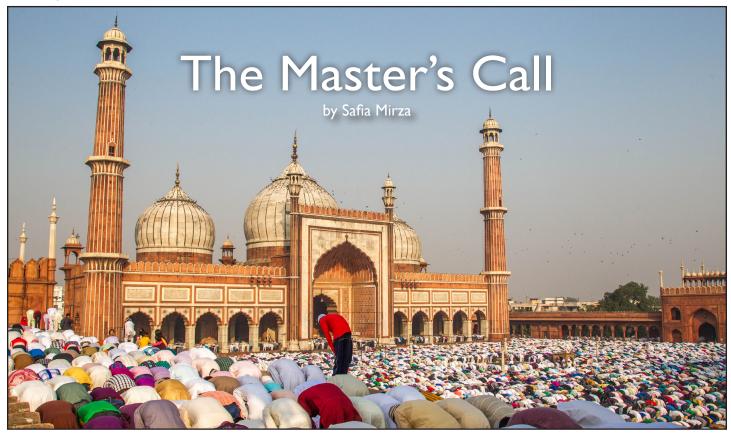
# INTERCEDE

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Editor's note: Safia Mirza's ministry has taken her to the far corners of the world. Tens of thousands have heard her powerful testimony. Each time she speaks, the organizers ask, "When can she return?" The following story is used by permission and has been adapted and edited from the book, The Master's Call.

My parents decided to name me Safia, which means the pure and wise one. We were a typical Muslim household that thronged the streets of Hyderabad, India, in the early 1950s. My mother hired a religious teacher, an *ustad*, who came to our home twice a week to teach us Arabic so we could be proficient in our holy scriptures.

For my secular education, I was admitted to a reputed Catholic Institution, St. Ann's High School, where I successfully matriculated through high school. Early on in life, I discovered a love for teaching, so I enrolled in the Teachers' Training Institute. After graduating as a full-fledged teacher, I applied for—and received—a job at my Alma Mater.

Soon it was time for my parents to arrange my marriage to a respectable Muslim man. They found the perfect match in Ilyas, a young man from a distinguished and reputed family from old Hyderabad. My husband turned out to be a gentle and noble-hearted man who loved me and treated me with respect and grace. After marriage, I continued to teach at the Convent School and enjoyed every minute of it.

#### The Power of Prayer

In 1976, a born-again Christian lady joined our ranks as a teacher. One day she asked me, "Do you believe in Jesus Christ?" I answered her, "Yes, of course I believe." She then asked, "But what do you believe about Him?" I replied, "I believe He is a prophet of God." "No, no, you must believe that He is the Son of God," was her quick and firm response. The very idea was sacrilegious and blasphemous to my soul. It was unthinkable. I soon told her, "Let us be friends, but let us leave Jesus Christ out of our friendship." But this faithful praying lady, with a divine mandate and burden on her heart, sacrificed her lunch break every day to pray devotedly and persistently for me. After sacrificially praying for me for two years, God was about to intervene in my life in a dramatic manner.

#### The Retreat

In 1978, the principal of St. Ann's announced that the school would be shut down for three days, during which every member of the staff would be required to attend a spiritual retreat. Father D'Souza, a charismatic priest from Mumbai, was the invited speaker. On the first day of the retreat Fr. D'Souza asked the question, "Who are you?" Several staff members stood and one after the other gave various answers.



## Until All Have Heard

Mark Brink

International Director Global Initiative: Reaching Muslim Peoples



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

The other day when I opened WhatsApp, I read a message from a *Jumaa Prayer* group leader who shared some good news. A young man from a Muslim background had just confessed Jesus as Savior and decided to enter the discipleship program at the local church. The leader further stated, "I had been witnessing to him and praying for him for over a year and finally the Word of God changed him."

Consistent witnessing, coupled with faithful intercession, produced this victory in Christ. This is what *Jumaa Prayer* is all about. When we faithfully share the gospel with Muslims and undergird the effort with fervent prayer, the Holy Spirit draws people to Christ. In many cases we don't see the immediate outcome of our intercession. On other occasions we are encouraged because we clearly see the evidence of God working in the hearts of Muslims.

The lead article of this issue contains the incredible testimony of a former Muslim in India, Safia Mirza. Her story further demonstrates how faithful prayer and wise witness will draw a person to Jesus. The Holy Spirit revealed to Safia that she was a sinner in need of a Savior—and she recognized that only the blood of Jesus could cleanse her from her sins. Don't lose heart, friends! Muslims are coming to Christ today by the power of His Spirit. We gladly commit to partner with the Holy Spirit by faithfully praying for Muslims and wisely sharing Christ with them.

