



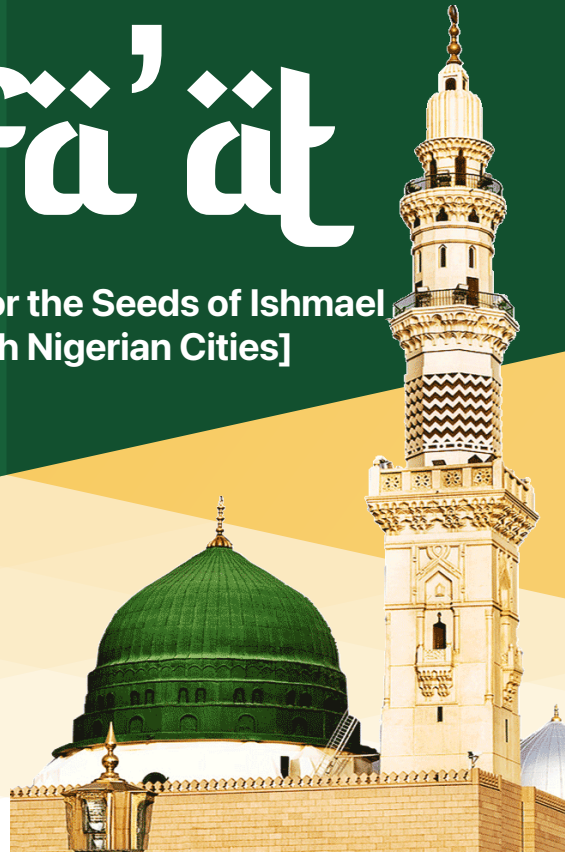
NIGERIA EVANGELICAL  
MISSIONS ASSOCIATION

# Rāmādān Präyer Diäry

March 11 – April 9, 2024

# Shäfa'ät

Standing in the Gap for the Seeds of Ishmael  
[Praying Through Nigerian Cities]





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Nigeria Evangelical  
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# foreword

## Shäfa' at

### Standing in the Gap for the Seeds of Ishmael

*And Abraham said to God, "Oh that Ishmael might live before you" (Genesis 17:18)*

**R**amadan is one of the pillars of Islam. It is a sacred time when Muslims devote themselves to God through fasting and denying themselves. God loves sincere seekers. He is ready to reveal Himself to those who will seek Him in spirit and in truth (John 4:24). The problem is not about the intention it is more about the means. That is where you and I come in.

Shafa'at in Arabic means to "intercede". In Islamic context, it is used to mean when a saint or someone devoted to God pleads with Him on behalf of a sinner. The holy man makes intercession for the one that is weak so that through his own right standing with God, the unrighteous can be saved from eternal damnation.

As we identify with our Muslim brothers and sisters during the month of Ramadan, we invite you to consider the salvation that you have received by grace and through faith in Christ Jesus. Can the Lord thus depend on you to stand in the gap till every eye that looks to the star and the crescent come into relationship

with the Man of Calvary? For the Lord desires that all men be saved. A vital role of making the desire of the Lord to come to pass is to be on bent knees till the ends of the earth is reached with salvation available only in Christ Jesus.

Beginning from our Jerusalem (Nigeria), we have prayerfully considered strategic towns and cities wherein we trust the Lord to send the Light. The Ramadan prayer guide also features strategic Islamic phenomenon. Play a crucial role in God's global purpose. Stand in the gap and tarry till the seeds of Ishmael embrace the Light.

Salam!

**Andrew Gwaivangmin**

Executive Secretary



# Understanding Rāmādān

## A BRIEF OVERVIEW

**R**amadan is the ninth month of the Islamic lunar calendar, observed by Muslims worldwide as a period of fasting, prayer, reflection, and community. This sacred month holds deep significance in Islam as it commemorates the revelation of the Quran to Prophet Muhammad.

**Fasting (Sawm):** During the daylight hours of Ramadan, Muslims abstain from food, drink, smoking, and certain worldly pleasures as an act of self-discipline and spiritual purification. The pre-dawn meal, Suhoor, and the evening meal, Iftar, mark the beginning and end of each day's fast.

**Prayer (Salat) and Reflection:** Muslims engage in increased prayers, including Tarawih, special nightly prayers during Ramadan. This month encourages a heightened focus on self-reflection, repentance, and drawing closer to God.

**Charity (Zakat and Sadaqah):** Ramadan emphasizes acts of charity and kindness. Muslims are encouraged to give to those in need, exemplifying compassion and generosity. The obligatory almsgiving, Zakat, and voluntary donations, Sadaqah, play a vital role in supporting the less privileged.

**Eid al-Fitr:** The culmination of Ramadan is celebrated with the festival of Eid al-Fitr, a day of joy, gratitude, and community.

Muslims come together, break their fast, offer special prayers, and share meals with family and friends.

**Unity and Spiritual Growth:** Ramadan is a time for self-discipline, empathy, and spiritual growth. It fosters a sense of unity among Muslims worldwide, as they collectively engage in the activities and share the common experience of fasting and prayer.

Fasting from dawn to dusk, Ramadan is a chance for Muslims to grow closer to God and develop empathy for those less fortunate. As we join our Muslim neighbours in observing Ramadan, may our prayers reflect a spirit of understanding, love, shared humanity, and most importantly, a response to the Lord's desire to receive worship from all peoples.



# Why Pray this Rāmādān āgāin?

## The testimony of Mallam Fitoka (Not real name).

**M**y journey from Islam to Christianity is a testament of the unwavering grace of God and the transformative power of His love. Born into a devout Muslim family, my upbringing was steeped in the rich traditions and teachings of Islam. The rituals, prayers, and community were integral parts of my identity.

As a Fulani, my life revolved around the care of my cattle, and my commitment to Islam was unwavering. One day, while tending to my cows, I heard a voice speaking to me, urging me to follow Christ. At first, I dismissed it as a figment of my imagination, but the encounters persisted. Jesus seemed to be reaching out to me, calling me to follow Him.

Despite these repeated encounters, I resisted the call for a long time. The voice continued to speak to me, revealing the love and salvation found in Jesus Christ. Finally, unable to bear the weight of the conviction any longer, I humbled myself and asked, "What should I do?" In that moment, the Lord directed me to seek out a Christian who could tell me more about Him.

Guided by this divine instruction, I approached a Christian in my village and shared my experiences. This encounter marked the

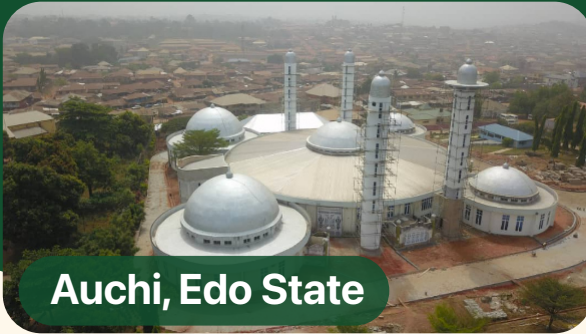
beginning of a profound transformation in my life. The person I met not only shared the message of Christ with me but also became instrumental in leading me to accept Jesus as my Lord and Savior.

Embracing Christianity wasn't without its challenges. Persecution and opposition arose from my own community as I declared my decision to follow Jesus. Faced with hostility, I made the difficult choice to leave my village and seek refuge in a safer place. It was there that I found a community of believers who took me in, nurturing my newfound faith.

In this new environment, I was taught more about God, and I underwent a period of discipleship that deepened my understanding of the Christian faith. Today, as I reflect on my journey, I am filled with gratitude for the transformative power of God's love. I am now a joyful believer in Christ, living a life redeemed and guided by His grace.

I want to express that the prayers of faithful individuals played a crucial role in bringing me to this point. I encourage Christians to pray fervently for Muslims, especially during this sacred Ramadan season, that hearts may be opened, and lives transformed by the love of Christ. I am a living testimony to the fact that no one is beyond the reach of God's mercy and grace.





