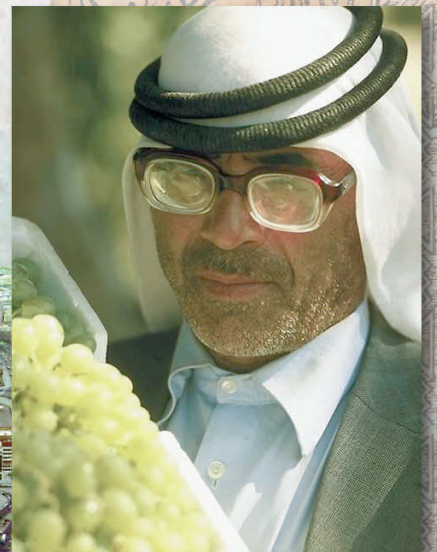
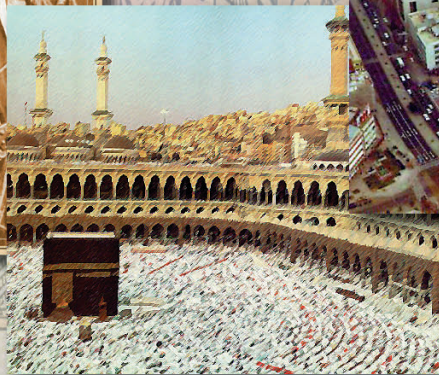


The Arabian Peninsula

An Opening at the Heart
of the 10/40 Window




A2000
AND BEYOND

The Arabian Peninsula

THE ARABIAN PENINSULA is a land of stark contrasts. Vast oil reserves lie hidden under equally vast uninhabited deserts. Enormous wealth is displayed in gleaming modern cities, while nomadic tribesmen in the desert cling tenaciously to their ancient way of life. The Arabian Peninsula is the very heart of Islam, and its cultures are isolationist by nature. It is also a land in great transition. To reap a financial harvest from the enormous oil reserves, the Peninsula's national leaders have turned to western technology. After centuries of protective isolation, the people of the Arabian Peninsula have been brought face-to-face with the rest of the world during the last half-century. The Peninsula has been considered by some to be impenetrable with the gospel, but God is miraculously moving in the region today.



POPULATION DENSITY

- Less than 10 / sq. Km.
- 10 - 50 / sq. Km.
- More than 50 / sq. Km.

See I am doing a new thing
Now it springs up do you not
perceive it
I am making a way in the desert
and streams in the wastland

Isaiah 43:19-20

Talal grew up in a nation on the Arabian Peninsula. He came to faith through a dream, but as a new Christian he was unable to obtain a Bible or even meet another Christian.

Soon after Talal became a Christian he went to study in another Arab country. There he decided to pursue his new faith actively. He went to an Evangelical church, was baptized and joined their youth group. He was warmly welcomed into the church family, and attended the youth meetings for nearly three years. One of the church elders, an experienced Christian worker, discipled Talal and he returned to the Arabian Peninsula as a mature Christian.

After his return Talal began to share his new faith, and his brother accepted Christ. Encouraged, he continued to share with others in the family. Then one of his cousins threatened to kill him and forced him to recite the Islamic creed and denounce his faith. Not knowing where to turn, he agreed and his cousin let him go.

After four years of searching for fellowship, Talal finally was able to make contact with us. He is still sharing his faith, but more quietly now. He and his brother have not had any fellowship in these four years. Talal feels guilty because he denied Christ. We have tried to help and encourage him. Recently he said to me, "You live in a different world. For you being a Christian is easy; for me, it is hard!"

Talal's story is typical for the Arabian Peninsula. He faces fear, accusation, family pressures, lack of fellowship and many more challenges as he strives to grow in his faith. However, in some areas there already is an indigenous local church. Small pockets of believers meet together in homes. In some instances entire families have come to Christ.

Though the Arabian Peninsula is often misunderstood, it presents a picture of great need and great opportunity today. Can you hear the Arabian Peninsula calling, "Come and help us" (Acts 16:2)?

