

HOW TO PRAY FOR THE
MIDDLE EAST
&
NORTH AFRICA



ANM ADVANCING
NATIVE
MISSIONS

Thank you for praying for the Middle East and North Africa! In this guide, you'll learn about this fascinating region, unreached people groups living there, and specific prayer requests. We're excited for you to join us on this prayer journey.

As of 2024, the population of the Middle East was approximately 500 million people. The region stretches from Northwest African countries such as Mauritania eastward through the Levant countries such as Syria and Gulf States such as Saudi Arabia to Iran.

The region is linguistically diverse, with dozens of languages spoken, including major languages and local dialects, as well as minority and community languages. Arabic is the most widely spoken language. Other languages also have great regional influence, such as Persian, Kurdish, Turkish, and Fulani.



The number of Christians in the Middle East is estimated at 15 million, which is only about 4% of the total regional population. However, this number often varies due to ongoing migration and changing population distribution.

Egypt houses the largest Christian community in the region, many of whom are Coptic Orthodox. Millions of Christians once lived in Syria and Iraq, but migration and displacement have drastically reduced their numbers. Smaller Christian communities live throughout the Middle East and we're proud to support many of these local believers. With this guide, you can too!



One of our major goals at ANM is to support local believers who are reaching unreached people groups. An unreached people group (UPG) is a people group that contains less than 2% of professing Evangelical believers.

UPGs are often indigenous to the area they live in and have little to no access to the Gospel. If there are any believers within this people group, they often work as native missionaries trying to evangelize their own people. However, they often lack the resources to effectively do so.

ANM, and other organizations, come alongside these unreached people groups and support any existing believers so they can reach their own people. If there are no Christians from a specific UPG, we find local Christians who share cultural ties with the UPG and help them reach these people



with the Good News of salvation through Jesus. Everyone, everywhere should be able to hear the Good News!

Since the Middle East is so big and linguistically diverse, it's no surprise that there are 391 UPGs in the region. 14 of these UPGs are in Mauritania, where we have active native missionaries.



Mauritania and the surrounding countries are almost 100% Muslim. They struggle with Islamic extremism due to close proximity to Chad, which is a base for many Islamic terrorist organizations and militias, such as Boko Haram.

Radical Islam doesn't allow conversion to another religion and suppresses Christian evangelistic efforts. Those factors, coupled with the language variety, make it difficult even for local believers to reach UPGs.