**Auchi, Edo State**

**DAY**  
**1**

*“One thing I have asked of the Lord and that I will seek. That I may dwell in the house of the Lord [in His presence] all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty (the delightful loveliness and majestic grandeur) of the Lord and to meditate in His temple.”*

*Psalm 27:4-5 (Amplified Bible)*

“I can’t imagine this beautiful edifice in Southern Nigeria”, said one of the co-travelers as we approached the Auchi – Ekpessa road. Momoh adjusted his *jalabiya* and said proudly “This is Arafat Mosque. It is built by the Muslim community of the town as a hallmark for Islamic worship. As you can see, it has got enough space both within and outside for worshipers to be comfortable while here for prayers. The flat land on the left axis is where the Eid prayers hold.” He added.

At the official commissioning of the Arafat Central Mosque two years ago, the Otaru of Auchi eulogised the holy sanctuary as being the opening chapter of the spiritual odyssey that brings about tranquility, progress, prosperity and help from Allah. The city and some of the adjoining communities have preserved

Islam for many years with generations of adherents raised. Interestingly, Auchu hosts the single largest congregation of believers in Edo North. There is more to the odyssey emerging from this strategic geographical space. God is definitely up to something.

### PLEASE PRAY

- ★ Pray for the emergence of movements of obedient disciples and witnesses to the saving and transformative power of Calvary from Auchu to the rest of its surrounding communities and the entire South-south region of Nigeria.
- ★ Pray that Muslims in Auchu and its environs will experience the peace found in Christ Jesus.
- ★ Ask that influential Muslim religious leaders in the town will have irresistible encounter with the Lord.



**Maiduguri, Borno State**

**DAY**  
**2**

*"For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him." Colossians 1:16, NIV*

**U**nder the scorching afternoon sun, Mallam B toiled all day. Navigating around the fast-growing city of Maiduguri to get the next meal for his large family of fifteen. With the gradual return of relative peace, there is a great struggle for the limited resources in the ancient city as hundreds like Mallam B adjust to life after the trauma of years of insurgency. More pathetic is the fact that Mallam B, like many others, are on their way to a Christless eternity.

Maiduguri was a military outpost of the British Empire during the colonial period. Today, it is estimated to have a population of approximately two million people. Its residents are mostly Muslim including Kanuri, Hausa, Shuwa, Bura, Marghi, and Fulani ethnic groups. There is also a considerable Christian population and are mainly indigenes of the southern part of the state or settlers from other states in the federation

Borno state, with Maiduguri as its capital, has had the highest casualties and losses from the Boko Haram insurgency which lasted for over a decade. This has brought about untold hardship, abject poverty and a low standard of living in the city. These years of insurgency described by the UN as the gravest humanitarian crisis of the 21 century is a testament to what man is capable of without the gospel. Maiduguri is in dire need of an army of radical intercessors who will commit to praying for the salvation of its people.

### PLEASE PRAY

- ★ Praise God for the return of peace to the land after several years of unrest.
- ★ Ask God to inspire compassion and a sense of responsibility among the believers towards their neighbours.
- ★ Ask God to make the people more open and receptive to the gospel.



Ijebu-Ode, Ogun State

DAY  
3

*"You are like light for the whole world. A city built on top of a hill cannot be hidden, and no one would light a lamp and put it under a clay pot. A lamp is placed on a lampstand, where it can give light to everyone in the house. Make your light shine, so that others will see the good that you do and will praise your Father in heaven." Matt 5:14-16 CEV*

**T**he name "Ijebu-Ode" is a combination of the names of two persons namely, Ajebu and Olode who were conspicuous as leaders of the original settlers and founders of the town.

Imagine a bustling marketplace in the heart of Ijebu-Ode. The air is thick with the scent of spices and frying food, as traders hawk their wares and customers haggle over prices. This is the lifeblood of Ijebu-Ode, a city that has thrived on commerce for centuries. Its strategic location near the highway, just a comfortable journey of few hours by road from the bustling port city of Lagos and a short breeze away from the Atlantic Ocean, made Ijebu-Ode a natural crossroads for trade. People of different culture and religion flocked to Ijebu-Ode to exchange

goods and strike deals. This legacy lives on today in the city's vibrant markets, where you can find everything from colourful fabrics and handcrafted sculptures to delicious local delicacies like Ikokore, a rich stew made from water yam.

But Ijebu-Ode is more than just a market town. It's a place where faith and commerce intertwine. The people of Ijebu-Ode are deeply religious, and their faith is evident in everything they do. From the towering ramparts of Sungbo Eredo, one of the largest man-made structures in West Africa, to the annual Ojude Oba festival. The echoes of harmonious calls to prayer from mosques at different corners in the city, to rhythms of hymns from churches, Ijebu-Ode's spiritual tapestry is rich and complex. Over time, the influx of Muslim Northerners drawn by business opportunities in this commercial hub has added a new layer to Ijebu-Ode's spiritual landscape. The peoples's openness has become a beacon, fostering a growing community of Muslim faithfuls who coexist alongside their Christian counterparts.

Meet the Onasiles, a captivating family blend of four Muslims and three Christians. The man of the house, Alhaji Onasile faithfully attends the mosque, while his wife, a teacher is a dedicated member of a local church about 20miles to their home. Their five children, embodying the fusion of their parents' beliefs- three Muslims and two Christians, mirrors the Ijebu-Ode's larger reality.

## PLEASE PRAY

- ★ Pray that Christians in this city will shine as light and be beacons of hope to the lost.
- ★ Pray for creative evangelistic strategies that resonate with the entrepreneurial spirit of Ijebu-Ode, integrating messages of faith with the city's strong commercial foundation.
- ★ Pray for a renewed sense of community spirit in Ijebu-Ode, where faith becomes a bridge between tradition and progress.



**DAY**  
**4**

*“Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.” 2 Corinthians 5:20*

**E**stablished in 1807 by Muhammadu Namoda, a military genius and prince of the Alibawa ruling family of Zurmi in the 18th century, Kaura Namoda has a rich historical background and has become a home to different ethnicities. Most of the town's growth, however, is due to the arrival of the railway from Zaria in 1929. It is served by a station at the terminus of a branch line of the western line of the national railway network, a line proposed to be rehabilitated and extended to Niamey in Niger.

At the heart of Kaura Namoda is the Kaura Namoda Emirate, a testament to its cultural and historical significance. Notable landmarks in the area include the Federal Polytechnic Kaura Namoda. The city serves as a major collection point for peanuts and cotton, contributing to its economic importance.



Additionally, millet, sorghum, cowpeas, rice, sugarcane, and tobacco are significant sources of income for the community.

Ethnically, Kaura Namoda is predominantly inhabited by the Hausa and Fulani groups, with the Hausa and Fulfulde languages commonly spoken in the region. The city embraces Islam as the widely practiced religion, although there is a minority Christian population. The city's unique blend of tradition, commerce, and diverse communities presents a fascinating opportunity for fostering connection and advancing the gospel.

### PLEASE PRAY

- ★ Pray for mutual respect and understanding between the majority Muslim and minority Christian population, and that Christian students and business men in Kaura will be true ambassadors of the Kingdom.
- ★ Pray for open doors of ministry for individuals and ministry to begin deliberate engagement efforts in this city.
- ★ Lift up the economic activities in Kaura Namoda, praying for sustained growth, fair trade practices, and opportunities for all members of the community.

15TH MARCH, 2024



Iwo  
Osun State

DAY  
5

*“For if you embrace the truth, it will release true freedom into your lives.” John 8:32, TPT*

“I am certain that you would get the stuff if you are able to make it in good time to Odo-ori market. It is not much of a distance from Osogbo”, said the kind man who met us while asking for the direction to Iwo. The journey began just after the driver murmured some words that I guessed to be prayers and then he rubbed his palms on his face. The fourteen-seater bus had a bold inscription on the rear glass: “Ayekooto” (meaning the world hates the truth).

