

# INTERCEDE

VOL. XLIII, NO. 1

JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2026

## **“I am an Answer to Your Prayers.”**

by Michael Langford



*“The history of missions is the history of answered prayer. It is the key to the whole mission problem. All human means are secondary.”<sup>1</sup>*  
Samuel Marinus Zwemer

Intercessory prayer is a core value of Global Initiative: Reaching Muslim Peoples (GI). The *Jumaa* Prayer Fellowship began in 1984 with the founding of the Center for Ministry to Muslims (CMM), now GI. *Jumaa* is the Arabic term for Friday and literally means “the day of gathering.” Around noon, Muslims congregate in the mosque for prayer followed by a sermon. During that same time, Christians gather in their respective time zone globally to intercede for Muslims. Three strategic and urgent prayer points are provided for each week in the bi-monthly *Intercede* for use during *Jumaa* Prayer.

God has honored the *Jumaa* Prayer priority and answered the prayers of many intercessors. Recently, a Uyghur pastor from Kazakhstan visited the Global Initiative office to participate in the *Jumaa* Prayer

Fellowship and share about the work among Uyghur Muslims. “I am an answer to your prayers,” she declared. If you are one of the 60,000+ *Jumaa* Prayer partners somewhere around the world, she is the answer to your prayers! Yes, as you join in prayer each week, you are part of the answer!

My wife and I have seen God’s faithful answers to intercessory prayer in our own lives and ministry. After we had served as pastors for ten years in Washington and Montana, Assemblies of God World Missions (AGWM) approved my wife and me as candidate missionaries. On our application, we listed the Asia Pacific region and the Philippine Islands as our area of interest and burden but told AGWM leadership we were willing to go where we were most needed.

As we stepped out in pursuit of God’s leading, missionary friends urged us to consider Indonesia. They knew of my burden for the largest Muslim nation in the world. However, leadership asked us to consider the Solomon Islands. We agreed, fully trusting that God

*continued on page 3*





# Until All Have Heard

*How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? – Romans 10:14*

## Mark Brink

International Director  
Global Initiative:  
Reaching Muslim Peoples



In this edition of the *Intercede*, a missionary shares his personal story of how God called he and his wife to missionary service to Muslims in the Philippines. Through many years of persistent prayer and training believers in ministry to Muslims, the church launched an intensified outreach to Muslims in their nation, which is now seeing hundreds come to Christ and be baptized. You will be challenged to intercede and get involved as God is bringing in an End Times harvest. God wants to use us in a ministry of intercession, but we ourselves may also be the answer to the prayers that we pray.

At the 2025 Sender's Summit, more than 200 World Assemblies of God missions leaders met to strategize on how they would partner to take the gospel of Jesus Christ to 2,085 unengaged people groups (UEPGs). The Holy Spirit's presence and illumination were evident in the anointing on the speakers, the extended times of prayer, and the unity during the strategy sessions. In the final session, national leaders gave their "number" of how many new workers they would send to these UEPGs.

Unity and collaboration were evident as leaders shared how they had been negligent in reaching the

UEPGs in their own nation and those who have never had access to the gospel in other nations. **The summit ended with agreement to a "Declaration" through which all participants committed themselves to taking the gospel to those who have never heard.**

Here is a quote from that Declaration:

Recognizing that Jesus has called us to partnership, we commit ourselves to God and to one another to partner together globally for the greatest disciple-making and church planting movement among the unreached that the World Assemblies of God Fellowship has ever seen.

That we will partner with all of God's church to take all of God's gospel to all of God's world; That one day there will be a multitude of every people around the throne worshipping God; That Jesus alone will receive all the glory.

To read the full Sender's Summit Declaration and view videos, visit this website: <https://mnaog.org/sender>

As you read this edition of the *Intercede*, let the Holy Spirit's passion for the lost sweep over your soul and move you to intercession and action.



*AG Mission leaders at the Sender's Summit*



would direct us to the place of greatest need. Indeed, God had a specific assignment in mind for us.

