



# INTERCEDE

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## GREAT *Lies* OF ISLAM

### Why are Muslims Spiritually Lost?

by Tommy Hodum

Muslims have a monotheistic belief in a supreme deity. They also practice five main tenets or *Pillars*: (1) profession of the *Shahada*—the basic creed of Islam stating that Allah is the only deity and Muhammad is the messenger of Allah; (2) *Salat*—prayer five times a day; (3) *Zakat*—almsgiving, including a certain percentage of income or net worth; (4) *Sawm*—fasting, especially for thirty days during the month of Ramadan; and (5) the *Hajj*—a required pilgrimage to Mecca. Muslims also embrace *Dawah*—the belief that non-Muslims should be convinced to adopt Islam as the religion of the right path. Practicing Muslims believe their faith should impact all areas of life. Yet, despite their immense “religiosity,” the question remains: “Why are Muslims spiritually lost?”

Salvation in the Christian faith is not based on what one knows, although factual knowledge leading to faith is critical. Furthermore, salvation does not depend on what a person does or accomplishes, although Christians are warned that faith without works is dead

(James 2:14-26). Christians believe salvation is secured by faith in God for justification, regeneration, and sanctification through repentance of sin and the belief in the finished work of Christ. Muslims will say, “We believe in Jesus. He was a great prophet. So, why are we considered spiritually lost?” Muslims are lost primarily because they do not believe the TRUTH regarding Jesus.

Second Corinthians 4:3-4 declares, “And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.” Those who are perishing are lost. For Muslims, the god of this world has placed a veil over their spiritual eyes and rather than see the light of truth, they remain in a state of spiritual blindness.

Liberal theologians would have us believe that people can obtain salvation through a multiplicity of

*continued on page 3*



# Until All Have Heard

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

**Mark Brink**

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While in a South Asian country, I visited a bookstore. In the Islamic section, I came across a book whose title intrigued me: *Means of Salvation* by Ali Muhammad Choudhary. As I browsed through the first couple of chapters, I quickly realized that the means of salvation referred to the glories of their prophet Muhammad. It referenced glories given to Muhammad that placed him on the same level as Jesus in Christianity and even God Almighty. One phrase caught my attention, “Forgiveness for mankind is conditional with the acceptance of the magnificence of the Holy Prophet, which should be the primary belief.” No wonder Muslims around the world will, with great fervor, celebrate the birth of the prophet Muhammad during the first week of September!

The lead article in this edition of the *Intercede* will identify some of the lies that Islam teaches about Christianity. The exaltation of Muhammad in Islam has

taken the place of Jesus’ sinless life and His substitutionary death on the cross. Islam clearly denies these doctrines. As we compare the glories of Jesus Christ with Muhammad, we fall down in worship to our blessed Savior and Lord with whom none compares. John, the Revelator, reveals the awesome glory of the Son of Man with the worship of the angels:

Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come! . . . Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created. (Rev. 4:8, 11)

Let us glory in the majesty of Jesus Christ and, at the same time, intercede for the unveiling of the spiritual eyes of Muslims so they can see the glories of our Savior.

## Muslim Unreached People Group

**Prayer Profile: The Amri of Sudan**

**Population: 101,000 95.0% Muslim**

When Mohammed died in A.D. 632, Arabs erupted from the desert pastures of Arabia and overran the lands east and west. They intermarried with the local North African tribes and introduced them to Islam. “Arabized” tribes are now subdivided into thousands of ethnic groups and subgroups based on their particular Muslim sect, Arabic dialect, and regional adaptation. One of these Arabized tribes is the Amri people of Sudan

Agriculture is the basis of the economy in most Arabized tribes, including the Amri. Sorghum and millet are their staple crops, including watermelons, gourds, okra, sesame, and cotton. They also raise cattle, sheep, goats, donkeys, and dogs. Cheese and butter are made from the milk of both cows and goats. Amri houses are simple round huts with thatched roofs. Their lives revolve around important ceremonies such as birth, marriage, death, and the first haircut and circumcision for boys. Polygamy (having more than one wife) is a common practice among the Amri. After marriage, the newlywed couple generally lives with or near the husband’s parents.

