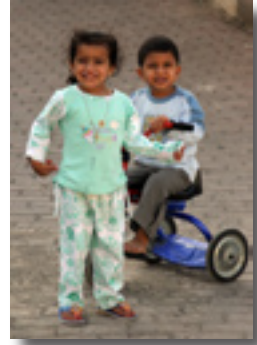
Peoples and Topics

Oman - Arabs

They call themselves “Omani-Omanis” with a smile that means everything! This term sets them apart from Omanis who have a mixed bloodline from other backgrounds, including Baluchi, Persian or Zanzibari. They are proud of their pure Omani bloodline, cultural heritage and the form of Islam they follow. They think their sect is the only true form of Islam, and sadly, they also do not believe they will ever see Allah.

In public, they walk with their heads held high, the men in crisp white gowns called dishdashas (perhaps not so crisp in rural areas, but no less proudly) and the Omani turban tied according to the region. The women wear flowing colorful dresses and matching headscarves, reminiscent of countries further east. Along with the modernization of the country and the opening up of opportunities for the fast-growing youth sector, many feel their heritage, culture, values and lifestyle are under siege. Materialism, personal ambition and individualism are flooding society. Internet, worldwide media via satellite TV, job opportunities, the hope of money and a better life, and growing interests in a more “western” lifestyle are causing strife between generations in traditional families.

There are few who have responded to the call to reach these Omani Arabs.



Pray that God will use the current fast-paced changes in Omani culture for His glory.

Pray that the present transitions will lead Omanis to seek the Truth, that in Jesus Christ they would find the freedom and fullness of life that many seek.

Pray for open hearts to the message of Jesus they can hear through Christian media (TV, Internet, DVD's, etc.).

Pray that the Omanis will see futility of materialism, personal ambition and individualism.



Peoples and Topics

Saudi Arabia - Bedouin

Misfer is from a tribe of people who have decided to remain outside the cities. They struggle to keep the old way of life. These people, called Bedouins, are either looked down upon or respected. The younger generation and those who want to embrace a modern lifestyle look down upon them. The older generation and those who want to keep their nomadic heritage respect them.

Misfer is at home in the desert, a home he has had to leave to find work. Since the 1930s, the government has discouraged Bedouins from living a nomadic lifestyle. They paid them to settle in villages, and many have had to migrate to the cities in order to make a living. When Misfer isn't constrained to the city, he travels a half-day's journey through the desert to a small village of 150 people. As he enters the decorated tent where the men of the village gather, all rise. He rounds the circle, kissing cheeks, shaking hands and giving the blessing of peace, "Salaam Alaikum," to each person. After a hospitable welcome of Arabic coffee, tea and dates, the group gathers around a platter of rice and a roasted sheep. The men in this tent are in transition. Although they are now settled in houses with satellite TV, they don't want to let go of their childhood, which was spent wandering from one oasis to another. They awake at dawn for the Fajr prayer and

then venture into the desert to hunt for dinner. After stopping to pray at noon, they set up a tent and take an afternoon nap. They awake a few hours later to pray again and return to hunting. At sunset they stop once more to pray. Their schedules do not determine spiritual practice; spiritual practice determines their daily schedule.

Before sleeping, they again kneel with washed hands, feet and faces to worship Allah. A Christian guest spending the day with them also stops to pray that God would help him understand these deeply reverent and kind men and give him words that would speak to a way of living and thinking so foreign to his.

Pray as the Bedouin seek God through their religious rituals, they would find the true God and come to know Him through Jesus, the Messiah.

Pray as these people are forced from their nomadic desert way of life into a different lifestyle, they would become open to the good news of salvation.

Declare that at the name of Jesus every Bedouin knee shall bow and tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of the Father. Philippians 2:10-11



Peoples and Topics

Abdul Qader Mohammed has had a busy day. Between meetings, he checked on several of his other ventures which range from video stores to restaurants.