One would probably think that the first Sharia court would have been situated in any of the core northern states of Nigeria. In actual fact, Iwo in present day Osun State, Nigeria, holds the record. Iwo also had the first mosque in Yorubaland serving the dual purpose of worship as well as Islamic education. “When we need further guidance on the teachings of the Prophet as contained in the Holy Book, we come down to Iwo, a town of

Islamic heritage, blessed with revered scholars of the Muslim faith”, Alfa Abbas commented.

Call it the Medina of Islam in Southwest Nigeria and you would not be wrong; Iwo boasts of several Islamic landmarks. The people are naturally gifted in local trading and commerce. Meet two butchers from Southwest Nigeria, one of them is most predictably from Iwo. They excitedly represent the Muslim faith with either the trademark crescent and star designed *taqiyah* or with a long *tasbih*. Acknowledgedly, there has been significant gospel commitment and labours in the town. From the pioneering effort of Baptist missionaries to the Methodist and to current commitments to extending the blessings of redemption to the town dwellers. Today, as we pray for the town and its people, may the Lord reach out to many more bringing them unto Himself.

### PLEASE PRAY

- ★ Pray for access to the Truth for the people of Iwo.
- ★ Ask the Lord to bring full conviction to many who are at the verge of making decision to accept Christ into their lives.
- ★ Proclaim the freedom Jesus offers to everyone who is still living in bondage and in deception in the town.

16TH MARCH, 2024



Enugu  
Enugu State

DAY  
6

*“In whose hand are the depths of the earth, The peaks of the mountains are His also. The sea is His, for it was He who made it, And His hands formed the dry land.” Ps 95:4-5 NASU*

**E**nugu, the capital city of Enugu State is situated inland in the southeastern region and is affectionately known as the "Coal City." This city holds historical significance in Nigeria's development, playing a pivotal role in the once-thriving coal mining industry.

Enugu is the dwelling place of the Igbo-speaking people, celebrated for their industrious spirit, entrepreneurial endeavours, resourcefulness, extensive travels, and warm hospitality. The city stands as a testament to the cultural richness of the Igbo community.

Beyond its historical contributions, Enugu serves as a hub for Nigeria's renowned film industry, Nollywood. The city's vibrant cultural scene extends to sports, arts, and a harmonious blend of traditional and modern attractions. With friendly locals and a

lively nightlife, Enugu has evolved into a notable tourist destination in Nigeria.

Commerce and tourism increased the influx of Muslims into this iconic city. Migrants from the North found harbour in Enugu, being involved in various jobs. The city is predominantly a home to Christians. While there are few adherents of traditional religion, and people from Northern Nigeria practicing Islam. Notably, some indigenous residents have undergone religious conversions, embracing Islam due to various personal reasons.

### PLEASE PRAY

- ★ Thank God for the neutrality this city provides in gospel engagement to those without the Gospel.
- ★ Pray that believers will maximize the opportunity God has given them to reach their migrant neighbours.
- ★ Pray for supernatural encounters and divine revelation of the person of Jesus to the increasing migrant population in Enugu.



Lagos, Lagos State

DAY  
7

*"By wisdom a house is built, and by understanding it is established; By knowledge the rooms are filled with all precious and pleasant riches." Proverbs 24:3-4 NIV*

**L**agos is a cosmopolitan and mega-city at the very heart of commerce, entertainment, technology, education, politics, tourism, art, and fashion with a significant influence in Africa. Lagos has the most populated and vibrant population in Nigeria with an estimated population of about 21 million persons in 2015. Its territorial extent and political jurisdiction cover an area of 358.862 hectares or 3,577sq.km which represents 0.4% of Nigeria's territorial land mass; about 40% of the region is covered by water bodies and wetland. Lagos is the most populous urban area in Africa, and a former capital city of the nation. The city's mainly Yoruba population has grown more heterogeneous with the migration of other Nigerians, West Africans and peoples from across the world to the city in search of economic opportunities and a better standard of living. An instance is the thriving and growing Lebanese and Arab communities in the city.

Commonly referred to as “Eko”, Lagos sees an influx of about 2000 persons into the city daily. Today, people from different religions and all walks of life make a home for themselves out of the city. This city is particularly strategic for missional engagement because in Lagos, you have a very high probability of finding people from all the 542 people groups and a significant population of known unreached people groups. According to extant political records, *"Lagos is to the people of Nigeria what the head is to the body of an individual"*. A fervent and earnest prayer for the city is sure to bring about a great revival among the various groups and affinities in the city which is in turn capable of being a catalyst for national revival.

### PLEASE PRAY

- ★ Thank God for the strategic nature of the city and the opportunity it presents believers to share the gospel openly and boldly.
- ★ Pray that the believers will rise up to their responsibility of preaching Christ with their lives and words.
- ★ Pray for a great revival to burst from within the city to other cities in Nigeria and beyond.



**Yenagoa, Bayelsa State**

**DAY  
8**

*At that time tribute will be brought to the Lord of hosts from a people tall and smooth, from a people feared near and far, a nation mighty and conquering, whose land the rivers divide, to Mount Zion, the place of the name of the Lord of hosts (Isaiah 18:7)*

**A**t the heart of the Niger Delta is Yenagoa, the capital city of Bayelsa State. The Niger flows south and breaks into the Forcados and Nun rivers at the northernmost part of Bayelsa, an incredible masterpiece of nature. Aminu was waiting with his bike at the popular Ekeki junction. "Going", that was the popular way of requesting the services of a commercial motorcycle. "Oga where you dey go?" (translated as Sir, where are you going?) said Aminu in Nigerian pidgin English. The journey to Azikoro, a satellite settlement to Yenagoa was fun but scary as Aminu raced in-between buses and articulated vehicles. "How long have you been here?" I questioned. "My grandfather came to Nembe when my father was still a young boy. They traded mostly in yam. I have lived here for thirty-three years while I have



only been to my ancestral home twice in my entire life. The Ijaw people are friendly. We live together in peace. As you can see, those of us from the north are mostly the commercial bikers. They allow us practice our faith without any intimidation". Aminu said.

Islam is growing in the Niger Delta not necessarily by Muslim Dawah or any organised group rather through migration and trading. In exploration of economic opportunities, Muslim traders and service renders from the north move down south where they carry out diverse trading as well as render services in cobbling, butchering, transport, water vendoring etc. From Swali market to Igbogene down to Mbiama, the northern Muslims have found abodes in the creek city. May they likewise find the streams of salvation.

### PLEASE PRAY

- ★ That the Church in Yenagoa and the Niger Delta as a whole will prioritise the need to reach out to the northern populace in the region with Christ's love and the testimony of His saving power.
- ★ For supernatural encounters for the Muslim populace in the city as well as in the Niger Delta region.
- ★ Pray for gospel efforts, especially through radio ministry targeted at northern Muslims domiciled in the city, to receive God's blessings

19TH MARCH, 2024



Kontagora  
Niger State

DAY  
9

*“All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out.” John 6:37-38 NKJV*

**K**ontagora stands as a city steeped in historical significance, cultural richness, and flourishing agricultural pursuits. Founded in 1864 by Umaru Nagwamatse, who successfully conquered extensive lands from non-Muslim Kambaris, Kontagora emerged as the capital of the kingdom. Umaru Nagwamatse became the inaugural emir, shaping the city's early political landscape.

This vibrant city is a melting pot of diverse ethnic groups, including the Gwari, Nupe, Hausa, and Fulani. The cultural diversity woven by these communities' manifests in a number of traditions, languages, and customs, making Kontagora a blend of cultural diversity.

Agriculture is the lifeblood of Kontagora, with a bounty of crops cultivated, including sorghum, millet, cowpeas, tobacco, beans, shea butter, gum arabic, and kola nuts. The cultivation of

sorghum beer further highlights the agricultural prowess of the community.

The predominant language spoken in Kontagora is Hausa, facilitating communication across the diverse ethnic groups. In matters of faith, the Bassa-Kontagora predominantly practice Folk Islam, a syncretistic belief system that combines traditional Islamic elements with superstitious practices. This practice involves warding off spirits through incantations, employing magic amulets, and reciting Qur'anic verses for miraculous healings.

