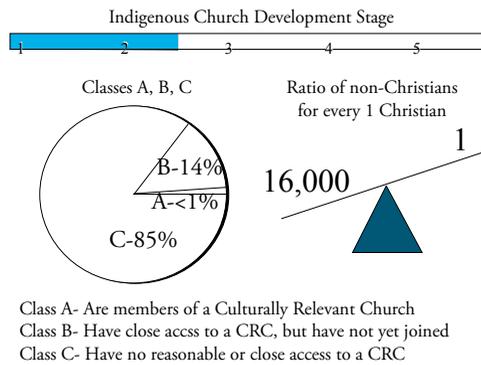


Jordanian Arab Muslims



Quick Facts

Population: 3,200,000
 Jordan: 2,400,000
 Saudi Arabia: 250,000
 Kuwait: 250,000
 UAE: 130,000
Religion: Sunni Islam
Believers: 0.006%
Scriptures: NT, OT
Ministry Tools: JGRST
Church Status: 2
Mission Status: 2
MS Subgroups: 10+



organized home meetings for Muslim background believers. One ministry, using a more contextual approach, has seen a breakthrough among high-identity upper-class Jordanians. Born-again believers in this reform movement continue to call themselves Muslims, attend the mosque, and other Islamic ceremonies.

How to Pray:

✚ Use of the media has been well coordinated by mission organizations. Pray for God's blessing on those ministries distributing evangelistic literature, producing radio programs and beaming satellite television.

Identity: The Jordanian Arab Muslims are the descendants of nomadic bedouin tribes, which over the last fifty years have become mostly sedentary and urbanized. With intermarriage between previously endogamous clans and tribes, and the fusion created by nationalism, tribalism has begun to decrease, and a new common "Jordanian" identity is emerging.

Lifestyle: Jordan suffers from huge unemployment (22%), caused in part by the government's unwillingness to privatize the economy. Half of those employed work for the government. About 80% of the nation is urbanized, and the majority of these live in one room dwellings. Though impoverished by Western standards, these former bedouin families consider this transition a necessity for the sake of their children and grandchildren.

Customs: Jordanians are known for their *dabkabs*—traditional tribal danc-

es that involve the participants (usually men) pounding their feet in synchronizations to create the rhythm. Jordanian Arabs also have special festive songs for every occasion, including births, weddings, circumcisions and harvests.

Religion: The Qaysi and Yamani tribes, from which most Jordanian Arabs descend, were some of the earliest converts to Islam. The 1980s saw a revival of Islam, especially among women, who through education and social liberalization began to more devoutly practice the faith. It is reported that during this time, more women could be found in mosques for Friday prayers than men. This revival saw a curtailment of some of the more unorthodox, and superstitious practices among Jordanian Muslims, most of which had been handed down from mothers to their children.

Christian Outreach: It is illegal to convert Muslims to Christianity, though a few organizations have successfully

✚ Jordan's traditional Christian communities are beginning to catch a vision for reaching the Muslim majority. Intercede for a movement to establish home-group meetings throughout the country—a crucial step in providing an effective network for discipling Muslim-background believers.

✚ There are still 200,000 nomadic Bedouins in Jordan which are in need of special ministry. Pray for those committed to this ministry, especially among military personnel, the majority of which come from the traditional Bedouin community.

Every year 29,000 Jordanian Arabs die without Christ.