The Amri are 95% Muslim with 5% practicing some form of animism. There are no known Amri Christians. Presently, the Amri are not being ministered to by mission agencies. Bible portions, audio, and visual Bible resources exist in Sudanese Arabic, the spoken language of the Amri people in Sudan. However, they are not presently available to them.

### Pray for:

- Sudanese Christians to have a burden to reach the Amri with the gospel
- The Lord to call people who are willing to go to the Amri people of Sudan
- Emergency relief teams to provide for the medical needs of the Amri people
- Dreams, visions, and supernatural healings to occur among the Amri
- Bible portions and visual Bible resources to be made available to the Amri

*\*For further information about the Amri, see [www.joshuaproject.net](http://www.joshuaproject.net)*





ways. They insist that Bible-believing Christians are guilty of simply identifying the problems within someone else's belief system. However, to see eternal destinies changed, followers of Jesus must uncompromisingly and fearlessly stand regarding a clear disclosure of the truth, especially truths about the Bible and the person of Jesus Christ.

### Origins of Untruth

Two key factors enable or magnify the blindness that Muslims suffer. First, Muslims, like others, have been convinced to believe a lie. Paul, in Romans 1:25, says, "They exchanged the truth about God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised." According to the *New Bible Dictionary*, a lie is "a falsehood, a deception, or deceptive thing. Essentially, a lie is a statement(s) of what is known to be false with intent to deceive" (Delilah and Samson in Judges 16:10-13).<sup>1</sup>

Second, Muslims have been deceived into thinking Muhammad is a true prophet from God. One cannot overlook the biblical criteria of a false prophet. Deuteronomy 13:1-3 warns of false prophets who claim they are from God, but subsequent evidence proves that God *has not* sent them (cf. Deut. 18:21-22). C. F. Keil and F. Delitzsch in their study of the Pentateuch state, "The false prophet was to be discovered by the fact that the word proclaimed by him did not follow or come to pass. The prophecy was not fulfilled."<sup>2</sup> Additional tests and examples of dealing with false prophets are found in Jeremiah 14:14, 2 Timothy 4:3-4, and 2 Peter 2:1-2; 3:15-16. Key question: "Has Islam's elevation of Muhammad passed the biblical test of 'prophet from God' or does the subsequent evidence point to him as a false prophet? Does Islam stand the test of truth or has it foisted a destructive heresy on the world?"

### A Closer Look: Three Major Lies of Islam

To answer the previous questions, one must closely examine three major lies of Islam: (1) the Bible has been corrupted or changed, (2) Christians believe in three gods, and (3) Christ did not die on the cross for our sins.

**First, Muslims believe the lie that the Bible is not reliable due to corruption or change.** Surah 3:78 of the Quran says, "There is among them a section who distort the Book with their tongues: (As they read) you would think it is a part of the Book, but it is not part of the Book; and they say, 'That is from Allah,' but it is not from Allah." Surah 2:78-79 says, "Among them are unlettered folk who know the Scripture not except from hearsay. They but guess: Therefore woe be unto them



who write the Scripture with their hands and then say, 'This is from Allah,' that they may purchase a small gain therewith."

When witnessing to Muslims, one must expose this lie. Everything that supports the defense and sharing of the Christian faith depends upon the reliability of the Bible. As Daniel Janosik states:

Since all the words of the Bible are God's words, they neither contradict each other nor are there any errors in the original documents. Therefore, the Bible is the supreme authority for Christian beliefs. ... A Muslim believes God has preserved his revelation throughout history, but because the Quran contradicts the Bible, the Bible contains the error.<sup>3</sup>

These differences simply are irreconcilable and, therefore, one is a falsehood—a lie.

A believer can respond to this lie by pointing out Scriptures that support the truthfulness of the Bible. One could reference the following passages:

- Psalm 119:160—the Bible, God's Word, is truthfulness
- Proverbs 30:5 and Matthew 24:35—the Bible is enduring
- John 17:17—the Bible is reliable
- 2 Timothy 3:16—the Bible is not the product of man
- 2 Peter 1:20-21—the Bible is the source for guidance and revelation

# Great Lies of Islam: Why are

These are but a few Bible verses that inform readers about its trustworthy content.