Moving in faith, we prepared for itineration by visiting colleagues who had served as missionaries in the Solomon Islands. As they shared stories and slides, my wife, Sharyl, exclaimed, “Stop! That’s the boy I saw in my dream!” The slide showed a dark-skinned Solomon Islander with bleached blond hair. Sharyl had previously seen this boy in a dream but did not understand the significance of her dream. After seeing the slide, Sharyl pondered the dream and sought the Lord to understand what the dream meant. She later shared that she “felt no compulsion or flow of compassion from the Holy Spirit toward the boy.” We felt that this was God’s way of indicating that we were not supposed to go to the Solomon Islands.

Our first event as candidate missionaries from the Northwest Ministry Network was the annual missions parade at Northwest University, our alma mater. After the event, a former missionary to the Philippines invited us to his office. “I know that you were not approved for the Philippines because of three other new missionaries raising support for the Philippines from our Network.” Then he added, “Do you know about the Muslims of Mindanao?” Instantly, the room was electric with the presence of the Holy Spirit. We both felt God speaking through him.

The next day, we began to fast and pray to confirm what we believed to be God’s direction. After two weeks, we called the Asia Pacific Regional Director. When we asked about the Muslims of Mindanao, there was a long silence. We thought he had dropped the phone! “We were just in Mindanao and prayed for a missionary to Filipino Muslims,” he said.

That same week, we received the February 1988 issue of the *Intercede*. Inside was a feature “introducing” a new family going to Mindanao. Oddly, there was no photo. At the end of a brief bio sketch was the statement: “This family does not exist. Please pray that God will raise up a missionary for the unreached Filipino Muslim peoples.” *We were the answer to that prayer—even as the Intercede was in the mail!*

There are many examples of the strategic link between intercessory prayer and God aligning laborers for the open doors to the Muslim world. Jesus said, “So pray to the Lord who is in charge of the harvest; ask him to send more workers into his fields” (Matt. 9:38; Luke 10:2, NLT). If you wonder if your prayers make a difference, let me remind you that through prayer we are linked in the supernatural with the God who is always working. Please do not stop interceding!



*Uyghur woman who said, “I am an answer to your prayers!”*

At Global Initiative, we believe the surge in missionaries from the global Church to Islamic nations is the direct result of prayer! Today, we are witnessing a strategic deployment of missionaries by the Holy Spirit. The number of missionaries sent from nations that historically received missionaries is multiplying. God is using your prayers to strategically re-deploy His servants.

At the end of our first term of ministry in Mindanao, I earnestly prayed, “Father, what is the hindrance to Your move among Filipino Muslims? If I am a hindrance, I will leave. Use me if You can, only give us a spiritual breakthrough!” Not long after, Dale Fagerland of CMM/GI shared with me about the proposed Institute of Islamic Studies (IIS) program at the Asia Pacific Theological Seminary (APTS). We believed God would have us move from Mindanao in the southern Philippines to Baguio City in the north to be involved in the leadership of IIS and to continue our personal work with Muslim people. This year, 2026, will be the twenty-ninth year of the IIS program, which

---

---

## PERSONNEL PROFILE

---

---

### BARRY AND JACQALINE SMITH

(No picture available)

Barry and Jacqaline Smith are newly appointed missionaries to the Muslim population on the island of Mindanao in the Philippines.

"The population of Mindanao is largely Islamic and we have the privilege of being the first Assemblies of God missionaries to take the message of Christ's love to them," stated Barry. "Join us in prayer that we will be found faithful to the challenge God has set before us."

Prior to appointment the Smith's were pastoring in Colorado. Barry told how his heart would break as missionaries came to his church sharing the needs of the world. "One missionary who came represented the Islamic world and spoke about the nearly one billion unreached Muslims. He asked our people to join the *Jumaa*

*Prayer Fellowship* and fast and pray every Friday for Muslims. I made a commitment to fast and pray, praying especially that the Lord would raise up more laborers as my soul was deeply stirred about this need. I guess one would say my call was really one of a growing awareness of the needs of the world. As I prayed for laborers, I realized God was tapping me on the shoulder and saying, 'Why not you?'"

