2020
Ramadan Prayer Focus



for your Canadian Muslim neighbours

www.lovingmuslimstogether.ca

For information or questions please email
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LOVING MUSLIMS TOGETHER
a ministry of outreach

FRIDAY APRIL 24	**10/10 Prayer Initiative** There are about 1.7 million Muslims living in Canada. At a global consultation in late 2017, a resolution was agreed to pray and fast for 10 years, from January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2027, that 10% of the Muslim world would be saved. In Canada, that would be between 175,000-200,000 people **Let's pray in unity with our global family for a global harvest; including here in Canada; and especially here in your neighborhood.**
SATURDAY APRIL 25	**MOVEMENTS** Around the world we are seeing movements of Muslims collectively choosing, in large numbers, to follow Jesus Christ. In unprecedented ways, now is a season of harvest in the Muslim world. **Pray that the ripple effect of these movements would be felt in Canada—that many Muslims here, connected through family and friends to these movements, would also become part of this global harvest.**

★ **A study of Muslims who chose to follow Jesus Christ after coming here gave insights into FACTORS that were important to their journey.***

**Fruitful Practices Research North American Muslim Diaspora: A Mixed Methods Study (2017) Rick Kronk, Gene Daniels, Mark Chapman & James Watson*

SUNDAY APRIL 26	**FACTOR 1 - AN EXPERIENCE WITH A LOCAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH** It might not seem intuitive, but the place of the local church in the journey of Muslims to faith in Jesus Christ is very significant. Many local churches, however, are unprepared to provide a hospitable welcome. **Pray that local churches would evaluate their ability to welcome Muslim's into their midst who are curious about Jesus Christ or open to relationship with Christians. Pray that your church would be ready to welcome Muslims.**
MONDAY APRIL 27	**FACTOR 2 - A CHRISTIAN FRIEND** The journey to seek answers to the questions of any Muslim seriously considering Christ's claims is best taken with a Christian friend. Muslims must both learn about and experience the truth of the Gospel, journeying with a faith-filled, trustworthy companion. **Pray for Christians to make room in their hearts and in their lives for Muslim friends Pray Christians would be courageous in sharing the hope that they have found in following Jesus Christ. Pray that God would bring a seeking Muslim into your life.**

TUESDAY APRIL 28	**FACTOR 3 – THE BIBLE IN HEART LANGUAGE** Most Muslims grew up speaking a language other than English. Hebrews 4:12 says, "For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart." Scripture must be understood in order to 'penetrate to the soul and spirit'. What languages does your church offer Bibles in? **Pray that every Muslim in Canada would have access to God's Word in the language they hear in their heart. Pray for your church to make Scripture available in the heart languages of your neighbours.**
WEDNESDAY APRIL 29	**FACTOR 4 - TIME TO CONSIDER THE CLAIMS OF CHRIST** Years. That's how long many Muslims take to slowly distance themselves from the teachings of Islam, to wrestle with the teachings of Christ, to consider the cost of potentially losing their family and community if they choose to follow Jesus. **Pray for the wind of the Holy Spirit to blow, accelerating the process for Muslims who are in the middle of wrestling with these decisions. Pray for Christians to have patience to journey well with their Muslim friends who are in the process.**
THURSDAY APRIL 30	**FACTOR 5 – IN A SITUATION TO EXPLORE NEW IDEAS** Muslims in Canada find themselves in a situation, perhaps for the first time in their lives, where they can explore new ideas and question the assumptions with which they have lived their whole lives. **Pray many Muslims would be curious, courageous, and safe (socially, emotionally, physically) as they explore new ideas, including who Jesus Christ really is. Pray for ways to be a safe person to your Muslim neighbours.**
FRIDAY MAY 1	**FACTOR 6 – IT INVOLVES MULTIPLE FACTORS** As might be presumed, each journey to Christ is unique. It includes a combination of factors in the individual's situation, family and experiences that will play a role in their final decision to leave Islam to follow Jesus. Thank God that the Holy Spirit is working in every situation to uniquely choreograph the journey! **Pray for the Muslims you know—that the Holy Spirit would be drawing them forward on their journey to Jesus Christ.**