As I have visited most of the countries in the Arabian Peninsula and met with Christians throughout the region, it has become very clear to me that this is the hour of spiritual opportunity. This brochure will tell you why...and how you can have a vital part in a great spiritual awakening in the very heart of the Middle East.

Chris Bush

Why is the Arabian Peninsula so important

IS THE MIDDLE EAST – and specifically the Arabian Peninsula – truly reachable? Most western Christians believe it is not. But after you read this article I hope you will agree with an increasing number of Arab nationals and internationals who respond to that question with a resounding "Yes!"

Stereotypes abound in the Middle East, especially negative stereotypes about Arab people. It is an area of striking contradictions and conflicts:

- excessive wealth and abject poverty;
- ancient Christian centers in the heart of the Muslim world;
- the old in conflict with the new;
- western political ideologies and materialism in conflict with eastern culture;
- a society in which passion mingles with tolerance.

Twenty-one Arabic-speaking countries are spread across North Africa, the Central Middle East and the Arabian Peninsula. Together they have a population of some 270 million people, and that number is growing by half a million every month.

Seven of those countries are in the Arabian Peninsula: Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and Yemen. These nations are the focus of this brochure.

The heart of the 10/40 Window • The core of the world's unreached people live in a window that extends from West Africa to East Asia, from ten degrees north to forty degrees north of the equator. This region, called "The 10/40 Window," encompasses nearly three billion people, including most of the world's Muslims, Hindus, and Buddhists.

The Arabian Peninsula lies at the very heart of the 10/40 Window. No region of the world has been so resistant to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The Peninsula is the core of Islam. The two holiest cities in the Islamic world – Mecca and Medina – are in Saudi Arabia, the largest nation on the Peninsula.

There are over one billion – ie. 22% of the world's population – Muslims in the world. Each is required to pray toward the city of Mecca five times every day. Each year more than two million of them make the Hajj, or pilgrimage, to Mecca.

A massive Islamic missionary effort is coordinated by the Muslim World League in Mecca. Vast sums of money are used to propagate Islam around the world: aid to countries considered sympathetic, building mosques, sending missionaries, literature, radio, etc. The world's largest printing presses are located here, and they churn out 28 million copies of the Koran every year for worldwide distribution.

If we are serious in our commitment to provide a valid opportunity for every person to experience the truth and saving power of Jesus Christ, we cannot ignore the compelling realities of the Arabian Peninsula.

The heart of God for the people of the Peninsula • Many Christians think of the Old Testament as the story of God's dealing with Israel, His chosen people. But from Creation to Abraham, there

Strategic Urban Centers by Country

BAHRAIN

Manamah

KUWAIT

Kuwait City

OMAN

Muscat
Nizwa
Salalah,

QATAR

Doha

SAUDI ARABIA

Qasiim
Najran
Dammam
Ha'il
Madina

Mecca

Jeddah

Tabuk

Riyadh

Khamis Mushayt

U. A. E.

Dubai

Abu Dhabi

Al Ain

Sharjah

YEMEN

Aden

Sana'a

Hudaydah

Taiz

Mukalla

Hadramawt Region

Sadah

BAHRAIN

Bahrain consists of a group of islands located in the Arabian Gulf northeast of the Arabian Peninsula. A causeway links the largest island (also known as Bahrain) to mainland Saudi Arabia. The islands are flat and hot, mainly sand covered limestone; with generally poor and infertile soil.

KUWAIT

Kuwait is wedged in the desert between Iraq and Saudi Arabia, at the northwest end of the Arabian Gulf. There are no rivers and rain is light. In the quest for drinking water, the world's largest desalination plants were built in Kuwait in 1950. A former British protectorate, Kuwait gained independence in 1961, and since 1992 an Emir has controlled cabinet in the newly-re-established parliament. Sunni Islam is the state religion. Immigrant religious minorities are permitted some worship facilities. Expatriate Christians gained recognition for their prayer and relief aid during and after the 1990 Iraqi occupation. Frustrating restrictions imposed on Christian gatherings have since been eased.