### PLEASE PRAY

- ★ Thank the Lord for the opportunity this city presents to reach multiple people groups.
- ★ Ask the LORD to raise a banner for Himself among every tribe present in this city.
- ★ For a spiritual hunger that will draw the people to the only one who can save them from sin and death.



Ilorin, Kwara State

DAY  
10

*"And He made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place." Acts 17:26, ESV*

Ilorin was established in 1450 by the Yoruba, one of Nigeria's largest ethnic groups. Initially serving as a provincial military headquarters for the ancient Oyo Empire, it later fell under the control of Shehu Alimi, an itinerant Islamic preacher, leading to its incorporation into the Northern Nigeria protectorate through the spread of Islam. The city witnessed numerous conflicts involving Muslims, Yoruba, and the British before officially joining West Central, known today as Kwara state, in 1967.

Ilorin Central Mosque which is currently the biggest mosque in Nigeria welcomes Muslims from various backgrounds and serves as a unifying space for the diverse Muslim population in Ilorin. It reflects the inclusive nature of Islam, bringing together people of different ethnicities and cultures. This new 20,000-capacity ultra-modern Juma'at Central Mosque is also a tourist site in the ancient city of Ilorin. It is well established that the Ilorin

the Central Mosque wasn't the first to be built as there was an existing mosque but it couldn't contain the growing population of Muslims, hence the need to build a bigger mosque.

The construction of the Ilorin central mosque began by Emir Alhaji Zulkarnaini Gambari in 1977. The plan according to the then Emir in building the new Islamic prayer center was to provide a larger space where it would be comfortable to worship Allah. The mosque host religious events, educational programs, and charitable initiatives aimed at uplifting the well-being of the local community.

Ilorin's soul is unarguably intertwined with faith. This intriguing blend of faiths adds a layer of complexity and beauty to Ilorin's cultural identity. Despite commitment to harmony, Ilorin faces challenges. Ensuring understanding and mutual respect between different faith communities requires ongoing efforts.

### PLEASE PRAY

- ★ For wisdom and discernment for religious leaders and community members as they navigate Ilorin's diverse religious landscape, fostering interfaith understanding and cooperation.
- ★ That there will be a spiritual awakening in the city leading many to know Christ as the Saviour and Lord.
- ★ Pray that churches will flourish and mission organisations labouring in the city will succeed. Ask for divine intervention and open doors for every mission effort.



**Port Harcourt, Rivers State**

**DAY  
11**

*"For the Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding." Proverbs 2:6*

**P**ort Harcourt, situated in southern Nigeria, is the capital of Rivers state. Nestled along the Bonny River, upstream from the Gulf of Guinea, it was established in 1912 in a region traditionally inhabited by the Ijaw and Ikwerre people. The city evolved into a pivotal port, named in honour of Lewis Harcourt, the colonial secretary, following the inauguration of the rail link to the Enugu coalfields in 1916. Today, it stands as one of Nigeria's foremost industrial centers.

Regarded as the Garden City, Port Harcourt ranks as the third most developed metropolis in Nigeria, trailing behind Lagos and Abuja. Often hailed as Nigeria's oil capital, it holds a prominent status as the primary oil hub in Africa. A predominantly Christian city with a small presence of African Traditional Worshippers and a minority of Muslims. Many of the Muslim inhabitants are migrants seeking improved livelihoods, and this is daily increasing. Engaged in various occupations such as cobbling,

gatekeeping, and small-scale retail, they endeavour to establish significance in their community. PH has fondly called witnessed one of the largest migrations from Northern Nigeria, and the gains of what God is doing should be maximised.

### PLEASE PRAY

- ★ Thank God for bringing Muslims from the North into this city, and also for the growth and spread of the gospel therein.
- ★ That believers and the body of Christ will maximize the opportunity to reach their migrant neighbours.
- ★ Pray that God will raise labourers for the harvest of seekers in this city as well as for the discipleship of increasing numbers of converts.



Zaria, Kaduna State

**DAY**  
**12**

*"For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and return not thither, but water the earth, and make it bring forth and sprout, that it may give seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes forth from my mouth: it shall not return to me void, but it shall accomplish what I desire, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it." Isaiah 55:10–11*

**Z**aria is a bustling metropolis in Nigeria, situated within four local government areas in Kaduna State. As the capital city of the Zazzau Emirate Council, it holds historical significance as one of the original seven Hausa city-states. According to the 2006 population census, Zaria was estimated to be home to 736,000 people.

The arrival of Islam in Zaria dates back to the late 1450s when it was introduced through neighbouring Habe cities, Kano and Katsina. This period saw a flourishing trade network between these cities, involving camel caravans carrying salt in exchange for slaves and grain. The city-state reached its zenith under Queen Amina, whose military campaigns expanded its influence



over a tributary region encompassing the kingdoms of Kano and Katsina. However, after Queen Amina's demise, Zaria came under the influence of the Jukun Kingdom and eventually became a tributary state itself. In the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, it became a tributary state of the Songhai Empire, and in 1805, it fell to the Fulani during the Fulani Jihad. Later, British forces led by Frederick Lugard captured the city.

Zaria is renowned for participating in the annual cultural durbar festivals, celebrated twice a year to mark the end of Ramadan and coincide with the Muslim festivals of Eid al-Adha and Eid al-Fitr. The festival unfolds in phases, with the emir leading a tour around the city on the first day, known as Hawan Sallah, accompanied by district heads and royal guards. Subsequent days, Hawan Bariki Sallah and Hawan Daushe, mark the concluding tours, holding immense significance for Muslims in the city. The city's foundations are deeply rooted in Islam, leading to a strong resistance to the Christian gospel. Despite this, there are Christians among both indigenous and settler populations in Zaria.

The first church in Northern Nigeria was built in Wusasa Zaria in the year 1929 and still holds its elegance and reminds us of the drive to finish the great commission in the North of Nigeria. Zaria also holds significance as the centre of the very first daring and radical attempt by fresh Nigerian graduate believers to engage others cross-culturally with the gospel. This attempt eventually catalyzed into the very first indigenous mission effort in Africa.

Zaria has continuously held immense significance in the attempt to finish the task of evangelisation in Northern Nigeria.

### PLEASE PRAY

- ★ Thank God for the significance Zaria holds in Nigerian missions and in the efforts towards finishing the task.
- ★ Pray that the light of the gospel will shine through the city of Zaria, and the inhabitants will acknowledge and submit to the lordship of the God of all flesh.
- ★ Declare the Lord's blessing upon past labours and every ongoing missional effort to stabilise the city in righteousness and advance the kingdom of God.



**Azare, Bauchi State**

**DAY  
13**

*“The people which sat in darkness Saw great light; And to them which sat in the region and shadow of death Light is sprung up.”*

*Matthew 4:16*

**F**ounded in 1803, Mallam Zaki who was put as the head of the town by Usman Danfodio in 1814. Azare, hums with a vibrant energy that reflects its deep-rooted traditions and promising future. Azare town is bordered to the east by Damban and Potiskum and to the south by Misau, in the west by Jama'are, and to the north by Itas/Gadau Local Government Area of Bauchi State. It is the headquarter of Katagum, a traditional emirate in Bauchi State.

A team of young professionals led by Pastor E, felt the necessity and urgency to use their skills for something bigger. A medical outreach program in Azare, a city renowned for its strong Islamic tradition, was recommended. Azare was a far cry from their bustling Lagos life, but the chance to serve a community in need resonated deeply. The following days were a blur of activity. The pharmacists, used their expertise to dispense medication and

educate residents on hygiene practices. The doctors, treated patients suffering from a variety of ailments. While the medical team were on with the access ministry, the counselling team laboured alongside, with ceaseless prayers happening.

Beyond their medical duties, they found themselves captivated by Azare's rich culture and their dire need for Jesus. Evenings were spent in the local church, who hosted them, and other times, visiting to learn about the peoples traditions and daily lives. Despite the language barrier, a sense of shared humanity transcended words.

