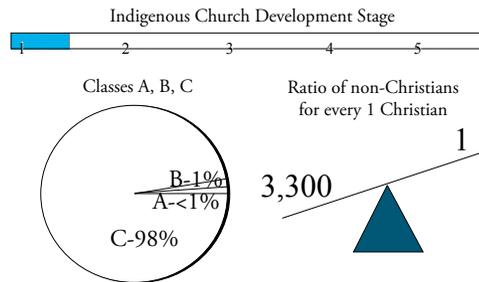


Kuwaiti Arabs



Quick Facts

Pop. in Kuwait: 1,000,000
Language: Khaliji, Gulf Arabic
Religion: Islam, Sunni
Urbanization: 99%
Believers: 0.03%
Scriptures: None
Ministry Tools: R
Church Status: 1
Mission Status: 1
Churches: 20+ D-Groups
Organizations: 6
MS Subgroups: 5+



Class A- Are members of a Culturally Relevant Church
 Class B- Have close access to a CRC, but have not yet joined
 Class C- Have no reasonable or close access to a CRC

Identity: The Kuwaiti Arabs descend from a cluster of Arabian tribes which came from all over the Middle East and settled around a *kout* (sea-fortress, from which the name Kuwait derives) in the 17th century. Their language, known as Gulf Arabic, is spoken by Emirati, Bahraini and Qatari Arabs.

Lifestyle: The discovery of oil in the 1940s (10% of the world's reserves) has given Kuwait one of the world's highest living standards. There are two foreigners for every one Kuwaiti, who are employed as maids, nannies, and laborers. Kuwaitis are regarded as a liberal and progressive Arab society, offering women free access to higher education and full participation in society (including government). To encourage population growth, the government actually pays couples to get married and have children.

Customs: Kuwaiti homes have a special place which is separate from

the main house, where men come to meet in the evening to discuss politics, life and business. These meetings, which are called *Dewaniya*, usually begin after sunset and may last until midnight. *Dewaniyas* can be public, private, or family only. Prominent businessmen often announce the timing and address of their public *dewaniyas* in newspapers, so potential clients can come visit them.

Religion: Kuwaiti Arabs are predominantly Sunni Muslims, with significant influence from Wahhabism. The state has closely identified itself with Islam, and has built many prominent mosques and financed other Islamic institutions with public funds. Government legislation seeks conformity to Islamic law, and can be subject to review by a council of leading clerics (e.g., the recent passage of legislation to grant women voting rites was subject to such review).

Christian Outreach: There has been significant response to Christian radio

broadcasts into Kuwait, with many thousands having enrolled in Bible correspondence courses. Some of these have been organized into "underground" fellowships, and several mission organizations are making attempts to disciple and train leaders for these groups.

How to Pray:

☞ Pray for those foreign contract workers in Kuwait who are born-again believers (an estimated 10,000) that God would use their witness to bring many Kuwaitis to faith in Christ.

☞ A number of Kuwaitis have become believers while visiting Christian countries for business and study. Pray for sensitivity among Christians, especially on college campuses, to the Holy Spirit's leading in reaching out to their Kuwaiti friends.

☞ There is great potential in the use of Satellite TV for reaching the Kuwaitis. Pray for the continued use of this medium which is already having a huge impact.

☞ Pray for effective follow up with all those Kuwaiti Arabs listening to Christian short-wave radio broadcasts (an estimated 50,000). Pray for the organization of thousands of small groups.

Every year 9,000 Kuwaiti Arabs die without Christ.