Next, it is helpful to respond to the corruption accusation with a question: **When did the Bible become corrupted?** It is extremely important to establish this point, especially since statements within the Quran actually affirm the Bible (see Surahs 5:43-44, 46-47, and 10:94). While the Bible does not need this affirmation, it is important to show the Muslim that their own Holy Book affirms the Bible!

There are many additional proofs of the authenticity of the Bible including the following:

- Historical and ancient manuscripts
- Unity of message
- Historical accounts and writings of the Church Fathers
- The Septuagint, the Latin Bible, and the Hebrew Old Testament
- Fulfilled prophecies
- Transformation of the believer.

Evidence to support the Islamic lie that our Bible has been corrupted does not exist. Conversely, the evidence is undeniable that the Bible is God's Word, containing eternal truth. Myer Pearlman provides this powerful insight: "Intellectual defenses of the Bible have their place, but after all, the best argument is the practical one. The Bible has worked. It has influenced civilizations, transformed lives, brought light, inspiration, and comfort to millions. And its work continues."<sup>4</sup>



**Second, Islam propagates the heretical accusation and lie that Christians are polytheists and worship three gods.** Muslims, from an early age, are taught that Christians believe in three gods consisting of God the father, Mary, and Jesus, their offspring. The fact is that Christians have never believed this lie. Christians, like the Children of Israel, believe the declaration of Deuteronomy 6:4: "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one."

Jens Christensen underscores the Christian position regarding the Trinity: "All that we know about the Holy Trinity we know from the Church's understanding of the Bible. This is a statement of fact. There is nothing in man, nature, in the skies above us, or in the earth below us, which obliges us to think of a triune God."<sup>5</sup> Christensen's point is that the overwhelming evidence for the Christian belief in the Trinity is rightly (and safely) found in the Bible itself! In a succinct and powerful way, Myer Pearlman further provides a beautiful observation about the Trinity:

The Trinity is an eternal fellowship, but the work of man's redemption called forth its historical manifestation. The Son entered the world in a new way when He took to Himself human nature, and He was given a new name, Jesus. The Holy Spirit entered the world in a new way, which is the Spirit of Christ, embodied in the church. And yet all three work together. ... The doctrine of the Trinity is clearly a revealed doctrine, and not one conceived by human reason. How else could we learn of the inner nature of the Godhead except by revelation? So, on our part, as Christians we have faith to believe what has been revealed even though explanations are inadequate.<sup>6</sup>

Due to Islam's misunderstanding of biblical revelation, they continue to err in promoting a blatant lie against orthodox Christian belief in a Triune God.

**Third, Muslims espouse the lie that Jesus Christ did not die on the cross for our sins.** The central doctrine of the Christian faith, the unifying "thread" throughout Scripture, is negated by this lie within Islamic belief. Remember these basic verses:

- Matthew 1:21—"She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."
- John 1:29—"The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, 'Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!'"
- 1 Corinthians 15:3—"For I delivered to you as



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of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures.”

It is no surprise that Islam hates the cross. Paul even acknowledged this aversion to the cross when he wrote: “For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ” (Phil. 3:18). His words perfectly apply to Islam’s position regarding the cross. Hear the clear denial of the cross in Surah 4:156-157:

They rejected faith: they uttered against Mary a grave false charge. That they said (in boast) ‘We killed Christ Jesus the son of Mary the Apostle of God’; *but they killed him not nor crucified him but so it was made to appear to them and those who differ therein are full of doubts with no (certain) knowledge but only conjecture to follow for of a surety they killed him not.* (emphasis added)

In rejecting the crucifixion, Islam has promoted the following theological errors:

- Man is not innately sinful;
- Assurance of salvation is not attainable;
- A belief that an adequate atonement is not necessary;
- A belief that Allah is merciful and works/deeds might be sufficient;
- A belief in the extreme transcendence of Allah; and

- A non-biblical view of the attributes and nature of God.

