

# INTERCEDE

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## *From All Nations – To All Nations*



by a CMM affiliate

*“With the almost universal hatred of Americans throughout the Muslim world because of American support for Israel, the sense of shame that ‘infidel Western Christians’ are occupying an Arab country, the prisoner abuse photos from Iraq, etc., I wonder if God has raised up these brothers and sisters [non-Americans] to fill the ranks of American missionaries who are finding it harder and harder to stay and work in Muslim lands. Yes, I think this is their time, their ‘hour’ on the stage of missions.”*

Don McCurry, the founder and president of Ministries to Muslims and one of the world’s leading authorities on Christian witness to Muslims, expresses the urgency we feel at the Center for Ministry to Muslims (CMM) to train workers *from all nations to all nations.*

CMM is working together with missionaries and national

Christians around the world for the common purpose of mobilizing and training workers to reach Muslims with the gospel of Jesus Christ. God is liberally scattering in the hearts of non-American Christians the burden to be church planters among Muslims, and they are asking us to help equip them for effective service. In response to requests from church and missions leaders on every continent, CMM is implementing this evangelism training of national Christians by establishing several Institutes of Islamic Studies (IIS), or Muslim Evangelism Training Schools (METS), in strategic locations around the world. We can train workers to reach Muslims that Americans could never reach.

IIS is a comprehensive training program that seeks to prepare Christian workers for ministry to Muslims in their own countries or equip them to go as cross-cultural missionaries.

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# 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

**Jim Bennett, Director**  
**Center for**  
**Ministry to Muslims**



**T**he lead article of this issue describes one of the most important things we do at CMM—partnering with national constituencies around the world to provide training for those who want to reach Muslims with the gospel.

I meet them all over the world; people who have been trained in one of our Institutes of Islamic Studies (IIS) or Muslim Evangelism Training Schools (METS). IIS/METS graduates are faithfully planting churches in Muslim countries and/or directing various ministries to Muslims.

Actually IIS and METS programs are exactly the same thing. Then why two names? Because outside the U.S. it is sometimes necessary to use the less obvious name—Institute of Islamic Studies. It sounds less evangelistic, and thus is less threatening to governments and fundamentalist Muslims.

When counting seminars, courses and IIS/METS programs all together, CMM has trained over 28,000 in 82 countries. A key component of our ministry mandate is training workers for the Muslim context. Here is a partial list of our training partnerships:

- IIS-Philippines
- IIS-India
- IIS-Nigeria
- IIS-Romania
- IIS-Indonesia
- IIS-Malaysia
- IIS-Amsterdam
- IIS-El Salvador
- IIS-Thailand

We are also honored to partner with 11th Hour Institutes (pan-Africa), Light for the Nations (Central Eurasia) and IIS-Sudan. In addition to all of the above locations, we regularly offer courses and training to national churches, Bible schools and seminaries in other countries throughout the world.

An IIS/METS program has five key components: (1) Location. Preferably a seminary or Bible school campus. (2) Qualified teachers. Initially, CMM can provide teachers or recruit the best teachers available. Eventually, all teachers should come from the national or local context. (3) Curriculum. The curriculum should be decided by the national or local leadership. Courses range from *Introduction to Islam* to *Quranic Exegesis*. (4) Director. The director handles the logistics and advertising, receives applications and serves as liaison between CMM and the local IIS. (5) Scholarships. It is difficult for most students to fully pay for transportation, housing and tuition. Partnering with national leaders, CMM helps raise funds to subsidize some costs.

To close, I ask you to do two things: (1) Please pray for these vital training programs, and (2) If the Lord speaks to your heart, consider helping us in the funding of these programs. We feel that IIS/METS students are the cream of the crop. They are doing the most challenging mission work in the world; providing an adequate witness of Jesus Christ in their Muslim countries. Thanks for your prayers and support.