Leaving Azare, they carried a profound sense of accomplishment and a burden for the breaking forth of God's light among the people. They had served those in need and built relationships through acts of service and genuine care. They saw Azare not as a place shrouded in darkness, but as a city brimming with potential. They believe in the power of prayer (intercession) but also the importance of collaboration. The team returned to Lagos with a renewed perspective.

Their story is a call to action. Perhaps more future medical outreaches can be organized, partnering with local churches and healthcare providers to ensure sustainability. Educational opportunities and cultural exchange programs can also become an access ministry to extending the Gospel light to the over 90% Muslim population in Azare. By praying and planning for action, the impact can be far-reaching.

## PLEASE PRAY

- ★ That a hunger for spiritual truth will rise among Muslims in Azare, drawing them to seek answers and discover the life-changing message of Christ.
- ★ For courage and protection for those who choose to follow Christ in Azare. Pray that they be surrounded by a community of believers and experience the unshakable peace that comes from knowing Jesus.
- ★ That God will guide the leaders of Azare with His light. He will grant them the discernment to make decisions that promote the well-being of all citizens and foster a sustainable future for the city.



**DAY**  
**14**

*“Caravans of camels will cover your land, young camels of Midian and Ephah, and all from Sheba will come, bearing gold and frankincense and proclaiming the praises of the Lord.”*

*Isaiah 60:6*

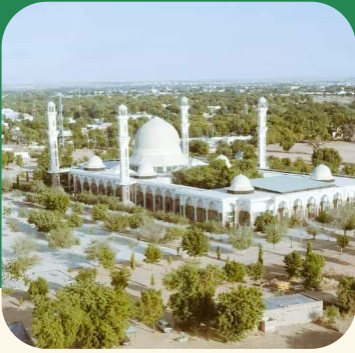
**T**he train journey from Kano to Nguru was very interesting. Fascinating sites along the intermix of the Savannah and the Sahel dotted the route. “This is why I love to travel in the economy cabin”, said Abu. “You got to meet lots of people from diverse race. It’s really funny here, isn’t it, compared to the first-class coach where everyone minds their business.” He continued. I was rather carried away with the caravan of camels. “Look at those!” I responded. “Oh, that is one of the beautiful gifts of nature you see when you come to this part of the country.” Abu replied with a wide smile.

Nguru is an international commercial center. The railway terminal built many years ago made the city received peoples from diverse places including those from the Republics of Niger, Burkina Faso and Chad. Islam is very visible in the town with

Mosques in almost every street. At the fish market, buying and selling was paused at the Friday call to prayer. "Our people do not joke with the Salat al-Jumu'ah", said Abu. "We pray God to bring peace and prosperity to our land.

### PLEASE PRAY

- ★ For the indigenous people of Nguru to long for, discover and find Christ the true source of abundant life.
- ★ As a commercial center, Nguru receives hundreds and thousands of traders from diverse places, ask the Lord to cause many of them to have visions and dreams about Jesus and to spread the good news across their spheres of influence.
- ★ Pray that believers in Nguru as well as the churches will be strengthened of the Lord to live as true witnesses in the town.



Damaturu  
Yobe State

DAY  
15

*“I will make a covenant of peace with them and will rid the land of wild beasts, so that they can live securely in the wilderness and even sleep in the woods. I will turn them and the regions around my hill into a blessing. I will make showers come down in their season; they will be showers that bring blessing.” Ezekiel 34:25-26 NET*

In the heart of Yobe State, where the Sahel embraces the savanna, lies Damaturu— a city that echoes with the resilience of its people and the anticipation of a new dawn. As the capital of Yobe, Damaturu is not just a geographical hub but also a cultural nucleus, serving as a bridge between tradition and development. Surrounded by the whispers of significant Christian populace in Potiskum to the south and Geidam to the north, Damaturu's story unfolds in the arid embrace of the northeastern Nigerian landscape.

Until recently the city of Damaturu in the Yobe State was one of the most vibrant in North East Nigeria. Bombings and killings by



Boko Haram have brought this former regional hub to almost a virtual standstill. Damaturu has grappled with the shadows of conflict and hardship. Economic disparity and the echoes of past struggles pose significant challenges. A Christian report says "The Christians in this community are a minority and they suffer a lot. The fact that hundreds of Christians have left town, and some are still leaving even as I am talking to you now, has made it difficult for us to account for the actual figure of our members that have been killed." The scars of this exodus run deep.

However, beneath the surface, a spirit of resilience and hope burns brightly. The city's youthful population, brimming with potential, yearns for a brighter future, seeking opportunities to learn, grow, and contribute to their community. Despite the hardships, the remaining Christians continue to practice their faith with unwavering devotion and a deep desire for peace and reconciliation. Damaturu stands at a crossroads, wounded but not broken. The gospel light is invading hearts and systems. Beyond the droppings, we can have a shower.

### PLEASE PRAY

- ★ Pray for the healing of past wounds and the fostering of a future where all residents of Damaturu, regardless of faith, can live with dignity, safety, and the opportunity to pursue their dreams.
- ★ Pray for creative and compassionate outreach strategies that resonate with the diverse communities of Damaturu, offering

hope, support, and a tangible expression of God's love to those who are suffering.

- ★ Pray for enduring peace in Damaturu and the surrounding regions, that the city may be a beacon of stability and security for its residents.



Bida, Niger State

**DAY**  
**16**

*"For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea." Habakkuk 2:14, NIV*

**T**he door creaked open in an office where I was visiting. A woman draped in a *niqaab* (a long garment worn by some Muslim women in order to cover their entire body and face, excluding their eyes) with a young boy, barely three years old, walked in. Her face, obscured by the flowing fabric, held an unreadable expression.

An elderly woman, perhaps a staff member or visitor, offered a warm smile to the boy. "Hello there, young man," she greeted kindly. "What's your name?" The boy, eager to respond, turned towards his mother, a question bubbling on his lips. But before he could utter a word, the woman in the niqab placed a gentle hand on his shoulder.

"No, Yusuf," she said softly, her voice barely a whisper. "We don't greet those who don't follow the right path." A wave of unease washed over me; the words hung heavy in the air. This encounter, though brief, mirrored a reality you'd observed in Bida

– a city where religious beliefs sometimes created social barriers.

Witnessing to Muslims in Bida poses unique challenges, as I further discovered in a conversation with a young man. Engaging him in dialogue, he asserted, "we serve the same Jesus, just that he is not the son of God as you people claim." This statement encapsulates the complex dynamics that make sharing the Christian faith in Bida a formidable task. This perspective creates a defensive stance, making it difficult to convey the foundational message of Christ's divinity and His love to the Muslims in this city.

Bida is the second largest city in Niger State. The city serves as the capital of the Nupe Kingdom. It has an emirate and the majestic Emir's Palace stands as a testament to the city's historic heritage.

### PLEASE PRAY

- ★ Beseech God for personal revelation of Himself, divine encounters with His love and truth for all residents of Bida, regardless of their religious affiliations. Pray that hearts are softened and open to the transformative power of the Gospel.
- ★ Pray for courage, wisdom, and discernment for Christians in Bida who engage in evangelism. Pray that they will be led by the Holy Spirit in navigating conversations and presenting the Gospel with love and humility.
- ★ Pray for unity for the Body of Christ in Bida, and growth of the Church in this land.



Abuja  
FCT

DAY  
17

*"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,  
so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope."*

*Romans 15:13 NIV*

**A**buja, the capital city of Nigeria, has witnessed significant population growth, making it a vital hub on the African continent. The diverse population, including Afo, Gwari, Hausa, Koro, and Bassa communities, speaks various languages alongside English. The city, chosen for its central location and potential for expansion, is symbolic of Africa's story and possibly foreshadows the continent's future.