We need your input! Please scan the QR code or visit <u>l.ead.me/beLmJJ</u> and complete the survey! This will let us know your preferences so we can provide a publication that best facilitates your ministry of informed intercession for Muslims. Thank you, in advance, for participating in the survey! Let's continue to intercede!



## Muslim World News

#### Iranian Nobel Peace Prize Winner Remains in Prison

TEHRAN – Narges Mohammadi, who has been an Iranian women's rights advocate for almost two decades, remains locked up in Iran's most notorious prison for political detainees. Mohammadi, who was first sentenced to prison over four years ago, won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2023.

According to the Nobel committee, Mohammadi has been arrested no less than 13 times. She has been convicted five times, sentenced to a total of 31 years in prison and has endured 154 lashes. While she has been released on and off over the past four years, her work on behalf of women and her outspoken advocacy against the death penalty have made her a repeated target of the Islamist regime in Iran.

It is unclear as to whether or not Mohammadi knows about her Nobel award. She shared a message from prison on October 4 of 2023 through her family after being told that she was under consideration as a finalist. The activist said she will continue to strive for "democracy, freedom, and equality" and vowed to remain in Iran to continue her work. – *Religion News* 

#### Islamic Azerbaijan Practices Ethnic Cleansing

YEREVAN – Beginning September 19, 2023, Azerbaijan's military crushed the self-proclaimed Artsakh republic in the mountainous Nagorno-Karabakh enclave within its borders. The attack drove out at least 100,000 ethnic Armenians – now forced to cope as refugees in neighboring Armenia. This followed Azerbaijan's cutoff of the crucial transit corridor from Armenia that had resulted in dire shortages of food, fuel and medical supplies.

The September takeover of the population's ancient homeland is a bonafide case of "ethnic cleansing," according to the European Parliament and a Council on Foreign Relations analysis. In one fell swoop, one of the world's most brutal dictatorships destroyed one of the world's oldest Christian communities.

The latest World Christian Encyclopedia edition reports that Azerbaijan is 96% Muslim, while most of the Nagorno population and 84% of the population in neighboring Armenia belong to the Armenian Apostolic (Orthodox) Church.

- GetReligions.org

### Prayer Profile - Muslim Unreached People Group

\*Tihami Arabs in Yemen - Population: 5.1 million - 100% Muslim - 0% Christian

The Tihama is the narrow western coastal region of Yemen (total population of Yemen 34 million) by the Red Sea. At one time, the Tihama hosted an important trade route that ran from Asia to Africa. Most of the Tihami people live from day to day, dependent on each day's wages to provide for the next day. The majority of the people are dependent on agriculture and the sea for their daily needs. The education system in the urban centers has been improving over the past few decades, but the standards are still far from acceptable. One out of every two people in the Tihama region is illiterate. In the villages, there is little more schooling than memorization of the Quran.

The predominate culture in the Tihama centers around Islam, but sometimes tradition or cultural customs supersede Islamic law. One prevalent tradition in all of Yemen (including the Tihama region) is *qat*, a mildly narcotic leaf that is chewed for hours at a time. *Qat* holds a strong grip on Yemeni/Tihami culture, and its perceived social value of bringing people together does not outweigh its devastating impact on the people physically, economically, and socially. Hospitality and generosity are high values among the Tihami, as well as the utmost priority of preserving honor in the family and community.

#### **Prayer Points**

- 1. Pray that the physical and spiritual needs of the Tihami people, who have been forced out of their homes and living in camps due to ongoing war in greater Yemen, would be met.
- 2. Pray for a broad sowing of the seed of God's Word among the Tihami.
- 3. Pray for the effectiveness of gospel radio programs that are beamed into the Tihama area.
- 4. Pray that those disillusioned by all the problems in their country would search until they find the Truth of Jesus that can set them free.
- 5. Pray that prayer teams will be raised up to intercede for the Tihami people.

\*For further information on the Tihami people, see https://joshuaproject.net/people\_groups/15484



## The Mas

One said, "I am a teacher." Another said, "I am a Hindu." Yet another said, "I am a clerk." Then Fr. D'Souza went right to the point, saying, "When God looks at us, He brands the whole lot of us in one category—ALL ARE SINNERS!" At this point, I began to feel the warmth of conviction creeping under my skin.