OMAN

The Sultanate of Oman is a mountainous land on the southeast coast of the Arabian Peninsula. It controls the Hormuz Straits, entrance to the Arabian Gulf. The wise distribution of Oman's wealth has improved the standard of living. Oman was a feudal monarchy until 1970, when it became an absolute monarchy. No political parties are permitted, but there is considerable personal freedom and political stability. Islam is the state religion, and the entire Muslim majority remains largely unreached with the gospel. Oil wealth, rising education levels, and opening to the outside world have broadened the minds of Omanis, possibly making them more receptive to spiritual change.

SAUDI ARABIA

Saudi Arabia is an Islamic kingdom occupying most of the Arabian Peninsula. Saudi Arabia is almost entirely desert but contains 25% of the world's known oil reserves. The nation is ruled by an absolute monarchy, with the semi-feudal state tightly controlled by the large royal family. Saudi Arabia was the birthplace of Islam 1,400 years ago, and Islam now controls nearly every area of life, both public and private. Official worship services for Christians or non-muslims are strictly prohibited within Saudi Arabia.

QATAR

Qatar covers a peninsula extending into the Persian Gulf from Saudi Arabia's eastern coast. Qatar is mostly desert with negligible rainfall, but irrigation allows many fruits and vegetables to be grown. Large oil and natural gas reserves provide the major source of foreign trade. The Arab Qataris live in great wealth, but the large Asian population lives in poverty. Qatar is an absolute monarchy under the rule of an emir. The nation was once part of the Turkish-Ottoman Empire. In 1918 it came under British protection, then achieved independence in 1971. The strict Wahhabi form of Sunni Islam is the state religion and Christian witness is restricted. Christians have no official status (except the Anglican Church), so they must meet in homes.



was no unique “People of God.” Throughout this vast expanse of time, God was dealing with “the nations” (Gen. 1-11). That included the ancestors of today’s Arabs, the people of the Arabian Peninsula.

When God called Abraham, a man who lived in a pagan culture, He promised that through Abraham “all nations” would be blessed (Gen. 12:3). Solomon, following God’s instructions, built his Temple for “all nations” (2 Chr. 6:32-33). Isaiah, representing the Old Testament prophets, reaffirms God’s desire that “all nations” should turn to Him (Isa. 49:6, 56:1,3).

In the New Testament, Christ’s parting charge to His disciples was that they should carry the Good News of His love to all people everywhere. That Great Commission certainly included – and includes today – the neighbors to the east of Palestine...the people of the Arabian Peninsula.

The Arabian Peninsula is accessible. • “He turned the desert into pools of water and the parched ground into flowing springs” (Ps. 107:35).

The growing flow of internationals into the Arabian Peninsula (see chart) brings labor and expertise for building the nations’ infrastructure and providing needed services. It also brings many Christians to the region. More than seven of every ten residents in Qatar and Bahrain are expatriates. There are at least 420,000 expatriate Christians in the entire Peninsula.

Global prayer focus on the Arabian Peninsula is increasing dramatically • Christians within the Peninsula comment: “We have seen great gains in the last five years in this part of the Middle East. More people are praying for this part of the world than ever before in history! That gives us confidence, and a spiritual mandate to enter and be fruitful in the land. With this kind of heavenly prayer cover we know the Arabs who we care about so much will have a chance to hear. Your prayers continue with our servants on the ground led by the Holy Spirit *to set the people free!*”

Growing interest in the 10/40 Window is focusing prayer for a spiritual breakthrough in the Arab world. In the October 1993 “Praying through the Window” emphasis, more than 1,200 local churches and some 21 million Christians adopted one of the Arab countries – many of them in the Arabian Peninsula – for special prayer. On-site intercessory teams came to each of the countries for days of prayer and fasting, asking God for a spiritual breakthrough.

In 1995 there was a further global prayer focus on the megacities of the 10/40 Window. An estimated 36 million Christians participated in that effort. Millions prayed for the megacities of the Arabian Peninsula.

In 1997 global prayer was focused on the peoples of the Arabian Peninsula. During “Praying through the Window IV” (October 1999) millions of Christians worldwide are expected to pray specifically for the Arabian Peninsula, with a special focus on the strategic towns.

The historical significance of the Arabian Peninsula

THE HISTORY OF THE PEOPLE OF THE ARABIAN PENINSULA begins in Genesis 10 where the beginnings of nations are described.