The evening finds Abdul Qader relaxing in his majlis (place of meeting) with his five sons and some neighbors, drinking milky tea and eating fruit. Built on the side of his spacious home, only men gather in the majlis. Next door live his parents, both of whom are in their late eighties. Reflecting back, he is reminded that life was not always this good in the early days when his father and uncles came from Iran - before the UAE was a country. At that time, his family made a living by trading and selling locally. Eventually the whole clan moved up the economic ladder.

Abdul Qader is from the Ajami people group. They are Arabs who traveled back and forth for hundreds of years between Iran and the southern Arabian Peninsula. They are a mix of Sunni and Shi'a Muslims. The Ajamis, although originally from Iran, are now important enough that one of the seven Emirates making up the UAE (Ajman) derives its name from these people. Some of the Ajami families have risen to prominence in business and community politics. Other Ajamis do not have citizenship or wealth, even though they were born and raised in the UAE. Their language is the common denominator that links this community. The Ajami language, a mix of Arabic, Farsi and other dialects, is only spoken, not written.

Abdul Qader's five sons and four daughters speak English, Ajami, Arabic, Farsi, one or two Indian languages and at least one European language. Though active in the cosmopolitan community of their major city, they are very traditional in their customs and beliefs. As staunch Muslims, they adhere closely to Islamic precepts.

United Arab Emirates - Ajami

Pray the Ajamis would not be satisfied with material wealth. Pray that they would not be like "the seed that fell among the thorns," where the "worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke it, making it unfruitful." Matthew 13:22



Declare that the Ajami will magnify the Lord with us, and we will exalt His name together.

Pray that the few Ajami believers would be encouraged by what God is doing among them and become bolder in sharing the good news with their families.

Peoples and Topics

Oman - Bedouin

The Bedouin of Oman are proud and noble people with a reputation for being honest and direct. A Bedouin Sheikh proudly told the visitor of a battle that his grandfather led against another tribe. He recounted, "They came and took our camels, women and children one day when the men were not there. At night, my grandfather and the men caught them by surprise and attacked them. We defeated them." He went on to say how his tribe finally made peace with the marauders. "My grandfather met with their leader and we made aHad (a covenant) with them." The Sheikh said, "There must be blood shed in order to establish aHad. They killed a camel and all the men ate together and agreed not to fight again." Some travelers stopped by a small shop by the desert highway to get a soft drink. One spoke Arabic and engaged the shopkeeper in discussion. They were invited to sit and have coffee and dates with a small group of local young men. The Bedouin (Bedu) are famous for hospitality and friendship. One of the travelers asked, "What is the news, what is the information?" He used traditional Bedu ways of asking. In surprise, one of the hosts exclaimed, "He is one of us! He knows our ways." These new friends continue to visit periodically when they travel to each other's towns, always exchanging news and information.

Bedu ancestral lands are located in what have been isolated parts of Oman. These remote places are now connected to the rest of the country and the world by roads. Many of the graded roads are being paved and other Omanis and foreigners have increasingly frequent encounters with the Bedu. Many Bedu still engage in raising camels, fishing and date farming, as their ancestors did for generations. Some are now working in the capital or in the UAE and in the oil and gas sector of Oman. Change is coming rapidly to the Bedu.



Pray that as change comes, they will gain increasing access to the gospel in formats that will effectively communicate God's love for them.

Pray that the Bedouin's reputation for honesty and directness will draw them to the truth found in Jesus. Ephesians 4:21

Pray that friendships with Christ followers will develop and result in effective communication of the gospel.