With a population exceeding 2.4 million, Abuja is a rapidly growing city, attracting embassies and diverse settlements. The demographic makeup includes approximately people from across Nigeria and beyond. The city's significance as Nigeria's capital and one of Africa's fastest growing cities makes it a focal point for spiritual revival, potentially influencing the entire nation and continent. Despite its ambitions, Abuja faces challenges such as security threats and internal displacement, calling for inclusive development.

## PLEASE PRAY

- ★ That believers in the city will authentically represent Christ's lifestyle.
- ★ That there will be an outpouring of the Holy Spirit leading to transformed hearts and a widespread return to Christ.
- ★ Pray for wisdom and divine guidance for leaders, lawmakers, and law implementers. Ask that God will work in their hearts to enact laws that support the propagation of the gospel.



Okene, Kogi

DAY  
18

*"The ox knows its owner, and the donkey its master's feeding-trough, but Israel does not know; My people do not understand."*

*Isaiah 1:3 Holman*

**T**he name "Okene" is derived from the Ebiraland language, a major ethnic group in Nigeria, meaning "A place where a group of people of royal blood live."

They have a rich cultural heritage and are known for their unique traditions and customs. This can be seen in the rhythmic beats and lively movements of the traditional dances which showcases the rich cultural heritage of the city. At the heart of Okene's cultural and social fabric is the traditional ruler, known as the "Ohinoyi of Ebiraland," who holds a position of authority and serves as a representative of the Ebiraland people.

The local economy of Okene thrives on agriculture and trade, with crops such as yams, cassava, and rice contributing significantly to the region's food production. Additionally, Okene boasts rich mineral deposits, including limestone, granite, and coal, further diversifying its economic base.

Okene is also home to several historical shrines, attracting traditional worshippers seeking spiritual connection. These sites hold profound significance for the community, serving as places for prayers and rituals. Alongside the traditional practices, a considerable Muslim population in the city observes their religion with unwavering devotion and commitment.

### PLEASE PRAY

- ★ Pray that the in-dwellers of this city will know the Lord and heed His voice.
- ★ Pray for the emergence of fervent believers who will earnestly intercede for the salvation and transformation of Okene and the Ebira people at large.
- ★ Pray for wisdom and discernment for leaders and community organizers as they work towards addressing Okene's challenges and fostering sustainable development.





**Afikpo, Ebonyi State**

**DAY  
19**

*"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the Lord. "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts." Isa 55:8-9 NIV*

**A**fikpo, is the second largest urban area in Ebonyi State, Nigeria. It is a Mecca of ancient Igbo tradition and ceremonial (now antique) masks which have been carefully preserved. Several archeological findings support the claim that Afikpo civilization existed as far back as the Neolithic age. Located amidst rolling hills and fertile plains of the Igbo Southeast, Afikpo boasts a rich life woven with vibrant cultures, ancient traditions, and a fascinating confluence of faiths; having the highest number of Igbo Muslims in the South-East. The Islamic Centre, Afikpo, was founded by Sheikh Ibrahim Okpani Nwagui, the father of the present headmaster, who brought Islam to Afikpo in 1958.

The dominant melody in Afikpo is undoubtedly Christianity, with numerous churches echoing praise songs across the city. Yet, Afikpo's story is not one-note. Islam plays a significant role, with

mosques punctuating the skyline and the faithful observing daily prayers. This confluence of faiths creates a unique spiritual landscape, where traditions co-exist and sometimes even intertwine.

Afikpo's symphony of faith is far more intricate. Surprisingly, this Igbo city holds the prestigious title of being the "Islamic Hub" of the region. The largest Islamic school is not located in the Muslim-dominated North but in the largely Christian South-East. Afikpo hosts the best Islamic primary and secondary school in the country. There are plans to turn the school, known as Islamic Centre, Afikpo, into a full-fledged Islamic University.

Despite its vibrant spirit, Afikpo grapples with issues like cultism, land disputes, and nepotism. These challenges cast a shadow, particularly on the youth, who yearn for a brighter future. This yearning creates a space ripe for the Gospel message, offering hope and a sense of purpose that transcends social ills.

## PLEASE PRAY

- ★ Pray for a spirit of openness and receptivity to the Gospel message in Afikpo, particularly among the youth.
- ★ Pray for wisdom and discernment for missionaries and local believers as they navigate Afikpo's unique religious landscape, fostering interfaith understanding.
- ★ Pray for creative evangelistic strategies that resonate with Afikpo's cultural identity, using its artistic strengths to share the love of Christ.



Asaba, Delta State

DAY  
20

*“Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.” John 1:3*

**A**saba, the bustling capital of Delta State, pulsates with a vibrant energy that reflects its rich history and promising future. Located on the banks of the majestic Niger River, this city of over half a million people is a captivating blend of faith, commerce, and cultural heritage.

The city served as a traditional market center for agricultural produce and a crucial stop on trade routes. Early European explorers, like the Lander brothers, encountered Asaba in the 19th century, leaving their mark on the city's history with Asaba becoming a trading post and later a key administrative center. Asaba's embrace of Christianity goes back to the arrival of missionaries, who established schools and healthcare institutions, leaving a lasting impact on the social fabric. Today, Christianity and Islam coexist, with mosques and churches standing side-by-side as testaments to openness and acceptance.

“Ten years ago, I arrived this city, a nervous young man seeking opportunity,” said Malik, as he shared his story. A stranger in a predominantly Christian city, the call to prayer from the mosque became his anchor. He found a job as a security man, got married, and now a proud father of four. Asaba, once a distant dream, blossomed into his reality. Their tiny apartment echoed with laughter as their family grow – two of his brothers had joined him from Jigawa. Each child is a verse in their Asaba story. Now, standing tall close to Niger Bridge, Malik’s heart swelled. He was no longer just a Muslim migrant. He is a notable figure in the city, a husband, father, and a part of the vibrant life in this city, the place where his roots had grown strong.

### PLEASE PRAY

- ★ That God will open the hearts and minds of the Muslims in Asaba to the message of His Son, Jesus Christ.
- ★ That they will encounter the Gospel in its truth and simplicity, recognizing Jesus as the way, the truth, and the life.
- ★ For the seeds of faith that are being planted in Asaba. Pray that God will grant them fertile ground to take root, grow, and bear fruit.

31ST MARCH, 2024



Kano  
Kano State

DAY  
21

*"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11*

**K**ano's rich history as a trade center makes it an undeniable heavyweight in Nigerian commerce. This legacy is reflected in its enduring slogan, "Center of Commerce." The city is one of the seven legitimate Hausa states - Hausa bakwai identified in the Bayajidda legends which explain the origin of Hausa states.

Kano is the second most populated city in Nigeria (Worldmeter). The city is mostly populated by the Hausa and Fulani people and attracts individuals from various states within and beyond the federation who engage in diverse business activities, with many choosing to settle in the city.

Despite its commercial prominence, Kano has grappled with significant religious conflicts. Notable are the 1980 eruption, and the 1982 violence, which marked the first large-scale

religious clash in Kano, originating from the Fagge settlement. Additionally, the 1991 religious riot aimed at curbing the rapid spread of Christianity in northern Nigeria resulted in numerous casualties. Salvation within the walls of Kano city will have ripple effect on the salvation of many others in Northern Nigeria. There are a number of ongoing mission effort in the city, and testimonies abound.

### PLEASE PRAY

- ★ Thank the Lord for the many conversions already recorder in the city, and for the effort of the missionaries in this land
- ★ That the peace of God, that transcends all understanding, will fill the heart of the people in the city.
- ★ That there will be an outbreak of revival leading to faith communities springing up from the heart of the city.

1ST APRIL, 2024



Daura  
Katsina  
State

DAY  
22

*“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son,  
that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have  
everlasting life.” John 3:16 NKJV*

**S**ituated in the savanna zone, Daura serves as a crossroads for travellers from Katsina, Kano, Zango, and Zinder (Niger). Daura, nicknamed "The Old City," boasts a rich historical legacy that extends far beyond its impressive walls and arts. This ancient settlement, whose name translates to "blacksmith" in the Tuareg language, was founded by a queen and remarkably ruled by women during the 9th and 10th centuries. The city stands as a spiritual home and anchor in the Hausa culture, where the rhythms of Islamic traditions echo through the ages. It embodies a rich history that intertwines with legends of Bayajida (Abuyazidu), believed to be a son of the king of Baghdad and the founder of the Hausa tribe. Their descendants became the seven rulers of the Hausa Bakwai (The Seven True Hausa States), creating a Hausa state that transcended the borders of present-day Nigeria and Niger.