While there is freedom to preach in the Philippines, in the beginning, the Smith's will use friendship evangelism to reach the Muslim population. "I believe that there are many *Cornelius*' on the island who earnestly are seeking God, but they don't know how to reach out to Him within the confines of Islam. Inwardly, they are awaiting His message of hope and salvation. Our prayer is that we may lift up Jesus

Christ in such a powerful way through our lives and ministry that this unreached people group will be reached with the gospel's message.

The Smith's have two children, James (5) and JoLynn (2).

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** *The Barry Smith family does not exist. They have been created from my heart in order to share with you the need for laborers to the Muslim world in the Philippines. Presently there are no Assemblies of God missionaries working among the Muslims of the Philippines. Will you pray with us that God will raise up workers for this needy area of the world? Pray also that the national church will experience a greater burden to reach out to their Muslim neighbors.*

trains cross-cultural workers to reach out to Muslims in their context. Participants from all over Asia and the world come to APTS each year to prepare for ministry among Muslims.

An important component of IIS is the emphasis on persistent intercession for the salvation of Muslims. Why are more Muslims coming to Christ today than in the previous 14 centuries? Not because we have better programs or approaches, although these have a place. The answer is intercessory prayer! Wesley Duewel aptly notes: "We can reach our world, if we will. The greatest lack today is not people or funds. The greatest need is prayer."<sup>2</sup>

When we are prompted to pray, we are supernaturally linked with the sufferings of our brothers and sisters in Christ. As you pray, God often releases grace in the form of protection. You may not know that we write the prayer requests for the *Intercede* at least two months ahead of publication. Let me share one example of God aligning circumstances that no one could have known about three months in advance.

When we lived in Mindanao, I submitted a request to the *Intercede* magazine to pray for a specific church planter among Muslims. The week that request went out in the *Intercede*, the worker was in a debate on a radio broadcast in the Muslim-majority area where he served. As the program was live on the air, an angry mob of Muslims came to the station to kill him. Somehow, he escaped through the back of the building. Not finding him, they went to his home. Wisely, he had not gone there. Moreover, his wife and children were away visiting relatives during that exact time. God protected them in answer to prayer!

A church planter from Indonesia told me, "While you're waiting for your miracle, be part of someone else's answer to prayer." After meeting in a rented facility for 10 years, God answered their prayer for a church building. At that time, the landlady contacted the pastor and asked, "Do you want to buy the building?" They were able to buy the building despite having given the equivalent of the price of the building to missions over the previous 10 years! Incidentally,



# to Your Prayers.”

this is the only church that I know of with a full-time Prayer Pastor.

## Intercession: An Absolute Necessity

Don McCurry, long-term missionary to Muslims, said in an APTS class, “Islam is a spiritual force.” Therefore, we must engage the spirit of Islam through intercessory prayer in the power of the Holy Spirit. “We use God’s mighty weapons, not worldly weapons, to knock down the strongholds of human reasoning and to destroy false arguments” (2 Cor. 10:4, NLT).

After Saul met Jesus on the Damascus Road, he fasted and prayed for three days and nights. Ananias was the answer to his prayer. How many Saul-like Muslims in the world today are waiting in darkness for their answer? When Peter obeyed, Cornelius and his company were supernaturally welcomed into the Kingdom. How many people movements await their answer? God will use those who are willing to move out of their comfort zones to answer prayer.

## Components for Sustained Prayer

Sustained prayer must incorporate information, intentionality, and habit.<sup>3</sup> You can find information for praying for Muslims in the *Jumaa* Prayer Fellowship requests, which are available in the bi-monthly *Intercede*. You can also access them in eight languages on the Global Initiative website or on the free *Jumaa* Prayer Fellowship app (available for Apple and Android).