In the following session, Fr. D'Souza announced, "I will be conducting a prayer meeting at the chapel this evening. How many of you would like to attend?" No one was more surprised than I when my hand seemed to shoot up of its own accord. On my way home that evening, I said, "Allah, if you want me to be at that meeting tonight for some special reason, I know you will take me there."

With that said I went home and prepared my husband's Ramadan meal. While he was eating, I casually remarked to him, "There is a prayer meeting in the chapel at 7 p.m. tonight. Do you think I should go?" Without hesitation, he replied, "What are you waiting here for? You go and I'll pick you up when it's over." This was incredible. Here was a Muslim man, allowing his Muslim wife to go to a Christian prayer meeting—and even offering to bring her home!

#### **Heavenly Encounter**

The chapel was packed with worshipers already deep in fervent prayer and worship. As I waited quietly and reverently in that worship-saturated ambience, suddenly something very strange began to occur. My eyes were open, yet superimposed on my natural vision, I began to see crystal-clear images of my life unfold like a movie. I saw all the offences and sins I had ever committed against God. I suddenly began pleading loudly with God to forgive me for all the sins He'd just revealed to me!

Then I was suddenly transported to the most beautiful spiritual experience of my life. It was an out-of-body experience in which I could turn back and see my body sitting on the floor, but, in my spirit, I began to float high, through the ceiling, out into the open sky. When my head touched the first thick cloud, it seemed like someone pulled me above it and switched on all the lights!

As my body and my spirit were once again united in the chapel, I gradually became aware of my surroundings and the chorus that was being sung echoed clearly in my ears: "There is power, power, wonder-working power, in the blood of the Lamb." I reluctantly opened my eyes from that blissful experience, still basking in the remnants of its ecstasy, and tried to focus on the song. At that moment, I noticed a bright red blob on my right thumb. It looked suspiciously like blood, but it couldn't have been. I hadn't cut myself; I hadn't even jammed my thumb, which would have made it black and blue. This red blob wasn't oozing, it wasn't flowing; it was as though someone had just taken an ink-filler and squeezed a drop of red ink onto a blotting paper. Strange as it was, I ignored it for the time being, as I wanted to continue being immersed in this wonderful spiritual after-glow.

#### The Blood Drop

That night, my concern turned again to that drop of blood on my thumb. Without hesitation, I opened the tap to wash it off, but the mark didn't smudge even a bit. I put some concentrated detergent on it and scrubbed hard again.

It still remained stark red. I began trembling a bit. What was the meaning of this? Why wasn't it rubbing out? And why was I trembling like this? I leaned against the kitchen sink and took a deep breath to calm myself and to think of what to do next. I realized that something supernatural was happening to me!

#### God's Plans

The following day, I met with Fr. D'Souza and showed him the blood stain that refused to wash out. He closed his eyes, then he looked at my thumb and back at me, and simply said, "I think God has plans for you."

"Plans?" I echoed, "What kind of plans? And why me? How can I know what those plans are? Do you know? Can you tell me?"

He answered, "How can I know what plans God has for you? You will have to find it out yourself." Then he picked



up his Bible and said, "This is a talking book. God speaks to us through this book. Open it and read it, and you will hear from God."

I stared at him quite bewildered. "Do you mean to say I can just ask God what plans He has for me and then open the Bible at random and the answer will be on that very page?"

"Yes," he replied, "I believe He will do it this way for you. Ask Him what you need to ask, and I believe that God will answer you through the pages of His written Word. For now you can find out His plans for you in this manner, but don't make it a habit."

That evening, I decided to put Fr. D'Souza's suggestion to the test. I laid out my prayer mat and prepared to read the Bible—a Bible the Gideon's had given me nine years earlier.

#### The Mandate

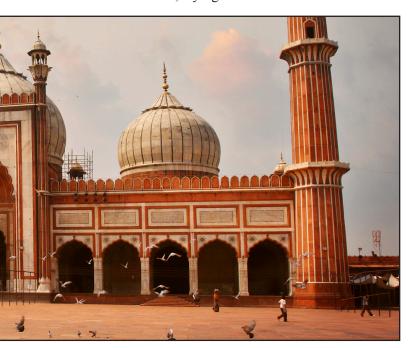
I began flipping the pages of the Bible. I asked God, "Please tell me what plans You have for me. I shall follow them, but please take away this blood from my thumb because I feel like a criminal."

I looked down at the page that was spread open, and my

## ter's Call

eyes immediately fell on a paragraph written in red letters. They were the words of Jesus speaking to His disciples in Matthew 28:18: "*Then Jesus came and said*...." The impact of those words hit me immediately. Why? Because it was Jesus who was speaking.