The ancient city of Daura is a living testament to the intersection of tradition and faith. To the people living here, faith is not merely a facet of life; it is the heartbeat that resonates through the minarets of its mosques. A city cloaked in the mystique of time, it whispers tales of its place as one of the Hausa Kingdoms' oldest settlements.

Daura, like many Nigerian cities, grapples with the challenges of rapid development. Balancing tradition with modernization, addressing issues like poverty and unemployment, and fostering interfaith understanding are all crucial aspects of Daura's journey in the 21st century. The city's strong sense of hospitality can be harnessed to create Christ-centered support networks, fostering a spirit of fellowship and service that transcends religious boundaries.

### PLEASE PRAY

- ★ That the message of God's love will resonate with the hearts of the people in Daura, offering them hope, purpose, and a foundation for a meaningful life.
- ★ For the preservation of Daura's rich cultural heritage amidst the changes and advancements, that the traditions defining the city may continue to thrive.
- ★ Lift up the leaders of Daura, praying for wisdom and vision to address infrastructure needs, enhance educational opportunities, and create sustainable economic growth for the community.





## Yola Adamawa State

**DAY**  
**23**

*"He has shown you, O man, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." Micah 6:8 (NIV)*

**Y**ola, deriving its name from the Fulani language word "yolde," signifies a settlement on an elevated terrain. This vibrant city serves as the capital and administrative hub of Adamawa State, Nigeria. Established in 1841 by the commander of Sheik Usman Danfodio, Modibbo Adama, the Fulani founder of the Adamawa emirate, Yola became the political center during his jihad against the indigenous Batta and Verre peoples.

The majestic Lamido's Palace, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, stands as a tangible reminder of the Fulani conquest over this domain. The title "Lamido" translates to "commander" or "leader," and the Lamido of Adamawa holds immense cultural and political influence, particularly in Yola. This position is hereditary, with a lineage tracing back to Modibbo Adama himself. With the Lamido's palace in Yola, it makes the headquarters of the Fulani nation in Nigeria.

Functioning as an agriculturally driven state, Yola relies heavily on livestock and the cultivation of various crops, including cotton, groundnuts, millet, cassava, guinea corn, and yams. The city plays a pivotal role in sustaining the economic activities of the region. In terms of religious diversity, Yola accommodates a substantial Christian population, representing the largest minority religion in a predominantly Muslim state. This coexistence of different religious communities adds a layer of cultural richness and tolerance to the social fabric of Yola. The unique blend of historical significance, economic activities, and religious diversity makes Yola a unique and dynamic city within the Nigerian landscape.

### PLEASE PRAY

- ★ Lift up the youth of Yola to the Lord. Ask the Lord to bless them with opportunities for education, skills development, and meaningful participation in shaping the city's future. Pray that the Lord will empower them to be agents of positive change and hope.
- ★ That believers in this city will maximize the open nature of this city to the gospel and preach the gospel to friends and family.
- ★ That Muslims will encounter Christ personally in this city during this month of Ramadan



Almajiri in Nigeria

**DAY**  
**24**

*“They wander about for food and growl if they are not satisfied.”*

*Psalm 59:15*

**H**e dipped his right hand into the pink plastic bowl. Then, he fetched some palm-oiled concotioned rice, tilted his head slightly backwards to allow his hand drop the meal into his mouth. He noticed that I was watching. He smiled releasing some droplets of the red oil on his jaws. The friendly eye contact drew me closer. His trousers were of unequal length and a different shade from the V-neck top. I guess the original colour must have been white, it is now looking palish brown.

“I am fourteen years old. My mother has eight of us for my father who has eleven other children from two other wives. I am the fifteenth of the nineteenth children. My mother enrolled me in the Quranic school when I was four. The Malam teaches us from the holy book though we do more of memorising it. To survive daily, we are sent into the streets where we fend for ourselves by appealing to kind hearted people to give us money. But our main need is just food; so we often go around restaurants hoping to

have something to eat.” Sani said looking helpless. It is obvious he would have preferred a better life if only he knows how to arrive at it.

Such is the fate of about eight million mostly male children and teens and popularly found on the streets in most northern cities and towns in Nigeria. They are popularly referred to as Almajiri, an Hausa word derived from the Arabic word *Al-muhajir* meaning someone who migrates from his home in search of Islamic education. They are under the tutelage of an Islamic teacher (Malam). When not engaged in learning, they are found on the streets usually begging or roaming around in search of food. Religious extremists find them easily accessible and available to use for their ulterior motives.

### PLEASE PRAY

- ★ Ask the Lord to show forth His mercies on many trapped in the Almajiri system.
- ★ Pray for divine encounters for the boys as they roam about in search of livelihood.
- ★ Beseech the Lord to bring hope and grace unto these ones and that their lot may not be destroyed.



DAY  
25

*“And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true; and we are in him who is true, in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life.” 1 John 5:20 ESV*

**S**ituated in the far northwest region of the country, as of 2005, this state boasts an estimated population exceeding 4.2 million. Being the nucleus of the former Sokoto Caliphate, the city predominantly follows the Islamic faith and serves as a pivotal center for Islamic education within Nigeria. The Sultan, who leads the caliphate, assumes the role of spiritual guide for Nigerian Muslims.

During the 19th century, under the reign of the Fulani Empire, Sokoto emerged as a significant Fula state and urban center within what was then west central Nigeria. Enclosed by the arid Sahel, with sandy savannah and solitary hills encompassing it, Sokoto endures soaring temperatures, particularly from February to April, when daytime highs can surpass 45 °C (113.0 °F).

Although European colonists abolished the political authority of the caliphate, the title of sultan was retained and remains an important religious position for Sunni Muslims in the city to the current day. The Sokoto jihad, initiated by Usman dan Fodio, served as inspiration for similar movements across the Sudanian Savanna and the Sahel, establishing Islamic states in present-day Senegal, Mali, Ivory Coast, Chad, the Central African Republic, and Sudan.

Sokoto holds so much religious significance for the Muslims as they have diverse historical antecedents.

### PLEASE PRAY

- ★ That the heart of the indigenous people will be open to the gospel, beginning from the leaders.
- ★ That there will be an emergence of church planting movements in the Caliphate.
- ★ That God will raise spirit-filled labourers for the work in this city, people who won't give up till God's glory burst forth in the city and it environs.



Hadejia, Jigawa State

**DAY**  
**26**

*“The righteous will flourish like the date palm. They will grow like a cedar in Lebanon.” Psalm 92:12*

**T**he date palms are so big and fresh. They taste different from the ones sold in the central part of the country. “Our land, though in the Savannah, is blessed by God. The wetland that stretches into the neighbouring state is simply an oasis in the desert. We grow cotton, millet, sorghum, rice, groundnuts just to mention a few. We also engage in fishing activities. God has His imprint in this land. I think He did so, so that from beholding His handiwork, the people might embrace Him.” Those were the words of an indigenous missionary as we exited Hadejia for our next destination.

A town rich in history, Hadejia previously known as Biram, is considered as one of the seven true Hausa states (Hausa Bakwai). It is believed to have been ruled by one of the descendants of Bayajidda. The latter is revered as the father of the Hausa race. It became a Fulani emirate after its conquest in the 1810 war. Yet, Hadejia resisted British occupation in 1906.

Islam is the prominent religion among the indigenous people in the commercial town. Many numbering over a million and resident in the town daily pray to be shown the perfect way which the righteous are graciously shown. Will you passionately pray today that their heart-cry be granted by Him who is the Way, the Truth and the Light.