Many Christians succumb to defeat by refusing to engage the Muslim belief that Jesus did not die on the cross. Christians should remember Paul’s admonition:

For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel, and not with words of eloquent wisdom, *lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power. For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.* ... For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles. (1 Cor. 1:17-18; 22-23, emphasis added)

Samuel Zwemer encouraged Christians to respond to this grave Islamic lie:

We must meet this earnest and latest challenge of our Muslim opponents not by compromise and concessions, nor by cowardice of silence, but boldly proclaiming that the very heart of our religion, its center and its cynosure, its pivot and power, is the atonement wrought by Christ on the cross.<sup>7</sup>

Andrew Murray offers yet another powerful reminder:

The cross is the chief characteristic; that which distinguishes him [Christ] from all in heaven and on earth; that which gives glory as mediator on the throne through eternity. *If faithfully, fearlessly, sympathetically, we preach Christ crucified, he can make the stumbling block of the cross a steppingstone for the Muslims into the kingdom.* (emphasis added)<sup>8</sup>

Years ago, I heard the testimony of an Iranian Muslim, whom I shall call Mahmood. His testimony reflected the loving attributes of our heavenly Father. First, God placed key people that reflected biblical values in his place of employment. A fellow employee faithfully witnessed to him and determined that no matter the outcome of his witnessing, he would unconditionally love this Muslim man. Second, God gave him believing in-laws who regularly prayed for him and lived their faith in front of him. Mahmood carefully noted how God restored his wife’s faith after she backslid. Mahmood said, “God performed numerous supernatural miracles in my life and the life of my family.” Last, God sovereignly gave him a local pastor who challenged him with the truth: “Mahmood, which one of us is wrong, is it you or me?”

Mahmood continued by relating the marvelous story of God's timing and his day of salvation. In an effort to prove Jesus was not divine, he was secretly reading John 19:23-27 in his wife's Bible:

When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his garments and divided them into four parts, one part for each soldier; also, his tunic. But the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom, so they said to one another, "Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see whose it shall be." This was to fulfill the Scripture which says, "They divided my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots." So, the soldiers did these things, but standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son!" Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother!" And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home.

Immediately, Mahmood found himself saying these exact words: **"WHAT ELSE HAS ISLAM LIED TO ME ABOUT?"** He continued, "No one, especially Jesus, would allow His mother to believe he had not died if that was not the truth." The very next weekend, Mahmood visited a church and responded to a simple gospel message.

## Conclusion

Laborers in the harvest field, be encouraged that your labor to make TRUTH known to Muslims is not in vain. Many examples and responses to the aforementioned lies of Islam are listed, and they are valid and useful in reaching Muslims with the truth. The bottom line is that all Muslims need a divine encounter with the resurrected Christ. We do well to remember the result of Stephen's experience in Acts 7:56-58, 60:

And he said, "Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God." But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together at him. Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul. ... And falling to his knees he cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

Witnessing Stephen's death by stoning was a "young man named Saul." Later, the Lord called Saul to become Paul and to take the gospel to the Gentile world. The results of faithfulness, obedience, and proclamation of truth, coupled with intercessory prayer, are not always immediate, but eventually Damascus Road experiences occur, and a Saul becomes a Paul! Let us pray that many Sauls will be raised up to help reach the world's 2 billion Muslims with the truth about Jesus!

## ENDNOTES

<sup>1</sup> J. D. Douglas, ed. *New Bible Dictionary* (Wheaton: Tyndale House, 1986), 734.

<sup>2</sup> C. F. Keil and F. Delitzsch, *The Pentateuch*, trans. James Martin (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, n.d.), 3:397.

<sup>3</sup> Daniel Janosik, *The Guide to Answering Islam: What Every Christian Needs to Know about Islam and the Rise of Radical Islam* (Cambridge, OH: Christian Publishing House, 2019), 195-196.

