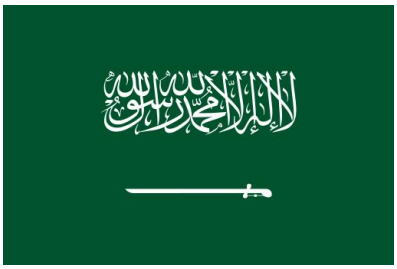
Pray for Saudi Arabia
September 23, Saudi National Day



The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia celebrates its National Day on September 23 to commemorate the founding of the Kingdom on September 23, 1932, by King Abdulaziz. Saudi Arabia is an absolute monarchy ruled by the House of Saud. It is the birthplace of Islam and home to Islam's two holiest cities of Mecca and Medina. Daily, all over the world, Muslims face in the direction of Mecca to pray. Each year, millions of Muslims travel to Mecca to perform the religious pilgrimage of the Hajj.



Capital City:	Riyadh
Government:	Unitary Islamic absolute monarchy
Major People Groups:	~56% Saudi citizens (Arab), ~44% Expatriates (~22% Asian, ~17% Arab, ~3% Non-Arab African, ~2% Other)
Population:	35,124,000 (Joshua Project)
Religion:	92% Muslim, 4% Christian (expatriates), 3% Hindu, 1% other (Joshua Project)

Millions of people in Saudi Arabia are bound in chains of oppressive spiritual darkness. Saudi Arabia operates under a strict legal system where citizens are legally required to be a Muslim, and conversion from Islam is officially prohibited. But the Lord is “mighty to save” (Isa 63:1 ESV). Unprecedented numbers of Saudis are coming to faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. His Saudi children practice their faith in extreme secrecy out of fear of family rejection, social ostracization or state punishment. The current conflict with the "Axis of Resistance" (led by Iran) reinforces the Saudi state's general paranoia regarding internal threats and increases its desire to tightly control religious narratives within its borders. Protecting its status as the guardian of Islam’s holiest sites (Mecca and Medina) remains a core pillar of regime legitimacy. The current environment of heightened security and counter-intelligence results in zero tolerance of home-grown Christian converts and unauthorized, underground churches (Open Doors). But praise be to God, the Lord’s harvest in Saudi Arabia continues to grow.

- *Praise God for those Saudis who have come to faith in Christ!*
- *Pray that the Lord will strengthen the faith of our Saudi brothers and sisters, especially those facing persecution**.***
- *Pray that the Lord would use the regional conflict to cause Saudi people to question the beliefs that they have relied upon for their security and that they would repent and believe in the Lord Jesus.*
- *Pray that many will come to faith through the faithful witness of courageous believers.*



“In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world." (John 16:33 ESV)