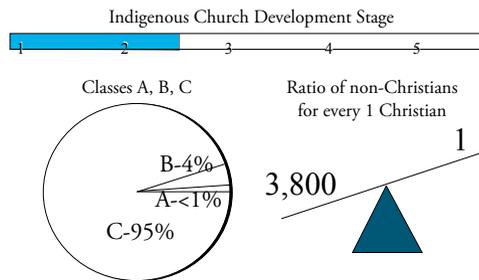
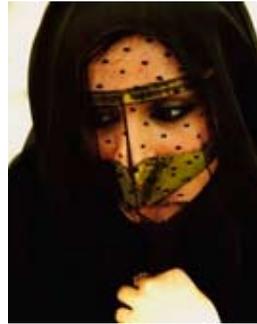


Saudi Arab



Quick Facts

Population: 19,000,000
 Saudi Arabia: 18,400,000
 UAE: 124,000
 Canada: 30,000
 Oman: 30,000
Religion: Islam
Believers: 0.02%
Scriptures: NT, OT
Ministry Tools: JRGT
Church Status: 2
Mission Status: 2
MS Subgroups: 12+



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 Saudi Arabs are a cluster of over a dozen Arab tribes which have been ruled by the Sa'ud dynastic clan for the last 250 years. The Saudi Arabs are the guardians of Mecca and Medina, Islam's two holiest sites.

Lifestyle: The discovery of oil in the 1930s brought about a steady urbanization of the region. Today, 70% live in cities, and 29% live on government subsidized farms. Less than 1% continue to practice the traditional nomadic Bedouinism that Arabian peninsula tribes were famous for. Education in Saudi Arabia is paid for by the government at all levels. The Saudi economy is supported by millions of foreign workers, though the goal of the Saudi government is to professionalize the indigenous work force and ultimately replace the higher paid foreigners.

Customs: The Saudi Arabs practice patrilineal kinship, in which an extended family is united by the oldest

living patriarch common to each nuclear family. The extended family unit has remained strong in spite of the incredible changes in Saudi society, and patriarchs continue to hold enormous influence. In most cities, a few powerful families retain administrative control from one generation to the next.

Religion: In 1744 the Sa'ud family adopted the teachings of Muslim reformer Muhammad ibn 'Abd al-Wahhab. Known today as Wahhabism, the Saudi royal family has spent billions to advocate this particular interpretation of Sunni Islam. Wahhabis stress a literal interpretation of the Quran, the establishment of Muslim states governed by Shariah law, and the eradication of all non-Quranic practices such as the veneration of saints and other syncretistic practices common in Folk Islam.

Christian Outreach: The government is committed to the eradication of any Christian witness in Saudi Arabia and

employs a strong force of religious police and spies called *mutawwa* to root out Christian gatherings. Any converts discovered are executed. Despite all this, a growing body of secret believers is emerging, and many high ranking officials have come to faith through miracles and answered prayer, as well as visions and dreams about Jesus.

How to Pray:

☞ Over 50% of homes in Saudi Arabia have satellite dishes to receive TV programming which is not sanctioned by the government. Pray that all of these might tune in to Christian satellite programs in Arabic, which are becoming increasingly available.

☞ There are an estimated 50,000 expatriate evangelicals in Saudi Arabia. Though their activities are restricted, pray for their effective witness amidst their Muslim co-workers.

☞ The summary execution of Saudi Christians is a violation of international law and the U.N charter which Saudi Arabia has signed. Pray that this injustice would come to the world's attention and be stopped. Pray also for the conversion of the entire house of Sa'ud.

Every year 170,000 Saudi Arabs die without Christ.