SATURDAY MAY 2	**FACTOR 7 – A SUPRA-RATIONAL EXPERIENCE – A DREAM, A VISION, AN ANSWERED PRAYER** Muslims are convinced that they have the truth, that they know the right path. Even after a long journey of discovery, it is extremely difficult to make the decision to leave Islam to follow Jesus. It usually requires some unusual experience that demonstrates the power and truth found in Jesus alone. **Pray for unusual evidences of the truth of the Gospel. Pray for dreams, visions, answered prayers, and other encounters that tip the scales in favor of following Jesus Christ. Pray specifically for your Muslim friends to have dreams, visions and answered prayers as a direct result of you praying in Jesus' name for them.**
SUNDAY MAY 3	**REFUGEES** Some of the most vulnerable people, refugees, are also Muslims. They have been displaced because of calamities and wars far beyond their control. They have been ripped from community, country, family, home. Now they are here, starting over in a strange land with many unfamiliar customs. **Pray for Christians to see Christ in these vulnerable ones, *'…for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; I was naked and you clothed Me…'*** *Matthew 25:35, 36.* **Pray that Muslim refugees would in turn see, and be drawn to Christ through the love of those who help them.**
★ *Islam rests upon five pillars of practice. This week we are going to pray for our Muslim neighbours as they practice these PILLARS.*	
MONDAY MAY 4	**PILLAR 1 – SHAHADA (FAITH)** 'There is no god but Allah' and 'Muhammad is the messenger of Allah' are the two halves of the Shahada, or profession of faith, which is uttered five times a day during prayer. It is the first thing said to a newborn, and the last thing to a dying person. Uttering this statement with the intent to convert is all that is required to become a Muslim. **Pray that your Muslim neighbours would come to realize that Jesus Christ is the living Word of God.** (1 Timothy 2:5)

TUESDAY MAY 5	**PILLAR 2 – SALAT (PRAYER)** Five times daily—dawn, noon, afternoon, evening and night--Muslims are called to pray. After washing hands, face and feet, they repeat the ritual of prayer which includes prostrating themselves towards Mecca, affirming that Allah is great, and reciting the first chapter of the Quran. *'In the name of Allah, the Merciful-to-all, the Mercy Giver:* *Praise be to Allah, the Lord of the Worlds,* *The Merciful-to-all, the Mercy Giver,* *Master of the Day of Judgment.* *It is You we worship, and it is You we seek for help.* *Guide us to the straight path,* *The path of those whom You have blessed, with whom You are not angry and who have not gone astray.'* **Pray that your Muslim neighbours would come to know the unending mercy of God as found in Jesus Christ our Saviour and Lord.**
WEDNESDAY MAY 6	**PILLAR 3 – ZAKAT (ALMSGIVING)** Muslims are instructed to give 2.5% of income to support their local mosque or to care for the poor and needy. It is believed that this act of giving purifies the rest of the wealth of the giver. **Pray that your Muslim neighbours would experience the generosity of God who did not withhold giving his only Son, Jesus Christ, to pay the debt of our sin.**
THURSDAY MAY 7	**PILLAR 4 – SAWM (FASTING)** The month of fasting, Ramadan, is marked by the prohibition of food, drink, sexual intercourse, and smoking, in the hours from dawn until dusk. It is a period of spiritual renewal where God's forgiveness is sought, gratitude and dependence on him is acknowledged, and increased generosity to the needy is shown. It is a season where Muslims exert greater effort to follow the teachings of Islam, refraining from anger, envy, greed, lust, gossip, etc. **Pray that your Muslim neighbours would experience the deep forgiveness of sin found through the shedding of Jesus' blood on the cross.**