If sustained prayer is your goal, you must be intentional in your pursuit. Satan’s intention for Muslim peoples is to keep them from all that Jesus has to offer. Paul, in his description of his mission for the Gentiles, echoes God’s intention: “to open their eyes, so they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God. Then they will receive forgiveness for their sins and be given a place among God’s people, who are set apart by faith in me” (Acts 26:18, NTL). Knowing your goal—the salvation of souls—will help you be intentional in your intercession.

Ultimately, sustained prayer must become a habit.<sup>4</sup> Daniel, who faced opposition from the highest level, kept the habit of intercession three times daily. God delivered him from the lion’s mouth, yet he did not see the answer to prayer for Jerusalem. F. B. Meyer wrote,



“The greatest tragedy of life is not unanswered prayer, but unoffered prayer.”<sup>5</sup>

## The Power of Perseverance

As intercessors, we must persevere, despite many obstacles, until we see a breakthrough. We must not give up when the harvest does not come instantaneously. When we face obstacles to prayer, such as ignorance about the strategic importance of prayer, excessive busyness, or the tyranny of the urgent, we must persevere! Remember that “unlove in the heart is possibly the greatest hindrance to prayer. A loving spirit is a condition of believing prayer. We cannot be wrong with man and right with God. The spirit of prayer is essentially the spirit of love. Intercession is simply love

at prayer.” While you are waiting for your answer, keep sowing, keep watering, keep interceding. In the right time, God will answer!

Missionary Jay Abrams served in southern Mindanao for more than 30 years. God gave him one convert during his ministry among the most religious of the Muslim tribes. He also started a weekly Bible study with Muslim leaders in the predominately Muslim city where he served—a study which continued after his departure.

Missionary Frank Laubach served in northern Mindanao for more than 30 years. During his ministry, God gave him one convert from a leading Muslim tribe. He also began a literacy program named “Each One Teach One,” which is now used around the world.

Thirty years ago, I prayed for a breakthrough in Mindanao, but a fellow missionary, in reference to working among Muslims, told us, “You’re wasting your time.” To this I say, obeying God is never a waste of our time or life. In the past few years, God answered my prayer and the prayers of many others by raising up teams of Filipino workers among the unreached

Filipino Muslim tribes. Hundreds of Muslims have come to Christ and been baptized. Truly, God answers prayer!

We express our deep appreciation to each faithful intercessor who partners in prayer through the *Jumaa* Prayer Fellowship requests in the *Intercede*. Please continue to pray that God would raise up more intercessors to pray for the salvation of Muslims. ☪

### Endnotes

<sup>1</sup>Samuel Marinus Zwemer, A-Z Quotes, accessed October 14, 2025, [www.azquotes.com/quote/826940](http://www.azquotes.com/quote/826940)

<sup>2</sup>Wesley L. Duewel, A-Z Quotes, accessed October 14, 2025, [www.azquotes.com/quote/1033823](http://www.azquotes.com/quote/1033823)

<sup>3</sup>Stuart Robinson, *Praying the Price* (Kent, England: Sovereign World, 1994), 124-127.

<sup>4</sup>E. M. Bounds, *Prayer and Praying Men* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1977), 124.

<sup>5</sup>F. B. Meyer, A-Z Quotes, accessed September 11, 2025, <https://www.azquotes.com/quote/544772>

<sup>6</sup>Unknown, *The Kneeling Christian* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1971), 122. (Available at: <https://ccel.org/ccel/unknown/kneeling/kneeling.xiv.html>).

## Muslim Unreached People Group

**Prayer Profile: The Pashtun of Pakistan**  
**Population: 32,999,000 100% Muslim**

The Pashtun of Pakistan and Afghanistan have been called the largest Muslim tribal society in the world. Pashtuns share a unique sense of common identity based on heritage, Islam (99.9% Muslim), the Pashtunwali Code of Honor, and language (Pakhtu or Pashto).