It was Jesus who said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me." Jesus was showing me His status in the universe. He must possess great power to have all authority in heaven and on earth! He seemed most like God. Was He co-equal with God then? I continued to read the next two verses, "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." I stared at these words in puzzlement. These were the plans God had for me? I read and reread the words, trying to make some sense of them.



What kind of impossible plans were these?

Then I decided to speak to Jesus directly, "Jesus, how can this be Your plan for me? Who and what am I? First of all, I am a woman—a Muslim woman, and a married Muslim woman at that. Do You not know all the implications involved? And Jesus, You want me to go to nations? How can I go to nations? I have not been to the nearest church down the road to worship and You want me to go to nations? These cannot be Your plans for me. Give me some other plans and please take away this blood on my thumb. I cannot do all that You are asking, but yes, I do want You to be with me always." I closed the Bible and looked down to check my right thumb, but the blood spot was still there.

The next day, I opened the Bible at random again, and my eyes fell on Acts 18:9-10 where Jesus was speaking to the Apostle Paul: "Do not be afraid; keep on speaking, do not be silent. For I am with you, and no one is going to attack and harm you, because I have many people in this city." I was stunned! This really was a talking book! I began to ponder silently about all this as I looked down at my right thumb again. The blood was still there, bright and unfaded.

It struck me that in the course of just three days, my whole world had been turned completely upside down.

#### **Appeal for Confirmation**

I decided to put Jesus to the test and I told Him, "I am going to tell my conservative Muslim husband that I have decided to follow You. If Your promise for protection still stands, please prove it to me now, because You said that "no man shall hurt me or harm me." When I talk to my husband, let him not hurt or divorce me, but let him accept my decision amicably."

As soon as I returned home, I went to my husband and said, "Ilyas, there is something serious I have to tell you. I have been struggling these past three days, unable to quite understand all that God is doing to me. But now, there is this strange assurance in my heart of joy and peace, and a prompting within to obey and follow Jesus Christ. I feel this blood on my thumb will not go until and unless I say yes to Jesus. I know this will come as a shock to you, but my mind is made up."

Ilyas then gave me a noble answer. He said, "What you believe about Jesus Christ is in your heart. How can your convictions and beliefs—which are in your heart—change our relationship as husband and wife? We will still be husband and wife no matter what our beliefs." Words can never describe the emotions I experienced at that moment. The knowledge that my family was not going to be torn apart, and that my husband was not going to hurt or reject me caused me to weep with gratitude.

#### **Complete Surrender**

The next morning, I read a further confirmation in Matthew 1:18-20. Here was the story of Mary being found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. In verse 20, the angel said to Joseph, "Do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit." I realized that my husband's experience was somewhat similar to Joseph's. I closed my eyes and said, "Jesus, I am willing to go wherever You will take me. I am willing to teach if You will teach me first." The moment I spoke those words of surrender and service, the blood spot just vanished instantaneously. Its purpose had been accomplished. My right thumb looked absolutely clean again.

Even though my husband had been supportive of my conversion, I had to abide by certain conditions, the main one being that I was not allowed to go to church. So I honored his request and for the next ten years I stayed at home and worshipped God by myself. Three years after my conversion, the Lord brought a Mennonite missionary couple into my life. For several years, they encouraged me to the best of their ability on the phone, but that was all the help I received. However, the Holy Spirit continued to give me revelation from His Word as I studied it and hid it in my heart

#### **More Trials**

Relentless social and emotional pressure on our lives continued for many years, until one day everything came to an unexpected head. My husband suddenly erupted and said, "I can't take this any more. I think it's time we went our separate ways." After all these years, he was finally ready to give up and divorce me. I complained bitterly to Jesus, saying, "For ten years I stayed at home and obeyed my husband by not going to church. Now what do You want me to do?" The reply came swiftly. A voice in my heart said, "Tomorrow, you go to church."

Sunday morning dawned and I began to get dressed to go out. My husband asked me, "Where are you going?" Out came the truth, "I am going to New Life Assembly of God Church." I opened the door and walked out. I was probably more shocked than Ilyas, as I had never done anything like this before! As I sat in the auto rickshaw, I wept all the way to church as I spoke with the Lord, saying, "Jesus, I never wanted to go to church all alone! I really believed that both Ilyas and I would go together one day."

