

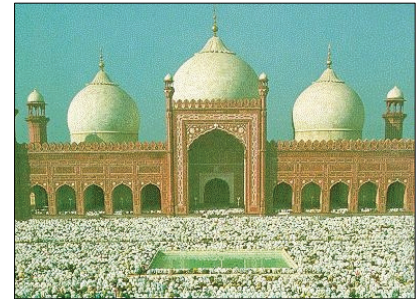
MISSIONS...

Praying For Muslims

Pastor Eddie Idefonso

Five times a day the sound of the Muslim call to prayer comes into our ears and reminds us of our need to pray for the salvation of our Muslim friends and neighbors. Would you join us in prayer for the Muslim world? Here are five biblical prayer requests for these people.

• **Laborers.** In **Luke 10:2** *Jesus said that the harvest is plentiful but the laborers few.* This continues to be the case in Muslim evangelism. In our city there are more than one million Muslims and only ten churches worshipping in their language. Pray that more churches and individuals will have a God-given passion for reaching Muslims with the gospel. Pray that those who are called will receive the spiritual, emotional, and financial support they need to carry out God's call.



• **Boldness.** Many people involved in Muslim evangelism are threatened, and many converts are harassed or martyred for their faith. We have seen friends threatened and their property destroyed. Recently in Lahore, Pakistan, we attended the funeral of a Muslim evangelist killed by a hit-and-run driver. The early Christians also faced persecution, and we can learn from their example. When threatened, they did not give up. Instead they prayed, ***“Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness” (Acts 4:29).***

• **God's power.** The apostles' prayer continued, ***“Stretch out your hand to heal and perform miraculous signs through the name of your holy servant Jesus” (Acts 4:30).*** Mysticism plays a strong role in Islamic life. Demonstrations of the power of God through signs and dreams often occur prior to a movement from Islam to Christ. Pray that God will continue to reveal Himself in powerful ways.

• **Faithfulness.** One unverified statistic we have heard is that 40 percent of Muslim converts revert to Islam. While this figure may be inflated, new life in Christ is not easy when it can cost a person his or her family, job, friends, and even life. We must pray not only for conversion but also for the strength to persevere. In **1 Thes. 5:23–24**, Paul wrote, ***“May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful and he will do it.”***

• **Church Planting.** Many Muslim converts fall away because they lack the nurture and support of a local church. Often they live under a repressive regime that would not allow the establishment of a “traditional” church. But the author of Hebrews warned that ***Christians should not give up the habit of meeting together, but should encourage one another (Hebrews 10:25).*** The Apostle Paul did not start “traditional” churches but rather brought people together in house meetings where they could provide mutual support, encouragement, and accountability. Churches such as these may be the answer where security is an issue.