The bulk of the population of Arabia are descendants of Shem (ie. Semitic peoples - the Hebrews, Arabs, Arameans). There were two primary peoples who inhabited Arabia. One was largely nomadic, wandering with their flocks over the great deserts, which lie, between the river Euphrates and the center of the peninsula. The other group was the inhabitants of the rain-fed uplands of Yemen. Camels were domesticated in Arabia between 1500-1200BC.

The Arabs were the nomadic peoples of the central northern part of Arabia. The word itself is probably derived from a Semitic root related to nomadism. It was the Romans who used the term Arabia to cover the whole of the peninsula. It was with these nomadic peoples that Ishmael and his twelve sons—together with the children of Esau—joined. There are still Bedouin tribes in Northern Arabia named after two of the sons of Ishmael.

The southern peoples of Arabia are also basically Semitic peoples, descendants of Joktan and Cush. The source of their wealth in earlier times was their position on trade routes from India, East Africa, South East Asia and China, as well as their supplies of frankincense. Later, in the 4th century BC, Himyaritic peoples from the Horn of Africa dominated the area. Navigation of the Red Sea was difficult and dangerous owing to coral reefs and pirates. Most of the goods traded were carried by camel from South Yemen up to the Mediterranean Sea. This lucrative trade produced a wealthy and civilized community in Yemen. The Queen of Sheba, who paid a very famous visit to Solomon, was a Queen of Yemen. Halfway between Yemen and the Mediterranean cultures lies a small desert settlement called Mecca. Mecca was a staging post for this caravan trade.

Judaism, and to a lesser extent Christianity, had penetrated into the area by the 6th century AD. But most of the peoples of northern Arabia were worshippers of spirits. They made pilgrimages to sacred stones. These places were thought to be residences of spirits, jinn or afrit. Slowly monotheism was beginning to be increasingly accepted.

Christians within the Arabian Peninsula have great vision for what God can do in their countries

IN ONE ARABIAN PENINSULA COUNTRY Christian leaders of different nationalities met together in preparation for the Global Consultation of World Evangelization (GCOWE 95) in Seoul, Korea. They reviewed the present realities and current trends of their region, dreaming/visualizing by faith where God would want the church to be by December 31, 2000. They summarized their vision for the Arabian Peninsula this way:

- **Key verses: Isaiah 42:8-12** “I am the LORD; that is my name! I will not give my glory to another or my praise to idols. See, the former things have taken place, and new things I declare; before they spring into being I announce them to you. Sing to the LORD a new song, his praise from the ends of the earth, you who go down to the sea, and all that is in it, you islands, and all who live in them. Let the desert and its towns raise their voices; let the settlements where Kedar lives rejoice. Let the people of Sela sing for



Populations Local vs Foreign by Country

COUNTRY	TOTAL POP.	LOCALS	% LOCALS	EXPATRIATES	% EXPAT.
UAE	2,666,000	660,000	24.76%	2,006,000	75.24%
Qatar	568,000	167,000	29.40%	401,000	70.60%
Kuwait	1,778,000	728,000	40.94%	1,050,000	59.06%
Bahrain	594,000	367,000	61.78%	227,000	38.22%
Saudi Arabia	19,385,000	13,624,000	70.28%	5,761,000	29.72%
Oman	2,216,000	1,606,000	72.47%	610,000	27.53%
Yemen	16,102,000	15,620,000	97.01%	482,000	2.99%
Totals	43,309,000	32,772,000	75.67%	10,537,000	24.33%
Christians				421,000	4.00%

U.A.E.

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) is a confederation of seven kingdoms, or emirates, on the north-eastern coast of the Arabian peninsula. They are linked by their dependence on oil revenues, which have brought them from poverty to prosperity in only 25 years. The UAE was formerly seven separate monarchies protected by the United Kingdom, but the emirates united as a confederation in 1971. Sunni Islam is the state religion, but religious minorities have freedom of worship.