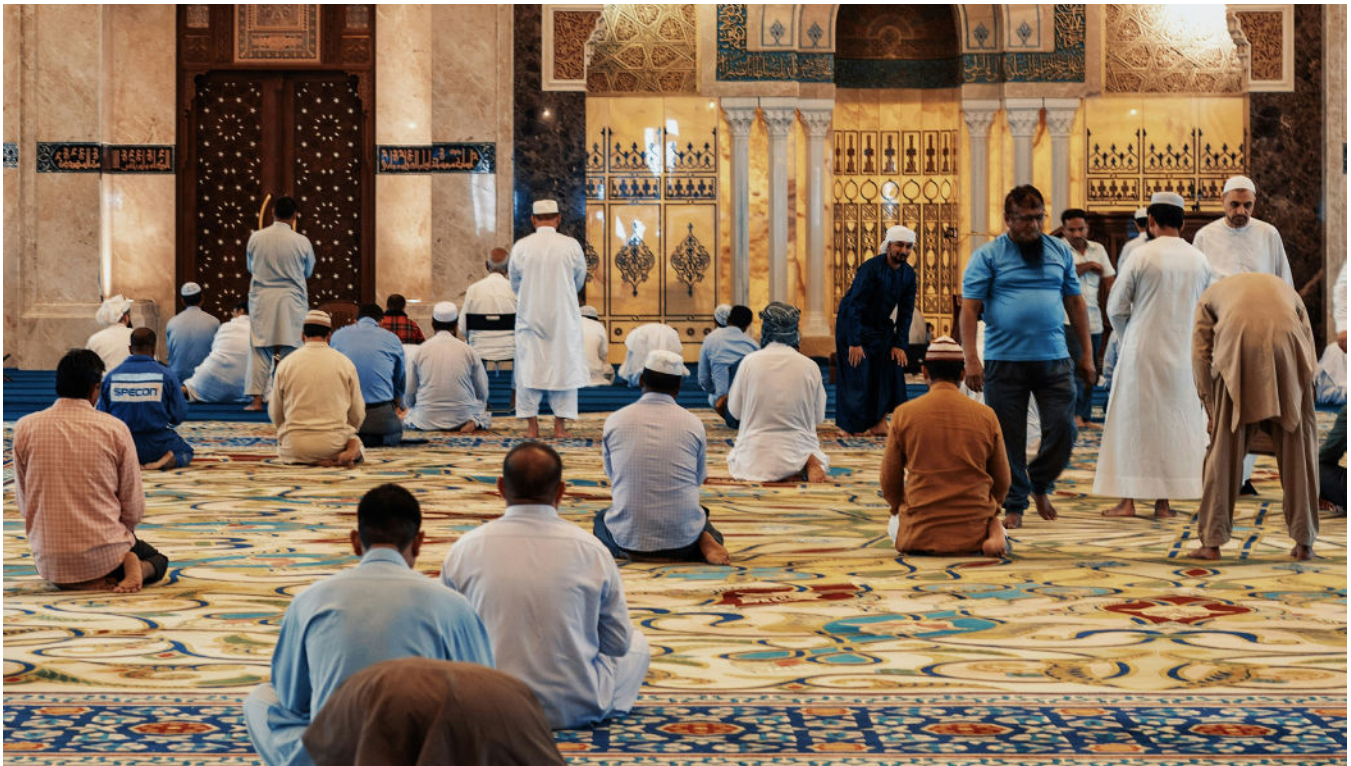


One specific UPG you can pray for is the Moors. They are located in and around Nouakchott, Mauritania, as well as other parts of the country, and are predominantly Sunni Muslim. Only 0.1% of the 4 million Moors in Mauritania are Christians.

One native missionary reaching this group and others in the area is Ahmed. He is a former tribal leader and member of Mauritania's government, but was dismissed from leadership and stripped of his duties when he publicly declared his faith in Jesus Christ as Savior.

However, what God has ordained, no man can take away. Now, Ahmed exercises his leadership in ministry and sponsors over 33 house churches around Mauritania. Most of the house churches are in the southern part of the country and around the capital, Nouakchott. They minister to many people, including the Moors.





1. **Dear Lord**, open the eyes of Muslims to see the truth of Islam: that it is not a religion sent down from you, but a demonic spirit.
2. **Dear Almighty God**, use Ramadan, the Muslim holy month of daytime fasting, to guide Muslims to yourself.
3. **Have mercy, Lord**, and protect Muslim-background believers during Ramadan and other Muslim holy days, when their salvation is more obvious and they are more prone to persecution.
4. **Our Father in Heaven**, protect the children of Muslim-background believers from persecution and from psychological illnesses as some of them must live double lives to hide their family's conversion.
5. **Jehovah Jireh**, please guide and sustain native missionaries to all the unreached people groups in the Middle East, including Ahmed and the Moors.

6. ***Bless government leadership, O God***, throughout the Middle East with wisdom, peace, and love.
7. ***El Deah, God of All Knowledge***, restrain the spirit of religiosity and give Muslims insight, understanding, and awareness to see Jesus Christ.
8. ***Guide Muslims to see***, understand, and accept the difference between the Kingdom of Light and the Kingdom of Darkness, dear Lord.
9. ***Merciful God***, give believers from a Muslim background strength, grace, and wisdom to witness in the name of Jesus to everyone around them.
10. ***May the Lord protect believers spiritually***, emotionally, mentally, and physically, as well as their families, homes, and belongings.



ANM is a global missions organization delivering the Gospel to those who still need to hear the Good News of Jesus in 100+ countries.

We're a little different from the traditional missions organizations you may be familiar with. Instead of sending missionaries to other countries where they have to learn a new language, adapt to new ways of living, and make substantial cultural adjustments, we support missionaries sharing the Gospel in their own countries.

These native missionaries are impacting the kingdom tremendously – *you can help.*

Learn more at advancingnativemissions.com

Thank you for praying!