Peoples and Topics

Yemen - Mahri

Lela wearily lifts a bag of grain. She grinds it, using the same tools her ancestors used. There are few men in the village, as most have traveled out of the country to work as laborers. They have traveled all over the globe to work. Their hard-earned money is sent back to their families. Lela's mother has much influence as she governs the town while the men are away. Lela lives in the province of Mahra, on the eastern coast of Yemen and near Oman to the north. Mahrirs live on either side of the Yemen-Oman border. She calls out to her mother in the Mahri language, a dialect which is quite different than Arabic, the official language of Yemen. Will this language be preserved? Already Lela has heard Arabic being spoken in the market. Ever since the five tunnels were completed and the road from the southern coast was finished, the stream of people coming to her town has increased. The isolation of the Mahri people is over. Lela wonders what will come next to her life. She is intrigued by the new ideas that are coming to her town. She loves to watch the TV programs, now that her cousin has satellite TV hooked up. There is a whole different world out there that "boggles" her mind.



Pray that the Mahri men who travel abroad for work would come in contact with people who follow Jesus. Would they come to him and bring the gospel home to their families.

Praise You Father that You are merciful and Your judgments are right. You have ordained that the gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness to all nations; and remote provinces like Mahra are no exception. Matthew 24:14

Pray that as the Mahri people experience culture, social and economic change, may they be eternally changed through their faith in Jesus Christ.



Peoples and Topics

Power Encounters

The three of us sat together in the desert drinking Arabic coffee and tea while snacking on dates and biscuits of dried sheep milk. While one of my friends tended the cooking, we talked about everything from the World Cup to bin Laden to motorcycles. Our laughing quieted as the topic of the supernatural came up. Curses, spells and the evil eye are realities here, realities that cause an underlying fear. They began to tell stories.

There was a group of men and a small boy who sat eating together in the desert. A skinny, hungry cat walked back and forth, hoping for a scrap to be thrown its way. The boy looked over at it, but never shared any of his food. He turned away and continued with his meal. Soon after, the boy began to have developmental problems. He grew in body, but never in mind. A grown man now, he is unable to care for himself and aimlessly wanders the village if he escapes his mother's house. What



happened? The cat gave the boy the evil eye. It cast a spell on him because no one shared food with it. Many people witnessed this story, and no one doubts its truth.

My two friends asked if we believe in jinn (evil spirits). I said we believe in Satan, demons and angels, but there are some differences from what they believe about them. I told the story of the Gadarene demoniac and how no demon can resist the power of Isa (Jesus). I explained that there is no power in heaven or earth that

can separate us from His love and that we do not need to fear Satan because Isa is greater. I added that anyone under a curse who comes to Isa for freedom will find freedom from evil and much more.

Pray that the fear that binds their minds would be broken by the power of the resurrection, that they would know the true freedom and blessing that comes from abiding in Christ.

The effects of the evil eye are something that Arab Muslims face and struggle with daily. **Pray** that the power and authority of the Lord Jesus becomes more evident each day right across the Arabian Peninsula.

Pray for salvation to come to the Muslims in the Arabian Peninsula so they will know that “greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world.” 1 John 4:4

Peoples and Topics

Yemen - Southern



Abdullah drives down the Aden coastline in his air-conditioned Land Cruiser. He studied in Britain, when the British were still “protecting” Aden in the sixties, and returned to develop into a wealthy businessman. He remembers fondly the days when the British were there. There are many like him who dislike the widespread corruption that has emerged in Yemeni life since that time, but what can they do? Abdullah has been exposed to Christianity but does not feel like he needs any more religion. He is content with the things his money buys and hopes that the mosque he built in his neighborhood will get him into heaven. There are very few men of influence who know Jesus.

In Taiz, two hours north of Aden, lives another Abdullah. He drives a minibus and barely makes a living for his wife and six small children. He sometimes works extra jobs so his kids will not be embarrassed wearing old clothes during the eids (holidays). A few years ago, he knew a foreigner who sometimes helped him, but the foreigner moved away. However, this friend left something with Abdullah. He had taken time to sit with Abdullah and talk about the importance of his relationship with Jesus. After many visits together, Abdullah submitted to Christ but has been too afraid to share his faith with his wife or anyone else.