FRIDAY MAY 8	**PILLAR 5 – HAJJ (PILGRIMAGE)** A pilgrimage to Mecca during the 12th month of the lunar calendar is the final pillar of Islam. Those making the pilgrimage wear simple white cloth, and complete a series of rituals, including walking seven times around the Kaaba, touching the Black Stone, travelling seven times between two mountains, and symbolically stoning the Devil. Those participating in the Hajj hope to gain enlightenment. **Pray that your Muslim neighbours would experience the intimacy of a restored relationship with God, and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.**
SATURDAY MAY 9	**FOLK ISLAM** While the core teachings of Islam are quite simple, the challenges and problems of daily life have produced a complex array of rituals and activities in response. Amulets, curses, mediums and shamans, are all employed against sickness, infertility, and other problems. **Pray for your Muslim neighbours to enter into the freedom from fear and bondage that Jesus offers. Pray that Christians would be bold and expectant in praying for their Muslim friends who are facing these sorts of challenges.**
SUNDAY MAY 10	**EVIDENCE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT** Many people have mixed feelings about Muslims, often based on media misrepresentation and the actions of a few. Nonetheless, any community that is apart from the transforming work of Jesus Christ will not evidence the qualities that we are promised when we live lives filled with the Holy Spirit. **Pray for many Muslims to be drawn to the evidence of the transformation of the Holy Spirit in Christ-followers – *"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law."*** *Galatians 5:22-23.*

MONDAY MAY 11	**MEN** In Islam, men are invested with authority, and their role is to protect and provide. They are the ones who can bring and restore honor to the family through their public reputation and through handling any threats to the family name. **Pray for Muslim men to be loving, respectful and gentle in their interactions with their wives and children. Pray they humble themselves before the Most High God, giving Him all the honor and glory as they come into right relationship with Him through Jesus' work on the cross.**
TUESDAY MAY 12	**WOMEN** Experiences of Muslim women vary significantly depending on a wide range of religious, cultural and social factors. Women are under the authority of their father, brother or husband and are responsible for the honor of the family & home and the raising of children. **Pray for Muslim women to be able to flourish and develop their God-given potential. Pray they find their shelter and comfort in Jesus Christ. Pray for them to be loving, respectful and gentle in their interactions with their husband and children.**
WEDNESDAY MAY 13	**MARRIAGES** The transition from eastern to western context puts tremendous strain on Muslim marriages. In Canada women have greater rights and options to exercise them; men are held accountable to laws and standards that are unfamiliar to them. Many marriages, already stretched by external stresses, find the internal adjustments even more challenging. Many do not survive, leaving women and children vulnerable. **Pray for Muslim marriages that are stressed and troubled to find healthy supports and counsel within the Christian community. Pray for Christian marriage counsellors and neighbours to walk alongside and to point to the only true Mediator and Peacemaker.**

THURSDAY MAY 14	**CHILDREN** Many children in Muslim families have experienced significant transitions. Some were born in a different country, may have experienced trauma, and are now finding a new home in Canada. Others were born here. They live in two cultures—one in the home and mosque community, and the other in their schools and neighbourhoods. Studies have shown that many who choose to follow Jesus make that decision between the ages of 4-14 years. **Pray that Muslim children will have the opportunity to learn about Jesus Christ and make a decision to follow him from their earliest youth. Pray that Christian classmates would lovingly share their faith.**
FRIDAY MAY 15	**YOUTH** Teenagers and young adults are faced with a complexity of decisions, opportunities and growing independence, compounded by normal developmental and hormonal turbulence. Muslim youth often are torn between the expectations of their family and religious community, and the freedoms that Canadian culture seems to offer. **Pray that the turbulence of these teen years would lead to opportunity to find Christian friends and community. Pray for Christian teens to boldly and lovingly share their lives with Muslim teens.**
SATURDAY MAY 16	**FAMILIES** We often think of family as consisting of parents and children. Muslim families extend to aunts and uncles, cousins and beyond. When Peter was sent by God to speak to God-fearing Cornelius, the Holy Spirit fell upon the whole household and they all believed. (Acts 10:1-11:18) **Pray that whole families and clans would hear and believe together, so that they could be discipled into obedience to Christ without having to abandon the natural relationships that are so significant to them.**