I entered the Conference Hall where the New Life Assembly of God Church was meeting and sat down in the first available chair in the corner. In desperation, I cried out to God, "If You are truly a caring God, then I want You to prove it now. I'm asking You to bring my husband into this church within the next 20 minutes—and make him sit on that chair," pointing to a particular chair. Exactly within the next 20 minutes, I saw the door of the hall open and Ilyas walked in and sat on the very chair I had pointed out. Did I need further proof of God's awesome goodness and love? I wanted to jump up and praise Him, but worship was already over and the preaching of the Word was in progress. I observed that Ilyas was listening attentively to the sermon.

The next Sunday, I began to get ready to go out again. My husband asked me, "Where are you going?" I replied, "To New Life Assembly of God Church." I stood, rooted to the spot in amazement, when I heard him call, "Wait for me, I am coming."

#### **Rejoicing Together in the Lord**

One year later, Ilyas gave his heart to the Lord in complete surrender. The first thing he confessed to us was that he wished he had not wasted all these long years in making this decision for Christ. But I rejoiced that my ten years of praying and waiting had finally been rewarded. Shortly after his conversion, my husband said, "Why don't we dedicate our living room to Jesus and you can begin a Bible Study in it?" I was very happy at his suggestion—and, thus, we opened our house up for the study of the Scriptures. Ladies from far and near packed the room on Wednesday evenings, and God worked powerfully in their hearts. Meanwhile, under the guidance of my senior pastor, Reverend C. E. Stubbs, I continued to study the Holy Scriptures. Along the way, the Lord opened more and more doors for me to share the miracle that had occurred in my life.

#### The Scriptural Explanation of the Blood

One day I was invited to preach in a women's conference in the West of India. After sharing my testimony, some ladies came up to me bristling with objections and said, "We cannot fully believe your testimony until you prove it to us from the Word of God." They were specifically referring to my experience with the blood on my thumb—they wanted it substantiated by the Scriptures. I was taken aback at being

questioned in this manner, but admittedly, I had no immediate answer. On the train ride home, upset and unnerved, I turned to Jesus and told Him, "I will not share my testimony again until You prove to me from Your Word that the blood on my thumb was a valid sign from You."

The following Wednesday, as I prepared for my ladies weekly Bible study, the Lord led me to read from the book of Exodus. I had read this book so many times before, but somehow this particular passage had escaped my attention. Now, as the Lord led me to chapter 29, I began to read very carefully. This chapter deals with God's instructions to Moses for the consecration of the priesthood—which was a solemn and holy ceremony.

Exodus 29:1 says, The Lord told Moses, "This is what you are to do to consecrate them [Aaron and his sons], so they may serve me as priests." Take a young bull and two rams without defect." Then, in verses 19-20, God says, "Take the other ram, and Aaron and his sons shall lay their hands on its head. Slaughter it, take some of its blood and put it on the lobes of the right ears of Aaron and his sons, on the thumbs of their right hands, and on the big toes of their right feet. Then splash blood against the sides of the altar." All this was to be done to consecrate the priests who would be serving the Lord.

I closed my Bible and wept in repentance for still doubting Him. I cried, "Lord, Your ways are far above our ways. O God, You are so specific. You could have put that drop of blood on any part of my body, any part of my hand—my palms or my fingers—but You are a God who operates according to Your Word, never contradicting it. You chose to put that drop of blood specifically on my right thumb to be in agreement with Scripture. You literally consecrated me to serve You as a priest before any man, organization, or church could do it. How beautifully You led me step by step. First, You caused conviction in my heart, and then led me to repentance and to pray for the forgiveness of my sins. Then, You gave me the joy and the assurance of forgiveness through an amazing spiritual experience. Only after that did You put the blood of consecration on my right thumb. When You applied that blood, I didn't even understand what it meant, but You knew what You were doing in setting me apart to be used in Your service."

"You are far above gender; You did this for me—a woman. You are far above culture and creed. Who should have been consecrated? Not a woman; certainly not a Muslim woman; yet You graciously chose me. Yes, You are above every race, every religion, and every culture. You are very great, O God. Thank You."

#### To God Be All the Glory!

God chose me, communicated with me, convicted me, commissioned me, and put me in the very house of God to serve Him. In fulfillment of His promise and call, God has taken me to the nations to teach and tell many people that Jesus is Lord. I pray that the Lord who gave His life for me will continue to give me the privilege and honor of serving Him because He consecrated me for this very reason. Every time I think of His goodness and faithfulness, I am amazed afresh. He said, "Go to the nations," and I am still going. To God be all the glory!