Taiz Abdullah knows Christ. **Pray** for the few like him who need discernment in sharing their faith. **Pray** that God will help them to overcome fear.

Ask that the Lord reveal to Aden Abdullah that his righteous acts (building a mosque) are as filthy rags and that the Lord lifts up those that are bowed down and fear Him alone.

Praise You Father that You are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love, a God who relents from sending calamity. May the southern Yemeni Arabs come to know you are a compassionate God. Jonah 4:2



Peoples and Topics

Kuwait - Arabs

Ahmed calls and excitedly invites his Christian friend and his family to his chalet. As they drive up to the chalet the friends are amazed by what they see: jet skis, a boat and riders on horses splashing through the water near the shore. Sheer opulence!

The men and children quickly disappear to enjoy the many activities. The women sit and chat. This is a Kuwait Gulf Arab family, where the women tend to mix freely with the men and may even work outside the home during the week. They dress very stylishly, although usually completely covered.

As evening draws near, mountains of food appear. The women line it up on tables, as maids scurry about making sure all is ready. The families surge to the table piling the food high on their plates. Gradually the plates and food are cleared away, and Ahmed's father begins to talk. "We know that you are Christians, and we are Muslims - alhamdulillah (Praise be to God). We come from the same roots, and we must understand one another. We must learn about each other, because that is how we will learn to live peaceably."

Ahmed's visiting friends sigh with discouragement. When will there be a spiritual hunger? When will there be a desire for something more? Something that money cannot buy and this opulence cannot provide? Will there ever be a hunger for true peace?

Ask for the peace of Christ to rule in the hearts of Kuwaiti Arabs.

Ask that the trappings of wealth would not get in the way of coming to know the King of kings and that the Kuwaiti Arabs would seek first His kingdom and His righteousness. Matthew 6:33

Declare that those in Kuwait, who in times past walked in darkness, now have access to the Father through His glorious Son.

O Lord, our Lord, how excellent is Your name in all the earth! When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers... What is man, that You are mindful of him... yet Lord You have visited Kuwaitis and have those to whom You have revealed Your Name, draw them to Yourself.



Peoples and Topics

Mohammed and his wife, Aisha, are a young Baluchi couple with UAE citizenship. Their son loves to play soccer with the other kids in the neighborhood. Inside their home they speak Baluchi, and outside they speak Arabic. They live in Ajman, one of the poorest emirates in the country. They used to live with Mohammed's parents but moved away when they were given a piece of land by the government. Economic changes in the country are affecting social relationships.

The Baluchis are a people whose territory spans several countries, including eastern Iran, southwestern Pakistan and southern Afghanistan. Thousands of them came to the Arabian Peninsula many years ago and have integrated into the UAE society in different regions. Many have UAE passports and are considered a people group indigenous to the area. Some of the Baluchis have high positions in the police and military. Other Baluchis have no passport from any country and are called bidoon (without). Many of these who were born and raised in the UAE may be granted citizenship soon.

Mohammed works in the larger, more prosperous emirate of Dubai. He is hard-working and conscientious. Most of his colleagues at work are expatriate Arabs or from India and Pakistan. Mohammed is studying English at night to improve his opportunities for job advancement.

One night after class, Mohammed was talking with some of the other students and the foreign instructor about dreams. Most of the students admitted they dream often and believe their dreams have significant influence over their lives. One shared he had a dream of striking it rich in a local raffle. Another shared his dream of getting married. Mohammed said he has dreams of another kind but did not share them with the group.

United Arab Emirates - Baluchi

The instructor is one whom Mohammed knows as a "white-heart" Christian (a true Christian, not just a cultural one). The semester ended before the two men were able to talk about Mohammed's unspoken dreams.

Thank the Lord that, just as He revealed Himself in the Bible in a vision to the God-fearing Cornelius, He will extend His mercy to Mohammed and other Baluchi.

Pray that Mohammed and others like him would feel compelled to share with the instructor or another believer about their dreams, which most likely are of a spiritual nature.