SUNDAY MAY 17	**COMMUNITY** Ummah is the Arabic word for community. It describes the powerful unifying pull of the Islamic community to conform and remain within the boundaries of Islam. Any Muslim who is considering the call to follow Jesus Christ is wrestling with the cost of leaving the Ummah. The loss of family, friends, community and identity are powerful forces working against any potential decision. **Pray for Muslims in your community who are wrestling with the cost of the truth. Pray they would find an equally significant community in the Christian community around them. Pray that as they make the decision to follow Jesus Christ, others in their community would follow them.**
MONDAY MAY 18	**BRIDGING CULTURES** Families that migrate to Canada straddle two cultural worlds. The challenge of operating in two cultural worlds creates the potential for misunderstanding and difficulties between the generations. **Pray that Muslim families would be welcomed into a Christian community who can provide support and encouragement and a bridge for these cultural transitions.**
TUESDAY MAY 19	**LAYLAT AL-QADR (NIGHT OF POWER)** Said to be the night when the first verses of the Quran were revealed to Muhammed, Muslims pray to God for mercy, forgiveness, and salvation, believing that this is the only night when sins can be forgiven, and prayers can be answered. **Pray that Muslims tonight would have a supernatural encounter with Jesus Christ, the only one who can forgive sins and save us.**
WEDNESDAY MAY 20	**EMPLOYMENT** Many refugees come to Canada with excellent education and skill, but with unrecognized credentials. The usual mechanisms for advancement are no longer available to them. Others arrive with no transferrable skill in the Canadian economy. Financial stability is core to family stability. **Pray for opportunity for retraining and employment. Pray for Christian employers to be quick to offer jobs to Muslims, and to help with the transition to the Canadian system. Pray that Christian employers would demonstrate the values of the Kingdom of God in their work environment.**

THURSDAY MAY 21	**APPEARANCES** The pressure to appear successful to the surrounding community can lead to over-extension. The definition of 'success' is often based on social status, wealth, and the appearance of family cohesion. **Pray for Muslim families to find their identity and status as children of the King.**
FRIDAY MAY 22	**STUDENTS** University is an opportunity for Muslim students to grow, learn and experience new environments. It is also an opportunity to explore new ideas. Many Muslim students go to university in their own town, but others move to other cities or even other countries for education. **Pray that every Muslim university student has a Christian friend, and experiences Christian hospitality. Pray that many Christians would open their homes to Muslim students.**
SATURDAY MAY 23	**EDUCATION** Learning, questioning, and debating threaten the unity and stability of the larger Muslim community. Some choose to explore freely and may find themselves at odds with their leaders; some choose to reject much of what they have been taught about Muslim core values and beliefs; still others will filter out information that contradicts their core worldview. **Pray that Muslims of all ages will develop a curiosity and boldness to learn, to doubt, to question and to discover what is true and real. Pray that their questions lead them to the one who claims to be 'the only Way, the only Truth and the only Life' (John 14:6).**
SUNDAY MAY 24	**EID AL FITR** Ramadan fasting ends in a feast! The Muslim community gathers at the mosque for special prayers and celebration, money is given to the poor, and there is a spirit of festivity. **As Ramadan comes to an end, continue praying for your Muslim friends, neighbours and those that worship at the mosque nearest your church. Pray that one day these ones would find their way to the feast Jesus described in Matthew 8:10-11, *"Truly I tell you, I have not found anyone in Israel with such great faith. I say to you that many will come from the east and the west, and will take their places at the feast with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven."***