

PRAY WITH YEMENI CHURCHES ON THE FRONTLINES OF SIEGES, WAR, LOSS AND ECONOMIC COLLAPSE



When a man approached Adel¹ in March and asked for a ride home, Adel agreed cheerfully. He was happy to have a customer. A member of Yemen's marginalized ethnic group called the Muhamisheen,² Adel was married and was earning a bit of income in the midst of Yemen's war by driving his motorcycle as a taxi. He'd also become a disciple of Christ after hearing the Gospel from another member of his Muhamisheen community, and he was preparing to get baptized. "He loved peace and was hoping one day to return to his home," explained a relative of Adel's wife.

Adel had been staying in an area where he could find more work, and he hadn't seen his wife for months. Each ride he gave seemed to bring him closer to an opportunity to visit home, including his mother, who has no other children. Tragically, neither Adel nor his passenger that day would ever see their families again. His motorcycle struck a landmine that killed both of them, claiming two more civilian casualties in the violence that has escalated across Yemen in 2022.

Despite a two month cease-fire announced to coincide with the start of Ramadan in April, hungry Yemenis are still bracing for the impact that Russia's invasion of Ukraine will have on global food and fuel prices. Seven years of war and the subsequent economic fallout have already pushed millions of Yemenis to the brink of famine, and exhausted the coping strategies of most households. With the Western world now preoccupied with a conflict closer to home, millions of war-weary Yemeni men, women, and children might face starvation this year. Since reducing food rations for 8 million Yemenis in January due to a lack of funding, the World Food Program (WFP) is warning that these families may receive no aid at all in Ramadan, despite the rising hardships.

During Ramadan 2022, the global Church has an important opportunity to stand on the frontlines in prayer with Yemeni disciples of Christ, who are living out their faith in these increasingly difficult circumstances. For devout Muslims, the month of Ramadan is a season to pray, fast, reflect, and seek God's forgiveness for their sins. Muhammad reported having received the initial revelations of the Qur'an during the month of Ramadan, and fasting during the month is one of the five pillars of Islamic practice. As Muslims seek forgiveness and reflect on the Qur'an, it is a key time for the global Church to pray that God's true Word will be revealed to Yemenis in Jesus Christ—especially the forgiveness and new life offered through Christ's death and resurrection.

With a ceasefire declared on earth, prayer warriors around the world are invited to join in the spiritual battle by covering Yemen in prayer from April 1st through May 1st, 2022. Visit yemen.pray4movement.org to sign up for 15-minute slots throughout the month and receive a prayer guide with topics and Scripture for daily intercession. The link can be shared with anyone who would like to intercede alongside mothers like Sarah, who has followed Christ for more than 20 years in a country that ranks 5th on Open Doors 2022 World Watch List, which ranks the top 50 countries where it is most difficult to follow Jesus.³ “When you pray from your heart, the Holy Spirit strengthens you,” says Sarah. “It strengthens you to go and visit other believers and you’re encouraged. When I’m on the way to visit other believers, I pray the whole way as if I’m not even aware of the person in front of me on the bus. I just see God, who I’m praying to. We don’t visit one another in fear. We go praying and worshipping, and God strengthens us.”

While the world looks away from Yemen, don’t miss this special opportunity to advocate before God’s throne of grace with churches on the frontlines of a forgotten conflict. Your intercession will impact disciples like those who shared the Gospel with Adel, who now sees Christ face to face, as well as Sarah and her family, and the Yemenis they are reaching out to daily!

HELP SUPPORT OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS BY CLICKING ON THE LINK BELOW AND CHOOSING “CAP FUND”

[CHRISTIANRESPONSE.ORG/GIVE](https://www.christianresponse.org/give)

1 Names have been changed to protect Yemeni Christians who are vulnerable to persecution.

2 A highly vulnerable group in Yemen that suffers caste-based discrimination, and experiences social exclusion, violence, and poverty. The term “Muhamasheen” is translated as “the marginalized.” They generally have low levels of education, which makes finding work more difficult. The Muhamasheen have few protections and minimal recourse when they experience violence or exploitation.

3 <https://www.opendoorsusa.org/christian-persecution/world-watch-list/yemen/>