# Muslim World News



## Nigeria

### *MOB STONES WOMAN TO DEATH FOR EVANGELIZING*

Church leaders in Izom said Muslim extremists overwhelmed police officers providing refuge for an unidentified Christian woman in the Niger state town on June 28 and stoned and clubbed her to death for doing street evangelism. David Atabo of the Roman Catholic Church in Izom said he witnessed the killing of the woman. He told *Compass* that she had met a group of Muslim youths, shared the gospel with them and gave them tracts. When nearby Muslim elders learned that the woman had preached to the youths, he said, they claimed she insulted the prophet of Islam, Muhammad, and ordered that she be killed according to *sharia* law. Police rescued her and took her into protective custody, but a mob stormed the station. “The police, realizing that the Muslim crowd was overwhelming, smuggled the woman through a back door to escape with her, but the Muslims blocked all escaped routes, and at this point the police abandoned the woman to save their lives,” Atabo said. “She was clubbed to death.” Niger is one of 12 Nigerian states that has implemented *sharia*.—*Compass*

## Pakistan

### *‘BLASPHEMY’ PRISONER WINS PERSECUTION PRIZE*

A Pakistani Christian has won a reli-

gious persecution award after spending eight years in prison on contested charges that he damaged a sign containing verses from the Qur’an. The International Society for Human Rights (IGFM) honored Ranjha Masih, still serving his life sentence in Pakistan, with the newly established Stephen Endowment award in recognition of Masih’s “steadfastness in maintaining his Christian beliefs.” Masih was unable to accept the award in person at the IGFM annual conference in Frankfurt, Hesse state, Germany. The prizewinner remained behind bars thousands of miles away in Faisalabad Central Jail, seemingly forgotten by Pakistan’s legal system. Three years after filing an appeal before the provincial High Court, Ranjha Masih has not been given a hearing.—*Compass*

## Pakistan

### *WOMAN RAPED FOR LEAVING ISLAM*

Attacked by her own family, one Muslim’s decision to convert to Christianity highlights the precarious situation of Muslims in Pakistan who leave their faith. Sehar Muhammad Shafi, 24, has fled her home city of Karachi with her husband and two young daughters after being attacked and raped for changing her faith. Shafi told *Compass* that her family lives with the fear of being discovered. “My husband is keen to get a marketing job,”

Shafi said. “But I don’t want him to do something that open, where he will be known.” Though returning to Islam would seemingly solve many of Shafi’s problems, the Christian woman said that is not an option. “It is not a joke to change religions,” she said. “We’ve fallen in love with Jesus, so how could we betray him?”—*Compass*

## Malaysia

### *PROTESTORS UNDERMINE RELIGIOUS RIGHTS FORUM*

Hotels in Malaysia have refused to host a series of religious rights forums after angry protestors shut down an event and accused the organizers of being “enemies of Islam.” Article 11, a coalition of 13 religious and human rights groups, had organized a series of forums to discuss constitutional rights and the dilemma created by a dual legal system incorporating both civil and *sharia* law. Police cordons and a crowd of roughly 500 demonstrators greeted participants arriving for a forum in Penang. Eventually police insisted that the forum be shut down, despite having issued an official permit for the event. “This incident shows how serious the breakdown in constitutional values is,” National Human Rights Society deputy president and lawyer Malik Imtiaz Sarwar, a speaker at the forum, told local reporters. “If we cannot speak on the constitution, where are we as a nation?”—*Compass*

# From All Nations



IIS offers a unique opportunity to deepen one's understanding of, and love for, Muslim peoples. IIS classes are taught by outstanding scholars and missionaries with extensive experience in ministry to Muslims across the world.

The initiative for the first IIS training program came from an Asian pastor. This is testimony to the fact that the Spirit of God is calling forth anointed leadership from all nations to all nations. In the past 9 years, the 8-week Institute of Islamic Studies (IIS) in the Philippines has helped equip nearly 500 workers from 40 nations representing over 20 different missions agencies.

This priceless training of a multiethnic mosaic of God's marvelous family is multiplied in Indonesia, India, the Netherlands, Romania, Nigeria, El Salvador and other strategic nations. The IIS program has the potential to impact entire nations with the gospel.