Declare thanks unto the Lord, for He is good, for His mercy endures forever and extends to the Baluchi people. Psalm 106:1



Peoples and Topics

Oman - Dhofari

Tiaba is a 26-year-old teacher who loves her job in the public school. Although she was allowed to leave the mountains to study at the university in the far-off capital, she's not allowed to visit her next door neighbor in case unrelated men may live in the home. She'd love to visit the foreign woman down the road, but that would not be allowed either. So, when she is not working, she fills her hours watching satellite TV programs, especially the soap operas and cooking shows.

Dhofar is the southern region of Oman and the homeland of numerous tribes. The Dhofaris are very hospitable and easygoing. One foreign visitor, who has traveled through many countries, described them as the friendliest people he has ever met. They have strong family ties, and tribal honor and loyalty are important.

Dhofari Muslims have traditionally lived in the mountains or along the coast, raising cattle or fishing. In their homes they speak indigenous languages, often only understood by other members of their tribe. This isolation, because of the expanse of the desert and the mountains,

has allowed them to retain their traditional culture. For this reason, they are often misunderstood and looked down upon by other Omanis. Today many are moving closer to the city, where education for their children is available.

Pray for Dhofaris to see the values of family, honor and loyalty in the Bible and that this would draw them to Jesus.

Pray that those who move closer to the city will have more opportunities to be exposed to the good news.

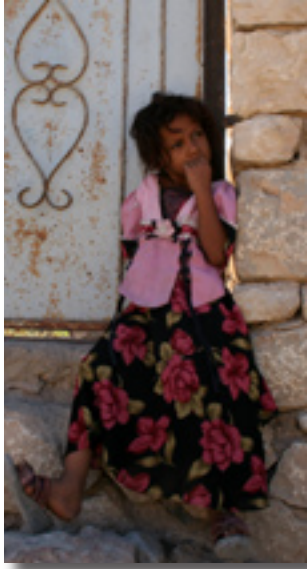
Thank the Lord that neither expanse of desert, nor mountains nor isolation can separate the Dhofari people from the love of God.

Romans 8:39



Peoples and Topics

Yemen - Socotran



The young fisherman gingerly untangles his net, proud of the catch he was able to sell yesterday. He uses the same fishing techniques that his ancestors used for centuries before him. His fishing dhow (boat) was passed down to him from his father. The language

he uses to instruct his son alerts the visitor that he is not Arab. He is a native of the Island of Socotra, off the coast of Yemen. His heart language is Soqotri.

Around him are exotic plants and foliage that are indigenous to the island. Dragon's Blood trees and frankincense bushes dot the landscape. Strict rules are being enforced as environmentalists try to save the unique plants there. With the advent of airplane flights to his island, the fisherman is beginning to see changes in his life. Foods not grown on Socotra are infiltrating the markets. There are schools on the island now, as well as more health care.

The tourists that are coming to his island puzzle the fisherman. He observes their strange dress and foreign tongue. They bring new ideas and strange ways with them. Some ignore him or gaze at him like one would observe an interesting statue. Others smile at him and say a greeting. He can tell that they would love to begin a conversation with him, but the language barrier creates a wide divide.

Pray that as the Lord satisfies the desire of every living thing and gives them their meat or fish in due season, the eyes of the people of Socotra will recognize the Giver of all good things. Psalm 107:9

Pray that as the people of Socotra are being introduced to new ways and new ideas, they will be ready for God's truths, and may He protect them from the evil things of this world. Lord prepare the way for Your Son to be known.

Pray that God will speak to them through dreams and visions, sending them people that know Him and can testify to who He is.