YEMEN

Yemen occupies the southern tip of the Arabian Peninsula. The varied topography includes hot coastal plains, cool mountains and scorching deserts. Yemen's economy is agricultural and pastoral, with increasing export of oil. Until 1990, the widely differing North and South were separate nations. Unification brought ideological and even military clashes between the more fundamentalist North and more liberal South. Islam is the state religion, yet the North and South disagree as to the status of religious freedom; the North favors Islamic fundamentalism and the South wants a more moderate stance.



Unreached People Groups

Yemeni Arab

Yemen, Gulf States

Socotran

Yemen

Hijazi Arab

Saudi Arabia

Mahra

Yemen, Oman, Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arab

Saudi Arabia, UAE, Kuwait

Persian

Gulf States, Saudi Arabia and Yemen

Bedouin Arab

Saudi Arabia, UAE, Kuwait

Urdu

Gulf States and Saudi Arabia

Omani Arab

Oman, UAE

Somali

Yemen and Saudi Arabia

Bahraini Arab

Bahrain

Bengali

Gulf States and Saudi Arabia

Egyptian Arab

Saudi Arabia, Gulf States, Yemen

Southern Baluch

Oman and UAE

Sudanese Arab

Yemen, Saudi Arabia, Gulf States

Pathan

UAE



joy; let them shout from the mountaintops. Let them give glory to the LORD and proclaim his praise in the islands."

- **Mission Statement:** Our Mission as a body of believers in this country is to live a holy life of prayer, dedication and love before God, in order to encourage our brothers and sisters and to love and reach the unreached people among whom we live.
- **Evangelistic outreach:** A church planting movement for every people and major tribe in the Peninsula. The gospel available to every person in the Peninsula. A church united and zealous for reaching the unreached both in and outside the Peninsula. ("My dream is that the Christians in the Peninsula will love the people of the Peninsula." "My dream is to see a church started for every tribe." "My dream is to see people reach out to every village.")
- **Cities:** A regular gathering of church leaders in each of the major cities, and an outreach to each of the major people groups overseen by a united church in each of the main cities.
- **God's Word and literature:** The Bible available in the language of every person. ("My dream is that the Lord will extend to the Arabian peninsula a special measure of grace and mercy to receive a Gospel message without resistance or deception of Satan." "My dream is that every mall will have a bookstore selling Bibles.")
- **Mobilization of Women:** We seek to mobilize and equip women who will target each of the above-mentioned unreached people groups. ("My dream is that the women of the Arabian Peninsula have liberty in Christ.")

Why we should focus on the Arabian Peninsula

BECAUSE GOD LOVES THESE PEOPLE and has given us promises that He will move in this area (Isaiah 42, 60:7-8). Also, because it is a place where there are tribes who have never heard and we need to tell them in order to 'hasten the Day' that Jesus can come back (2 Peter 3:12 and Matt. 24:14). A new spirit of unity is growing in the region, laying the foundation for even greater partnership. An Arab national Christian has said, "We have thought less than even one half of what God is about to do here."

It is time for God's people around the world to get involved. National Christian initiatives are growing. The ground has been prepared through careful study. Cooperation and partnership are increasing. Intensive global prayer is increasingly focusing on the Arab world. A respected international working in the area has said that he expects a spiritual harvest in the Arab world in the near future "because of the growing awareness and prayers of the saints around the world."

Expectation of nationals and expatriates is growing. One long-term Christian worker in the area summarized it this way: "We are in the generation in which the Arab world will see a dramatic spiritual breakthrough." An Arab historian/theologian told me: "I believe an outpouring of God's Spirit is coming soon to the church in the Arab world. I have been a student of church history for many years. Every other region has experienced revival except ours! Now it is our turn." So be it, Lord!

What can you do

BECOME A PARTNER in reaching the Arabian Peninsula for Christ. The opportunities are limitless...