The majority of Pashtun live in Pakistan. They are concentrated mainly in the northern and western provinces of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Baluchistan. Due to tribal, linguistic, social, and economic ties, the border between Afghanistan and Pakistan is porous and volatile, creating fertile ground for drug trade, smuggling, and cross-border militancy.

Attempts toward a peace accord and durable central government have, to date, been unsuccessful. Armed opposition continues. Instability, endemic corruption, and on-going violence have led to widespread disillusionment—and the migration of tens of thousands of Pashtun from Pakistan and Afghanistan to Europe and the West.

### Pray that

- Pashtun people, disillusioned by Islam, will have hearts that are hungry to hear the gospel and respond to Jesus’ gift of salvation;
- Pashtun people, who are precious to the Lord, will have dreams and visions of Jesus that will set them on a quest to find the Truth;
- Christians who live among the Pashtun would boldly share Jesus with them;
- Bible translations currently in progress in different Pashto dialects would be completed so Pashtun people can access the Word of God in their heart language;
- God would anoint, and grant wisdom, favor, and fruitfulness to workers and agencies focused on ministry to the Pashtun.



*\*Profile adapted from Joshua Project. For further information about the Pashtun, see [https://joshuaproject.net/people\\_groups/14256/PK](https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/14256/PK)*





# JUMAA PRAYER FELLOWSHIP

Download the *Jumaa Prayer Fellowship App*  
[subsplash.com/jumaaprayer/app](https://subsplash.com/jumaaprayer/app)

for multi-lingual access to the weekly prayer requests  
and other resources in a secure environment.

## Friday, January 2, 2026. Please pray for

...*Christians trapped in a predatory system of debt bondage in Pakistan's brick kiln industry*—keeping them trapped in low-paying jobs and predatory loans. Many bonded laborers suffer from chronic respiratory and skin ailments, lacking access to basic medical care, making preventable conditions fatal.

...*a former Muslim who has dedicated his life to reaching the people of Burundi*. Pray for protection as he ministers in difficult locations and for provision as he continues his Bible School education.

...*26 Bible School teachers who recently graduated with a Master of Arts in Ministerial Studies*. They are on the front line of equipping the next generation of pastors and church planters in East Africa.

## Friday, January 9, 2026. Please pray for

...*hundreds of thousands of Christians in Sudan who are being threatened with starvation* if they do not renounce Jesus. Up to 9 million people in Sudan have been driven from their homes, creating the “world’s largest displacement crisis.”

...*a former Muslim man from the Arab World* who asked God for a sign that the Good News of Jesus was true. God gave him 2 vivid dreams so he surrendered his life to Jesus! Pray that he stays strong in his new faith and that Jesus continues to make himself known to Muslims who are seeking Him.

...*gospel access for missionaries serving among unreached and unengaged Muslim peoples worldwide* and for the joy of the Lord to sustain them in every trial and setback.

## Friday, January 16, 2026. Please pray for

...*over 3 million children in West and Central Africa who cannot attend school* due to instability caused by Islamic terrorism. Pray that God would protect Christian children so they can receive education.

...*brothers and sisters in Christ in Democratic Republic of the Congo who are facing severe persecution*. As believers gathered to mourn the passing of a church member, militants attacked with guns and machetes. They killed 70 Christians, kidnapped 100 people, and burned 16 houses to the ground.

...*18 students in Northern Iraq attending Bible School*, preparing to be church planters and for the outreach of the local church as they assist individuals who face hostility for their decision to follow Christ.

## Friday, January 23, 2026. Please pray for

...*GI team members who will be conducting training in South Asia* in late January. Pray for safe travels and that the training would equip students for ministry and church planting in Muslim contexts.

...*a young family who recently launched into missionary service in a country in the Middle East*. Pray for them as they get established in the community and for their effectiveness for God’s Kingdom.