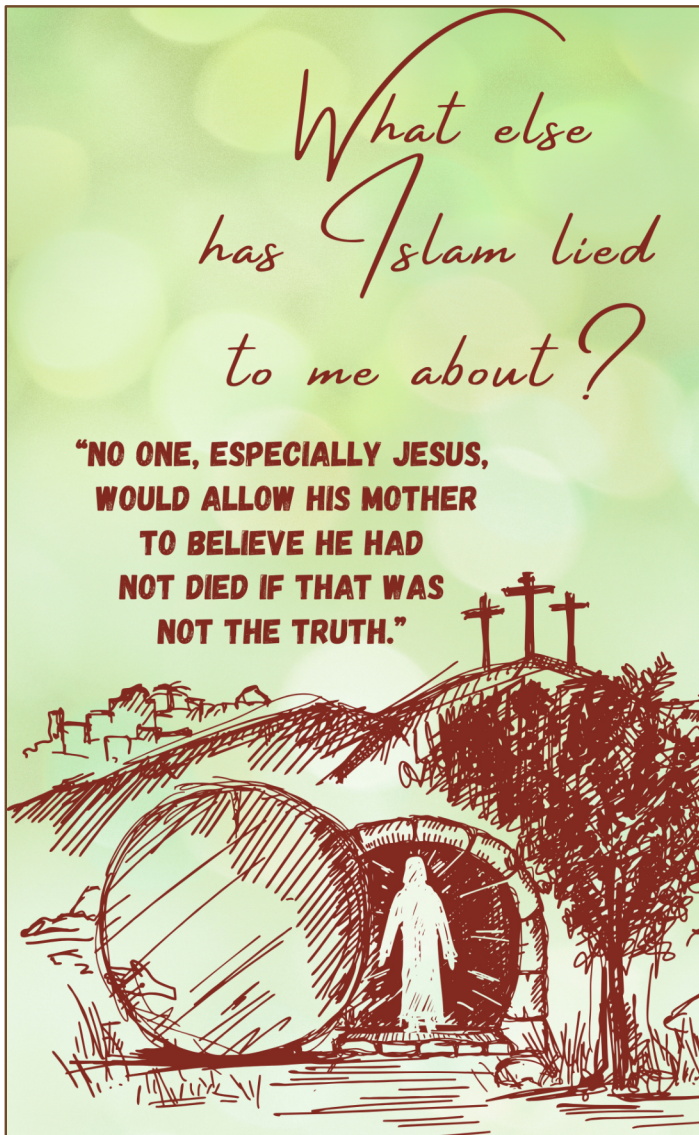
<sup>4</sup> Myer Pearlman, *Knowing the Doctrines of the Bible* (Springfield, MO: Gospel Publishing House, 1937), 29.

<sup>5</sup> Jens Christensen, *Practical Approaches to Muslims* (South Australia, New Creations Pub., 1977), 283-284.

<sup>6</sup> Pearlman, *Knowing the Doctrines of the Bible*, 69.

<sup>7</sup> Roger Greenway, ed. *Islam and the Cross: Selections from the Apostle to Islam*, Samuel M. Zwemer (Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R Publishing, 2002), 53.

<sup>8</sup> Greenway, *Islam and the Cross*, 53.







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## Friday, September 5, 2025. Please pray for

...*peace to prevail in the Middle East*, especially for those in Gaza who have suffered so much.

...*Muslims throughout the world* who will celebrate *Mawlid al-Nabi*—today, September 5, in commemoration of the birth date of Muhammad.

...*Global Initiative team members* who will teach equipping classes in Romania during September. Classes prepare Romanian missionaries to serve in Muslim contexts.

## Friday, September 12, 2025. Please pray for

...*evangelism efforts in West Java, Indonesia*. A worker reports: “During the meetings, Muslims bring loudspeakers from which they blare music and shout protests against the meetings.”

...*Pastor Saint and his congregation in Nigeria*. His update states: “Muslim jihadists completely wiped out eight families of our church and burnt down their homes. Each Sunday, those who can bring cups of foodstuff, to share with everyone—for at least one meal a day.”

...*discipling classes for “large numbers of Muslims”* who have come to salvation in Christ in Malaysia in the last few months. Of Malaysia’s population of 36 million, 65% are Muslim.

## Friday, September 19, 2025. Please pray for

...*Holy Spirit anointing on a training conference* to be held late this month in an Arabian Gulf country. Many new believers from Muslim backgrounds will receive discipleship training.

...*Christians in the eastern region of the Democratic Republic of Congo*. Muslim jihadists have killed dozens of Christians. Half a million citizens have fled their homes due to the terror.