- **Partner in interest** by becoming aware of what God is doing in the Arab world today. Some excellent resources include the videos *The Arab World: The Real Story*, available from The Arabian Peninsula, PO Box 1037, 3500 Limassol, Cyprus. E-mail: mailserv@spidernet.com.cy, and *Behind the Sun*, available from Open Doors International.
- **Partner in prayer** by forming a prayer group for the Arabian Peninsula in your neighborhood or church. Establish triplet praying for the people and strategic towns of the Arabian Peninsula. Adopt a strategic town of the Arabian Peninsula or a people from the Joshua Project 2000 list. You might even make a prayer journey to a strategic town for on-site prayer.
Contact: Christian Information Network (Phone: 719-522-1040, Fax: 719-548-9000, E-mail: info@cin.1040.net) for prayer profiles for most of the Joshua Project 2000 peoples, available in full-sets for \$99 per set.
- **Partner in personnel** by establishing a personal link to the Arabian Peninsula. Send/support a tent-maker, non-resident missionary or long-term missionary team. Invite them into your home, write them regularly, and support them through your resources and prayers.
- **Partner in advocacy** by becoming an advocate for one of the unreached peoples of the Arabian Peninsula or one of the strategic towns. Use your influence and whatever forums are available to share the needs and invite others to become partners as well.
- **Partner with SAT-7**, a dynamic new satellite television service for Christians in the Middle East and North Africa. Programs are culturally sensitive and appropriate to the religious and political background of the region. SAT-7, which has been enthusiastically received by viewers all across the region, now broadcasts nine hours each week, and will extend to a daily schedule in several languages by the end of the decade. Contact: SAT-7 (PO Box 627, Wayne, PA 19087-0627. Phone: 610-325 9605. Fax: 610-325 9627. E-mail: HYPERLINK mailto:ron.ensminger@sat7.org).
- **Partner by giving generously** to projects and programs within the Arabian Peninsula, such as radio programs, Jesus Film projects, literature distribution, Bible production and distribution. Provide support for programs to mobilize, motivate and educate God's people. Contact:
Trans World Radio (Wetzlar 35573, Germany. Office: [49](6441)957-312. Fax: [49](6441)957170. E-mail: <673-7944@mcimail.com>)
FEBA Radio (Ivy Arch Road, Worthing, W.Sussex BN14 8BX England. E-mail: <tford@feba.org.uk>. Web page: <http://www.feba.org.uk>)
HCJB World Radio (PO Box 39600, Colorado Springs, CO 80949-9800. Phone: 719-590-9800. Fax: 719-590-9801. E-mail: <rstubbe@hcjb.org>. Web page: <http://www.hcjb.org.ec>)

The Arabian Peninsula

How can you pray

- **Pray for national leaders.** Pray God's blessing on the heads of government and other ministers and officials. Ask God to give them wisdom to rule their countries with justice and righteousness. The heads of the Arabian Peninsula nations are:
Bahrain: Sheikh Isa bin Sulman Al-Khalifa
Kuwait: Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah
Oman: Sultan Qaboos bin Said
Qatar: Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani
Saudi Arabia: King Fahad bin Abdul Aziz
United Arab Emirates: Sheikh Zaid bin Sultan al-Nahayan
Yemen: Ali Abdallah Salah
- **Pray for the Christians in the Arabian Peninsula,** and for their spiritual revival and missionary awakening.
- **Pray for the local pastors and churches** who are ministering among the international peoples living in the Peninsula.
- **Pray for the strategic cities and towns** of the Peninsula.
- **Pray that the Muslim people** might come to know Issa (Jesus) not only as the prophet but also as the Son of God.
- **Pray for the radio and satellite television ministries** reaching into the Arabian Peninsula: Trans World Radio, HCJB World Radio, IBRA Radio, Far East Broadcasting Association, SAT-7, Middle East Television and other agencies.

INFORMATION

For further information about how you can become personally involved in this tremendous focus on the Arabian Peninsula, contact the AD2000 & Beyond Movement at:

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Web page: <http://www.ad2000.org>

This publication is the latest in a series highlighting the history, progress and focus of the AD2000 & Beyond Movement as it proceeds toward the goal of a church for every people and the gospel for every person by the year 2000.

The 10/40 Window: Getting to the Core of the Core

The Unfinished Task: It Can Be Done

Joshua Project 2000

To the Uttermost Part: The Call to North India

For information about ordering copies of these publications, contact the AD2000 & Beyond office.

Reprints of this article, *The Arabian Peninsula: An Open Window in the 10/40 Window*, are available for 50 cents each (US), plus shipping and handling costs. Minimum order: 10 copies.


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