

# PRAYING FOR THE WORLD

PRAYING FOR THE UNREACHED PEOPLE GROUPS LIVING IN CANADA



## Persian in Oman



**Population in Oman– 113,000**  
**World Population – 40,552,700**  
**Evangelical Christian - (00.02%)**  
**Largest Religion – Islam (98.50%)**  
**Main Language – Persian, Iranian**

**History:** By definition, Persians (also known as Iranians) are an ethnic group native to Iran. The Persian language, called Farsi, is part of the Indo-Iranian language family, and is the official language of Iran. Dari, the language of the elite in Afghanistan, is a dialect of modern Persian. Around 1000 B.C., Persian groups began to settle in the territory that is now Iran. Loosely associated Persian tribes became a more cohesive political unit under the Achaemenian dynasty. Their unity soon made them the dominant ethnic group in the region. For 1,200 years, Persia maintained a culture that became increasingly more complex and rigid. This laid the foundation for a successful Arabian conquest in the seventh century A.D. It was not until the Islamic revolution of 1979 that massive changes came both to Iran and to the Persian people. Although the vast majority of Persians now live either in Iran or in one of the nearby Middle Eastern countries, small Persian communities can also be found in many other nations around the world.

**Beliefs:** Prior to the Arab invasions, the Persian religion was Zoroastrianism. This religion taught that there was an eternal struggle between the forces of good and evil. Shiite Islam became the national religion of Iran in the sixteenth century, at which time the ulama (clergy) began playing an important role in both the social and political lives of the people. Today, most Persians are Shia Muslims of the Ithna Ashari branch, and are radical in their adherence to Islamic laws and principles. Islam is a major world religion that is based on the teachings of Mohammed, the prophet. The Koran, or holy book of Islam, was said to have been given to Mohammed by the angel Gabriel

**Needs:** The Islamic world is extremely difficult to influence with the Gospel. Fundamentalist Muslims are very outspoken, even militant, against Christianity. Much prayer is needed to break down the barriers separating them from the Truth. The Lord is growing his Church in Iran, and many have come to faith in recent years. Prayer is needed to sustain this growth in the days ahead.

\*All information taken from [www.joshuaproject.net](http://www.joshuaproject.net)

Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Ask the Lord to call people who are willing to reach out and share the love of Christ with them.	Pray that God will raise up faithful intercessors who will stand in the gap for the Persians.	Ask God to strengthen, encourage, and protect the formerly Muslim Persians who have come to faith in Christ.	Pray their traditional Muslim culture will soften, creating open doors for the Gospel to be preached among them.	Ask the Holy Spirit to open the hearts of the Persian people towards Christians so that they will be receptive to the Gospel.	Raise up people in Westgate who are called to go out into reaching the least reached people groups around the world.	Ask the Lord to raise up strong local churches among the Persians.