...*an online evangelism ministry to Muslims*. Their latest report states: “Muslim converts to Christ are increasing daily in countries such as Afghanistan, Iraq, and Türkiye.”

## Friday, September 26, 2025. Please pray for

...*a house church network in Azerbaijan*. Their overseer says: “Five former local Islamic leaders will be baptized this month. Our converts are baptized in bathtubs during our secret house church services.” Of Azerbaijan’s population of 10 million, 96% are Muslim.

...*discipling efforts among new converts from Islam in Van, Türkiye*. Van is strategically located on the border of Iran and Türkiye. Most of the new converts are of Kurdish descent.

...*a Bible distribution ministry in Central Asia*. The leader says: “Our New Testaments are in four languages. Muslims who receive one New Testament almost always ask for more copies. Present requests exceed anything we’ve previously known.”



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## Friday, October 3, 2025. Please pray for

...*the family of Ugandan Christian evangelist David Washume*. Just outside Kampala, Islamic militants stabbed Washume to death for leading Muslims to Christ. A written note was found at the scene of the crime, saying, “Infidel, you will meet Allah in judgement.”

...*Global Initiative team members* who will teach equipping classes during October in Indonesia. Sessions will prepare workers and church planters to serve in Muslim contexts.

...*Aafra, a new Christian*. As a veiled Muslim woman, Aafra was abused by an evil spirit for years. After hearing a gospel message from a Christian evangelist, she gave her life to Christ. During her prayer of commitment, she says, “I saw the demon flee from my life!”

## Friday, October 10, 2025. Please pray for

...*a new church planting initiative in Sri Lanka*. Global Initiative personnel conducted seminars in an eastern district of the country with a 43% Muslim population. The new initiative encourages churches to explore innovative ways to disseminate the gospel among Muslims.

...*the safety of Farid*, a courageous Afghan Christian leader and a key figure in the underground church in Afghanistan. Since the Taliban’s return in 2021, Farid has been under intense scrutiny.

...*Holy Spirit anointing on Global Initiative team members* who will conduct equipping classes in the country of Bangladesh during October 26-30.

## Friday, October 17, 2025. Please pray for

...*a ministry in Egypt whose two-fold goal is*: (1) preventing young Christian girls from being forced into marriages to Muslim men (who are often over 50 years of age), and (2) rescuing Christian girls who have already been forced into marriages with Muslim men.

...*Farhad, an Iranian taxi driver*. He says, “I was a strong Muslim, but after reading the *Injil*, I was convinced to follow Jesus. I will use my taxi to distribute Bibles for as long as I live.”

...*Fawzi, a Syrian convert from Islam now living in Jordan*. His father told him, “You are now dead to me, and I will never see you again.” Pray for Fawzi and his family as they navigate ongoing persecution and unemployment.

## Friday, October 24, 2025. Please pray for

...*protection for an Iranian mother named Zohre* and her family of eight. When the Lord healed her son of heart disease, Zohre left Islam and embraced Jesus as Lord. Her husband immediately abandoned her and the family. Zohre says, “Jesus is our provider. We will not turn back.”

...*the Balkan Reach Initiative, based in Albania*. Global Initiative is honored to help train workers to serve in the greater Balkan region, where Islam has a strong presence.

...*a house church movement in a 98% Muslim country of Central Asia*. The leader reports: “Islamic opposition is actually strengthening the home fellowships. Key leaders are now encouraging and communicating with one another more than ever before.”

## Friday, October 31, 2025. Please pray for

...*“Malay” Muslims in Malaysia*. Ethnic Malays are prohibited from converting to Christianity, and it is illegal to share the gospel with them. Of Malaysia’s population of 36 million, 58% are “Malays.”

...*the Christian community in northern Mozambique*. “Islamic State” has been waging an insurgency there since 2017, and since that time have killed more than 1,800 “infidel Christians.”

...*the ministry of Pastor Mebrahtu* who was recently released from prison in Eritrea. He says, “I will go back and proclaim the gospel.” Eritrea’s government has a history of imprisoning and persecuting Christian pastors. Of Eritrea’s population of 3.5 million, 49% are Muslim.

*\*All personal names used herein are pseudonyms.*