#### Friday, January 5, 2024. Please pray for

- ...religious freedom in the Comoros Islands. Of the Comoros' population of 850,000, 97% are Muslim. Islam is the state religion, and the freedom of worship is not recognized.
- ...the success of ongoing humanitarian efforts in Morocco and Libya—resulting from the September 2023 earthquake in Morocco and floods in Libya. Thousands were killed and displaced in both locations.
- ...a spirit of cooperation among Korean churches as they plan to evangelize both the 150,000 "foreign-born" Muslims in their country, as well as the 45,000 ethnic Korean Muslims.

#### Friday, January 12, 2024. Please pray for

- ...a quick legal resolution for 50 Christian converts from Islam in five cities in Iran who were arrested and jailed recently. Some have been released on bail, but most remain incarcerated.
- ...succor and humanitarian help for the 120,000 Armenian Christians who have been forced by the Islamic Azerbaijani government to leave their homes in the Nagorno-Karabakh region and flee to Armenia proper.
- ...the effectiveness of daily Far East Broadcasting Association radio programs in Dari that offer hope to a Muslim audience in dreadful conditions in Afghanistan.

#### Friday, January 19, 2024. Please pray for

- ...a strong Holy Spirit anointing on Global Initiative team members who will conduct seminars and classes in Bangladesh during January 22-24.
- ...encouragement for workers among Muslims who encounter additional stresses due to the spiritual oppression of Islam. Some have been forced to leave their field prematurely because of physical or emotional problems.
- ... Holy Spirit enablement for Christian Arab ministries who regularly conduct public outreaches in order to share the gospel with the 125,000 Muslim Arabs in Central Florida.

#### Friday, January 26, 2024. Please pray for

- ...the Lord of the Harvest to use Global Initiative team members who will conduct seminars and classes during January 29-February 9 in Nagaland.
- ...ongoing success for British churches who are seeing "more and more fruit" resulting from gospel outreaches to the 600,000 people of Turkish origin who live in London.
- ...a powerful anointing to rest on Global Initiative team members who will conduct seminars and classes in Madagascar during January 29-February 2.





#### Friday, February 2, 2024. Please pray for

- ...favor for Latin American missionaries who are proclaiming the gospel among Muslims in the Netherlands. Of the Netherland's population of 17 million, 5% are Muslims.
- ...the two-thirds of all internet users in Saudi Arabia who are women. Thousands of Saudi women now work in the private sector and use various internet platforms in their jobs, thereby creating more opportunities for interchange with Christian entities.
- ...wisdom for German churches who are sharing the gospel with Muslim Turks in their country. 6 million Turks live in Germany; 1 in every 5 people in Germany has a foreign background.

#### Friday, February 9, 2024. Please pray for

- ...the Berber Evangelistic Association as it develops Berber-style videos and music. The potential is great as there are thousands of satellite dishes in the Muslim Berber areas of Morocco.
- ...protection for Christian workers who are teaching English as a Second Language in restricted or closed Muslim countries, especially the Arabian Gulf region. Pray that God will provide creative opportunities to share Jesus with Muslim students.
- ...the 1 million Muslims (including 25,000 Afghans) in New Delhi, India's capital city. Churches in the city continue to reach out to Muslims and many have become followers of Jesus.

#### Friday, February 16, 2024. Please pray for

- ... Holy Spirit enablement for workers in Bulgaria who regularly conduct evangelistic outreaches among the 800,000 Turks in their country.
- ...outreaches to the 380,000 Muslim Dongxiang people in Northwest China—with no known Christians among them. Only 12 percent of the Dongxiang are literate in Chinese languages, making it difficult to reach them.
- ... fresh Holy Spirit anointing on Global Initiative team members who will conduct seminars and classes in The Democratic Republic of Congo, February 19-23.

#### Friday, February 23, 2024. Please pray for

- ... courage for recent converts from Islam. Many face severe persecution—including banishment from their families, loss of employment, arrest for "blasphemy," physical attack, and martyrdom.
- ...divine protection for Pakistani churches and Christians. In September of 2023, Muslim mobs damaged 26 churches and ransacked 200 homes and businesses in one city alone. The riots began when a believer was falsely accused of blasphemy against the Quran.
- ...the safe return of Pastor Lohre who was kidnapped recently by jihadists in Bamako, Mali. Cry out for the Lord to intervene and halt the violence by Islamic terrorists in Mali.

\*All personal names used herein are pseudonyms.