At an IIS, we train pastors, evangelists and lay workers in the fundamental skills they need in order to understand Muslims and reach them for Jesus Christ. One of the IIS instructors who was greatly stirred by this ministry opportunity stated, "I cannot tell you how excited and moved I was by the experience! It was a treasured opportunity to share insights from our own research and experience in ministry to Muslims with such a receptive group of about 30 mostly Asian student-colleagues. There are few things more strategic I could do to help our movement. IIS is practical as well as academically advanced. IIS is spiritually potent and is a world-changing injection of 'knowledge on fire' to emerging pioneer missionaries and leaders."

Participants at an IIS have their hearts opened to feel the love the Father has for Muslims. Pastor Daniel\* came to IIS with vivid childhood memories of Muslim rage. Even after becoming a pastor Daniel still held a deep fear and hatred toward Muslims, with no desire whatsoever to reach out to them with the love of Christ. During an IIS in his Asian

country, God opened Daniel's heart to help him see Muslims the way God sees them—as people for whom Jesus died. What gripped Pastor Daniel's heart was the prayer of Jesus from the Cross, "*Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do*" (Luke 23:34). Daniel had a life-changing experience when he let the liberating power of forgiveness free him to love all peoples with unconditional love—even Muslims. "My hate is melting into love," he confessed.



Daniel has since led many Muslims to faith in Christ. He ministers regularly to Muslim background believers in the church he pastors, trains lay workers to reach Muslims and is the director of a Muslim evangelism training program in the predominantly Muslim region of his country.

Josef\*, another IIS student, testified, "IIS was a turning

# - To All Nations



point for my witnessing to Muslims. Before, all I had was pure zeal without knowledge.” His confession is special because it reminds me of Proverbs 19:2, which states, *“It is not good to have zeal without knowledge”*.

Vangie\*, a young Asian woman who is called to the Muslims of Northern Asia, was asked about the potential danger of ministry to Muslims. Her reply was, “Yes, it is dangerous.

God is raising up workers from some unlikely places of the world. Not many years ago Romania was ruled by one of the most ruthless communist dictators the world has ever known. After the demise of Communism, many Romanian Christians reached out to the West for help. However Pastor Solomon\*, realizing the Great Commission applies to Romanian believers as well, announced to his fellow pastors, “For too long we have been extending our hands to the West (to receive). God is now calling us to extend our hands to the East (to go as missionaries!)”

Participants at an IIS are provided insights on how to build relationships with Muslims. An IIS inspires goals and increases faith for a new vision of what God wants to do through them. At the conclusion of a recent IIS in El Salvador, Pastor Markos\*, the missions director, stated he felt God was calling them to send out 50 new missionaries from El Salvador to the Muslims of the world.

As we concluded a recent IIS program in Amsterdam, Cornel\* had this observation: “Muslims are in search of something eternal, but they look in the wrong place. They are so blinded! This makes me want to cry, and I want to show them the truth of who Jesus is! Muslims are in search of what we have, and we don’t bring it to them. We Christians don’t do our work very well!”

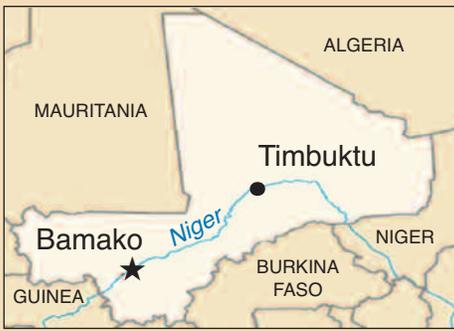
These words are sobering, but there is hope. I trust you can see how the ministry of IIS is impacting the lives of scores of Christians around the globe. Hearts are changing through what Cornel and others are learning at IIS.

But is there any place in the world where there is no danger at all?! We must work quickly to reach Muslims now, otherwise they will go ahead of us if we do not go to them with the gospel. If they are coming to us, we should meet them with the gospel rather than be afraid of them. I want to live with the Muslims and tell them about the hope of eternal life in Christ, even if it means that I have to die.”

CMM would like to thank you, our friends, for your faithful prayers and generous contributions; without which it would be impossible for us to conduct IIS programs to train and equip Christian workers *from all nations to all nations.* 

\*Names changed for security reasons.





Country Focus...

