



Ramadan 2008

(1429 in the Islamic calendar)
During the month of September 2008, many Muslims around you will begin to prepare themselves to fast. In fact, about 1.3 billion people across the Islamic world will all fast - men and women and even children from about seven years old.

This time of fasting happens during the month called "Ramadan", from sunrise to sunset. Since the Islamic calendar is based on the lunar cycle, a year is 11 days shorter than ours (354 days). In many Muslim countries this year people will be fasting during long, hot days with approximately 16 to 18 hours of sunlight.

The fasting month of Ramadan belongs to the earliest obligations of faith in Islam; Muhammad mentioned this around the year 610 A.D. in partial support to Jewish fasting. Later it became one of the "5 Pillars" of the Islamic Faith.

In Islamic understanding, the patience and obedience of the believer is put to the test during this fasting month. People remember through fasting the qualities of Allah and his care for the poor. Because of the spiritual dimension to fasting, many Muslims study the Koran and visits increase to mosques during Ramadan.

At the same time, fasting becomes a lifelong, heavy burden. Many people don't get enough water and health problems arise. Although fasting during Ramadan is a statement of Islamic faith, in radical Islam it is punishable not to fast.

World-wide, Christians pray in a united manner for Muslims, who do not experience Jesus as their advocate with the father, their unconditional acceptance as loved children of God and the firm certainty of forgiveness and salvation. As Christians pray coinciding with Ramadan, many people in Islamic countries have in different ways heard and entrusted their lives to Jesus.

To coincide with Ramadan, a small booklet in calendar format is produced in 42 languages. The calendar gives background on Muslim culture and beliefs, and countries and unreached people groups in the Islamic world. Each day the text focuses on a need and ends with specific prayer requests.

Join us for "**30 Days of Prayer for the Muslim World**" – 1 – 30 September 2008.

Details for where to order booklets or to download special editions are on the web at <http://www.30-days.net>

Pass the message on and let this Ramadan be a time of rejoicing in the heavens as many come to find Christ Jesus as Lord and Savior.

The 30-Days International Team