...*a ministry in Nigeria that has provided sneakers, school bags, uniforms, and books to traumatized children living in areas of persecution*. Pray for an end to Islamic terrorist activity in this nation. 51% of Nigeria’s 230 million people are Muslims.

## Friday, January 30, 2026. Please pray for

...*a young lady from the Middle East and her family*. After accepting Christ, her family rejected her. While visiting her grandfather, who was very ill, the whole family gathered. Even though the grandfather suffers from severe dementia, he spoke as if in a trance and stated, “The Jesus whom she serves is both Lord and Savior. Believe Him and serve Him.”

...*11 Christians in Muslim-majority Libya who have been sentenced to prison for 3-15 years* because of their faith in Jesus Christ. Libya has a population of 7.5 million and Muslims make up over 90% of the population.

...*a ministry in Malaysia that is training the church to reach Muslims with the gospel*. The pastor of this ministry has faced various health issues but the Lord led him to resign from his church so he could work full-time training workers to reach Muslims.



# JUMAA PRAYER FELLOWSHIP

Download the *Jumaa Prayer  
Fellowship App*

[subsplash.com/jumaaprayer/app](https://subsplash.com/jumaaprayer/app)

for multi-lingual access to the weekly prayer requests  
and other resources in a secure environment.

## Friday, February 6, 2026. Please pray for

...*Riktaku, a Christian woman who was abducted in Sub-Saharan Africa.* In 2024, at minimum, 1,700 Christians in sub-Saharan Africa were sexually assaulted or harassed. Pray for God to bring healing and restoration to victims of sexual violence.

...*Palestinian Christians in Gaza and the West Bank* to boldly live out the gospel despite oppression. Pray for God's supernatural provision and protection over His people in this war-torn area.

...*youth in Iran to find hope in Christ amid growing political and economic disillusionment.* Pray for the Lord's love to transform the hearts of *mullahs* and government leaders and for effective outreach by national and international believers living in country.

## Friday, February 13, 2026. Please pray for

...*perseverance of faith and witness of secret believers in Mauritania.* Pray for protection for women and girls amid child marriage, violence, and abuse. Pray for Mauritanian leaders to experience the saving grace of Jesus.

...*the Church to help Turkish nationals find their identity in Jesus alone.* Pray for tourists and refugees to boldly share the Good News of Jesus while in Türkiye. Pray for leaders and their families to be transformed by the love of Jesus.

...*Muslims who will be fasting during Ramadan—February 18–March 19.* Pray that, during this month of spiritual focus, Muslims would realize that they cannot know God or save themselves through rituals but only by accepting Jesus' sacrifice on the cross.

## Friday, February 20, 2026. Please pray for

...*divine courage for secret Afghan believers.* Pray for supernatural dreams and visions for Taliban leaders. Pray for gospel-focused radio, apps, and satellite TV to reach vulnerable women and youth. Pray for God to build His Church among the Afghan diaspora.

...*women and non-Muslims being discriminated against* in the 85 Islamic *sharia* courts being allowed to operate a parallel legal system in Britain. This would have been unthinkable just a few years ago.

...*believers and churches in the central region of Mali.* Jihadist are demanding that every church member over 18 years of age pay a fee of about \$45 or they will close the church—a practice that is becoming more common. Please intercede for our brothers and sisters and pray that they will have a strong and effective witness in their community!

## Friday, February 27, 2026. Please pray for

...*Christians in the predominantly Muslim-majority nations of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan* who face varying degrees of restrictions for meeting for worship and acquiring church registration. Pray that the church will grow despite attempts to suppress it and that authorities will ease restrictions.

...*converts from Islam who face the problem of arranging marriages.* One ministry in a predominantly Muslim nation is creating a system where convert families can arrange marriages within the convert community and have them recognized by the government.

...*the love and hope of Jesus to heal traumatized victims of war in Syria.* Pray for food, aid, and security for refugees and internally displaced peoples. Pray for a courageous and powerful testimony for the Syrian Church to the Sunni Arab majority.