# MALI



**Population:** 12 million

**Religions:** Muslim 87%, Traditional 11%, Christian 2%

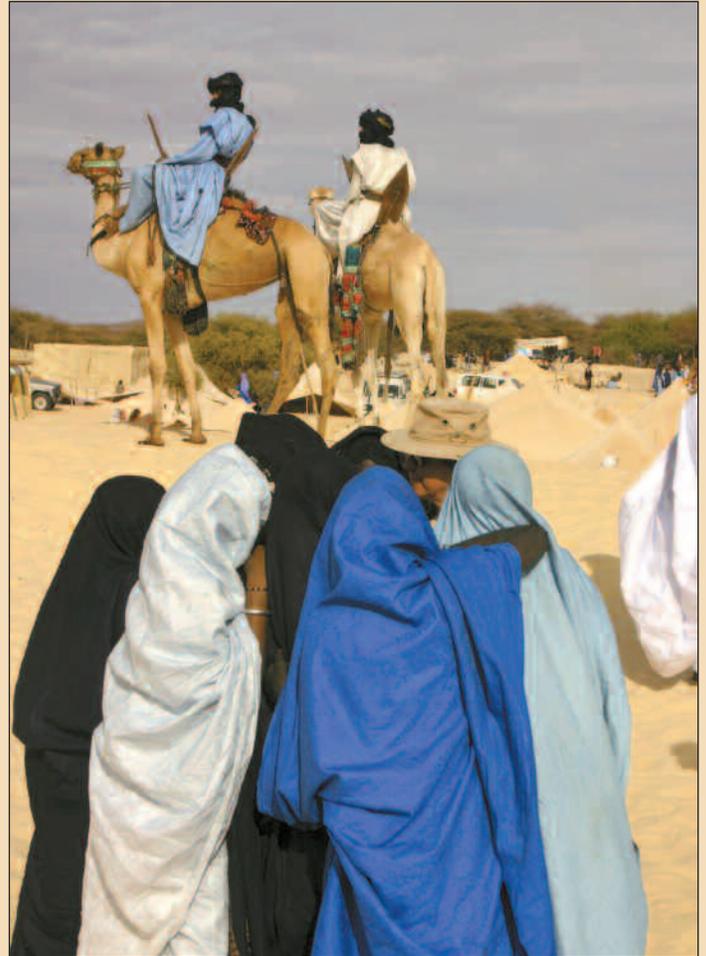
**Official Language:** French

**Peoples:** West African 94%, Berber 4%, Arab 1%, Other 1%

Mali is a landlocked state, deriving a rich cultural heritage as the modern successor of the great Malian empire of 1230-1400 AD. Mali gained its present independence from France in 1960.

Despite being a secular state with freedom of religion, Mali has a Muslim majority. Mali has over 1,000 Qur'anic schools as compared with just 903 medical dispensaries.

Christianity has grown slowly but steadily in the last two decades with a significant number of converts from a Muslim background. Bamako, Mali's capital, has over 50 small churches and 100 expatriate missionaries.



Unreached People Group...

# FULANI

**Location:** Northwest Africa    **Population:** 18 million

**Religion:** Muslim 99%

More than 18 million Western Fulani cover nearly 20 countries across Northwestern Africa. Thousands are nomads who move their homes several times a year.

The Western Fulani live in extreme poverty, most in grass huts with dirt floors. Their diet consists chiefly of millet, a grain that thrives in dry areas, eaten two or three times a day.

Nearly 99 percent of the Western Fulani are Muslim. They are seen as responsible for introducing and spreading Islam throughout much of West Africa as they roamed with their cattle. Yet many continue to follow pre-Islamic rituals and beliefs. Only two or three Western Fulani per 1,000 are Christians.

## Pray that...

...God will open the hearts of Muslims in Mali.

...Christian literature and radio broadcasts will be made available in Mali.

...God will give the Fulani more opportunities to hear the truth about Jesus.



# JUMAA PRAYER FELLOWSHIP

*PRAYING FOR MUSLIMS  
AROUND THE WORLD!*



Friday, November 3, 2006. Please pray

...for an **Indian church leader deported from Saudi Arabia**. He was expelled for leading a communion service in a private apartment. Only the Lord knows how many Saudi Christians there are, each of whom could face death if discovered.