Peoples and Topics

Saudi Arabia - Arabs

One of the twenty perfume shops in the five-story mall in the main shopping district is crowded with women, adorned from head to toe in black. A new fragrance is being offered that day, and each lady wants to be the first to dazzle her husband with the new scent. An Indian man at the counter (one of over five million foreign workers serving the Saudi economy) offers one lady the first spray. It is 11:15 AM and so shopping time will soon end when the noon call to prayer comes. All shops will close as the men wander off to the mosque for oodoo (ritual cleansing) and prayers. The lady has already rung the driver on her mobile phone. He has the car running and cooled down from the noontime heat. Like a black ghost, she enters the back seat and heads for home. After lunch and a nap, she will help her twelve-year-old son with his Qur'an memorization, hoping he will win the school contest. She wonders, "Will he bring the family great honor? Will he go to university like his father? Will I be able to find him a 'good' girl to marry?"

This is a glimpse of life for the 18 million Saudi Arabs living in Saudi Arabia. The cycle of life spins faster and faster as satellite TV, Internet, and foreign travel rip open Saudi culture to its core. Despite an opulent lifestyle, many Saudi lives are tormented by the oppression of Wahabi (very strict) Islam. Oil revenues simply cannot fill the God-void in a person's life. Parents are grappling with how to raise their children in such a fast-moving world. Children and teens are torn between their grandparent's way of life and the high speed MTV generation.



Ask that Saudi Arabs will see that trusting in wealth and boasting in the multitude of their riches can by no means redeem them before God.

Pray that Saudis will experience the freedom Christ can bring, it can release them from the bondage of Wahabi Islam and materialism.

Pray that the few Saudi believers will be continually restored with the joy of His salvation and be upheld with His willing Spirit. Then they will teach transgressors His ways, and sinners shall be converted to Him.

Psalm 51:12,13

Peoples and Topics

The Church

“Salaam Alaykum!” the middle-aged believer greets all as he enters the diwania (a separate living room where men socialize).

“Wa Alaykum Al-Salaam!” the men, reclining on couches that line the walls around the room, reply in chorus. The men stand to their feet, as the visitor makes his way around the circle, greeting each of them with a kiss and finally taking the seat of honor furthest away from the door.

For most of the men in the room, this is the first time they have met this man. Yet, before long, they are engrossed in lively discussions with him, trading stories back and forth, each one having much in common with the rest. They hear stories of seeing Jesus in visions, of seeing His power in their lives, of having their eyes opened to the emptiness of their former way of life.

A rush of adrenaline fills the veins of the few foreigners seated in the room. This is the moment they had been longing for and striving to see for years. And now it is finally here, as though it was a dream: a group of local believers enthusiastically sharing with each other how their lives had been touched by Jesus. Could this be just the beginning? Would these few believers become the founding elders of the body of Christ?

Now, less than two years later, most of those present in the diwania have fallen, faded or been torn away. Some have returned to their former ways of life, being filled with bitterness, envy, lying and disillusionment. Others have been scared away by family persecution. Still others have just become busy and drifted away from their newfound treasure.



From the Gospel of Luke, we know there are different kinds of soil - hard path, rock, thorn and good rich soil. **Pray** that His word will be planted in good rich soil. Luke 8:5-8

Pray that Jesus would raise up the church, that the gates of hell would not prevail against it, and that those who have tasted and seen that the Lord is good would return to His goodness.

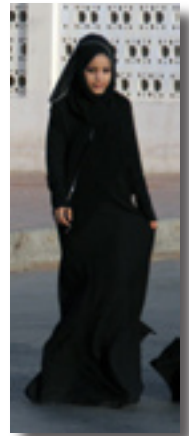
Pray that the church would recognize, take responsibility and repent for the sin that comes from within the heart of man, sins such as bitterness, envy, lying and disillusionment.

Pray that the name of the Lord will be glorified in the hearts of people right across the Arabian Peninsula and that many will meet together in fellowship.

Peoples and Topics



“The Gospel for every person and a church for every people in the Arabian Peninsula amongst indigenous peoples.”



Praying Through the Arabian Peninsula III

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Qatar



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Yemen