### PLEASE PRAY

- ★ Pray that as resident of Hadejia behold the splendour of nature and the yield of their harvest, their hearts will be drawn to the Master Designer.
- ★ Pray that the Lord will send into Hadejia, gospel labourers who are divinely equipped to multiply obedient disciples.
- ★ Ask the Lord to break every resistance to the Truth and that every veil be removed.





## Laylatul Qadr, Night of Power

DAY  
27

*“You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart.” Jeremiah 29:13 NIV*

**L**aylat al-Qadr is a period whereby the Muslims believe that Allah sent the entire Holy Quran down from the seventh heaven to the first heaven. It is also known as the Night of Power where Muslims seek to be close and connected to God through dreams, and visions. This they do by spending additional time in prayer at the mosque believing that angels descend to earth with multiple tasks, leading to a night of peace, blessings, and divine guidance.

Although they are not sure which night this was, most Muslims believe that it was sent down during one of the last ten nights of Ramadan. However, Shia Muslims observe it on the 23rd night of Ramadan while the Sunni Muslims observe it on the 27th night of Ramadan.

It is believed to be the night in which heaven is opened and God responds to prayer in a way unlike any other night of the year as such they involve themselves in charity, strive hard to earn the pleasure of Allah and seek his forgiveness. Muslims believe that night is more spiritually blessed than a thousand months.

### PLEASE PRAY

- ★ Ask that God's mercy and wisdom be poured out abundantly on this night, bringing clarity and purpose to the hearts of those earnestly seeking Him.
- ★ Pray that the desire for peace, blessings, and divine connection will draw Muslims into a closer relationship with the Lord, leading to a lasting impact on their spiritual journey.
- ★ Pray for a revelation of the person of Jesus for everyone who waits and search this day. Ask that their hearts be flooded with light and stirred towards the truth which sets free.



## Saki Oyo State

**DAY**  
**28**

*“Violence shall no more be heard in thy land, wasting nor destruction within thy borders; but thou shalt call thy walls Salvation and thy gates Praise.” Isaiah 60:18, KJV*

**T**he journey from Ibadan to Saki made us pass through many fascinating scenery and landscapes. Sights of rural dwellers intersecting with emerging urban features caught our attention. “We are there now”, said our tour guide after sighting the Asabari Barracks. We were welcomed with the beautiful speaking of the Yoruba language with the Onko dialect, popular among the Okeogun people of the northern part of Oyo State. The giant hand-held iron pot greeted us at the city centre. “This is a very remarkable symbol of the popular trade of the Saki people”, he added. Saki is on a strategic route linking Southern Nigeria to the North on the western border of the country with the Republic of Benin. Rich in history, Saki is believed to have been a temporary seat of government of the Yoruba kingdom. There is also a strong affiliation of Ogun (the Yoruba god of iron) to Saki.

Being a border town, Saki receives thousands of peoples on daily basis. Trade and commerce is a normal life in the city. Smuggling is not uncommon; a major feature of border cities. It was time for Maghrib prayer. The blast from the horn speakers drove thousands into nearby Mosques. "Our people are very religious. They believe in the teachings of the Prophet and in the Holy Book", said a local Imam. Islam thrives in the city though Christian missionary effort has been in the city since early 19<sup>th</sup> century. Saki hosts a high significant number of Muslims. Very unlikely of Southwest Nigeria, where adherents of different faiths cohabit without frequent clashes, Saki witnessed a major religious riot in 2000 resulting in loss of lives and properties as well as destruction of worship centers. The town has not been the same since then.

### PLEASE PRAY

- ★ Thank the Lord for the seed of the gospel which has been sown in Saki many years ago. Ask the Lord to make gospel effort to prosper especially among Muslims in the town.
- ★ Pray that Christians in Saki will live as light and salt thereby making the Gospel real to those who are yet to accept the Good News.
- ★ Pray that the Light will shine in the heart of every seeker in the town and particularly among those who are genuinely seeking the Way.



## Muslim students on Campus

DAY  
29

*“Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in the one Spirit, striving together as one for the faith of the gospel.”*

*Philippians 1:27 NIV*

Several years ago, Kabir enrolled in one of the prestigious tertiary institutions in his region. Raised in a predominantly Muslim community, he had minimal exposure to other faiths, leading to a lack of tolerance for beliefs outside of what he is familiar with. However, during his first year at university, Kabir lived in the same room with some Christian students whose lifestyle and discussions gradually influenced him.

Despite initial resistance, Kabir became increasingly open to learning about Christ and engaged in discussions with his friends on the topics of true religion and salvation. By the time he approached his final year, Kabir experienced a significant change in perspective, ultimately deciding to follow Christ and

share the gospel with his family and friends upon returning home.

Today, there are numerous individuals like Kabir who encounter opportunities to explore Christianity through interactions with Christian students at various tertiary institutions. While some embrace this opportunity and make life-changing decisions, others remain unchanged or even grow more resistant to the message of Christianity.

### PLEASE PRAY

- ★ Thank God for the many who are coming to know and trust in Jesus Christ on campuses across the world.
- ★ That God will open doors to share the gospel to Muslim students on campus and Muslim Background Believers leaders will be raised from our campuses.
- ★ That Muslim students will be more open and receptive to the gospel.

9TH APRIL, 2024

# The Ramadan Moon sets, but the Harvest continues. Will you join the harvest force?



**DAY**  
**30**

**A**s the golden crescent moon dips below the horizon, marking the end of Ramadan, a different kind of light shines brightly – the light of opportunities. This Holy Month has been a time of reflection and spiritual growth for our Muslim cousins, and as Christians, we see a chance to sow seeds of understanding and perhaps, even witness the harvest of faith.

Many Muslims are more open to spiritual conversations after Ramadan. Their hearts are softened by prayer and focused on their connection to God. This presents a unique opportunity for us to build bridges of friendship and share the love of Christ.

The harvest is plentiful and God is still actively recruiting men for the harvest of the nation, most importantly among muslims. Consider the abundance of souls waiting to hear the life-transforming message of Christ, waiting to experience the freedom found in His love. The fields are ripe with hearts ready to receive the good news of salvation. Will you be one of the labourers, willing to join the mighty harvest force that God is assembling for this crucial season?

## Will you commit to being a labourer in this abundant harvest?

Here are three simple steps you can take:

**1. Pray:** Continue to fervently pray for our Muslims. Pray for divine encounters, softened hearts, and the revelation of Christ's love to permeate their lives.

**2. Build Relationships:** Actively engage with your Muslim neighbours, co-workers, or friends. Building genuine relationships creates a bridge for the love of Christ to flow naturally.

**3. Share Your Testimony:** Your personal journey with Christ is a powerful testimony. Share it with others, including your Muslim friends, and let them witness the transformation that can occur through a relationship with Jesus.

### PLEASE PRAY

- ★ Thank the Lord for the success of this year's Ramadan and this prayer initiative.
- ★ Pray that God will spur your heart to be involved in the harvest of Muslims around you.
- ★ Ask God for grace to live right and model Christ to your Muslim neighbours.
- ★ Ask for open doors for you to take your Muslim friends on the journey of discovering more about Jesus.



# Want to learn more about Muslims and sharing Jesus' love?

Join NEMA's **Embracing the World of Islam (EWI) training**.

EWI invites you to explore and engage with the world of Islam. Join us in seeking answers to crucial questions: Can we still engage Muslims amidst global complexities? How can we motivate ourselves to fervently pray for Muslims? What practical ways can we demonstrate the love of Jesus to our Muslim friends? Is it possible to disciple Muslim background believers?

Embracing the World of Islam (EWI) is not just a program; it's a call to action, challenging complacency and apathy toward one of the last remaining giants on the threshold of completing the task of world evangelization.

Join EWI and discover effective strategies, gain insights, and be equipped to compassionately reach Muslims. NEMA also offers additional exposure and training programs, providing valuable resources on Muslim evangelism.

**Ready to make a difference? Explore, engage, and embrace the world of Islam with EWI. Contact us for more information and training opportunities.**