...for the **people of Tajikistan**. A proposed law is in parliament that would make Tajikistan the most religiously repressive of all the Central Asian republics.

...for **King Mohammed VI of Morocco and his government**. He is gradually bringing greater openness and moderation to his country. Pray that the Muslims of Morocco would hear the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Friday, November 10, 2006. Please pray

...for **Christians witnessing to Muslims in New Zealand**. The Muslim community is increasingly active, establishing Islamic structures and organizations. The Muslim population in New Zealand is doubling every four years.

...for the **country of Brunei**. There is a growing trend toward fundamental Islam and hostility to Christianity. No foreign Christian workers are allowed and the importation of Christian literature is banned.

...for an **estimated 100,000 children begging on the streets of Senegal, most of them Muslim**. Pray that Christian aid agencies would be able to care and witness to these precious children.

Friday, November 17, 2006. Please pray

...for **MBBs in Malaysia**. Many are languishing in “religious rehabilitation camps,” detained in prison-like conditions and forced to study Islam.

...for the **family of an MBB murdered in Ethiopia**. Pray fervently for his bereaved wife as she must provide for seven children.

...for the **people of Somalia**. There is no cohesive government and Muslim radicals appear in control. Somali Christians are in an extremely precarious environment.

Friday, November 24, 2006. Please pray

...for **Muslim minorities in China**. Pray that Christian radio programs would have a direct impact on the Uighur Muslims in Northwest China.

...for **churches and pastors witnessing to approximately 800,000 Muslims in Canada**.

...for a **pastor in Kazakhstan**. The government has fined him three times the average monthly salary for leading “unregistered religious activity.”

***I URGE, THEN, FIRST OF ALL THAT REQUESTS, PRAYERS, INTERCESSION AND  
THANKSGIVING BE MADE FOR EVERYONE. –1 TIMOTHY 2:1, NIV***



# JUMAA PRAYER FELLOWSHIP

*PRAYING FOR MUSLIMS  
AROUND THE WORLD!*



**Friday, December 1, 2006. Please pray**

- ...for church leaders in Nuba, Sudan, who have a vision to reach Muslim tribes with the gospel. Pray for their safety.
- ...for an MBB in Indonesia. He was convicted of witnessing to Muslims and sentenced to four and a half years in prison. At trial, his own brothers testified against him.
- ...for Christians in the Indian states of Jammu and Kashmir where Muslim extremists make sharing the gospel very difficult.

**Friday, December 8, 2006. Please pray**

- ...for a church in Rangpur, Bangladesh. 5,000 people gathered to stop the inauguration of a newly built church. Pray for protection for the church and its members.
- ...for an MBB imprisoned for the last six months in an undisclosed country. Pray that God would daily protect and strengthen his spirit.
- ...for "David," a Somali-Kenyan teenager who was stoned and left for dead by his fellow pupils at the instigation of Muslim teachers, the day after his baptism. Pray for his protection and healing.

**Friday, December 15, 2006. Please pray**

- ...for the Church in Azerbaijan. It is almost impossible to obtain a license to officially import Christian books. Pray that ways will be found to supply believers with much-needed literature.
- ...for Muslims in Yemen. The illiteracy rate runs high and many Yemenis cannot read Christian materials even when given the opportunity. Pray for effective use of audio and visual tools to spread the gospel.
- ...for Christians persecuted in Eritrea. Pray for the release of hundreds of Eritrean Christians imprisoned for their faith.

**Friday, December 22, 2006. Please pray**

- ...for the underground church in Mauritania. Prayers are urgently needed for this tiny church that is severely persecuted.
- ...for a Christian evangelist awaiting trial in Indonesia. He is charged with "defaming Islam" and faces a five-year sentence.
- ...for the people of Iraq. Kidnappings, car bombs and murders still continue unabated.

**Friday, December 29, 2006. Please pray**

- ...for Pakistan's "blasphemy law" to be amended or repealed so that it can no longer be used against MBBs.
- ...for secret believers in the heartland of Islam and for those who try to help and disciple them.
- ...for Christians engaged in prison ministry in the United States, sharing the gospel with Muslim inmates.