



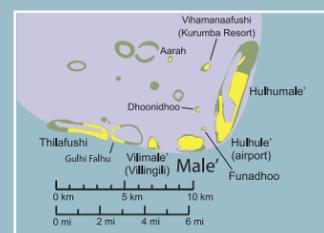
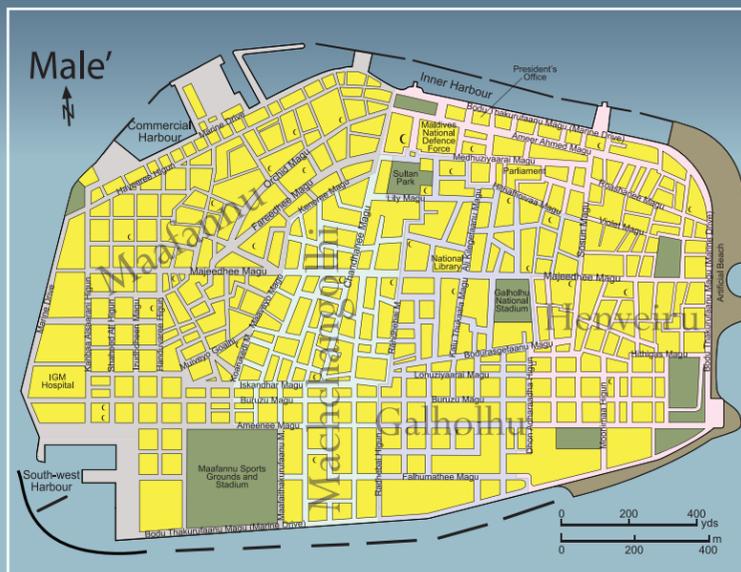
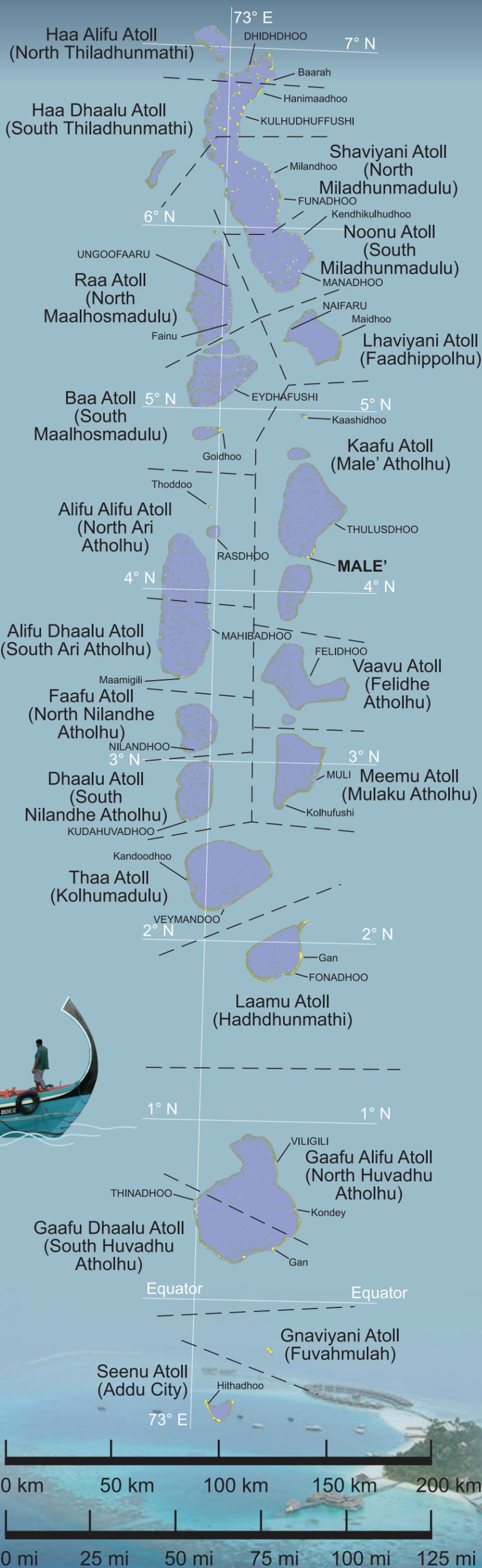
# 30 Days of Prayer for the Maldives

**RAMAZAN** 18 June – 17 July 2015

The Republic of Maldives, an isolated island nation in the Indian Ocean, proudly proclaims itself as "100 percent Muslim". In truth, some scattered sect followers of Jesus exist, and other islanders privately admit to being atheists. Nevertheless, Islam dominates as a powerful cultural stronghold, and the Maldives remains one of the world's least-reached nations for the Good News of Jesus Christ.

During the Islamic month of Ramadan/Ramazan, lift up the people of the Maldives in prayer, asking the Holy Spirit for spiritual breakthroughs. Use this prayer calendar to guide your daily intercession.

*"Let them give glory to the LORD and proclaim his praise in the islands" (Isaiah 42:12, NIV)*



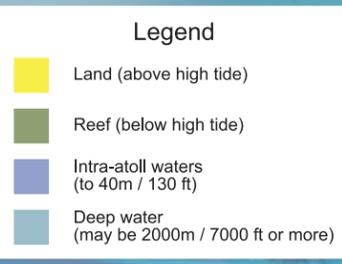
## Praying for Maldivians Atoll by Atoll

The 19 administrative atolls (distinct from the 26 natural geographic atolls) and 2 cities of Maldives are named from north to south, except the national capital, Male', is listed after the others. Population data shown, except for the capital, reflect the registered population as of July 2012 (thousands registered in local islands reside much of the year in Male'), and exclude about 110,000 registered expatriates. Inhabited islands, as defined by the government, do not include resort islands, industrial islands, picnic islands, and the like. Acreage data comes from *Maps of the Maldives: The Complete Guide to the Atolls & Islands of Maldives*, First Edition 2008 (Water Solutions Pvt. Ltd.). Over time islands may form, join, enlarge, erode, or disappear by natural causes in addition to land reclamation.

- 1 Republic of Maldives**  
Official name: Dhivehi Raajjeyge Jumhooriyyaa Population: 350,759 Capital: Male', pop. est. 105,000 (excludes expats) Total number of islands: 1,190 (2006 census) Inhabited islands: 194 Largest island: Laamu Gan, 1,277 acres (pop. 4,385)
- 2 Haa Alifu (HA)**  
Official name: Thiladhunmathi Uthurburi Population: 21,152 Capital: Dhidhdhoo, pop. 3,848 Total number of islands: 45 Inhabited islands: 14 Largest island: Baarah, 615 acres (pop. 1,847)
- 3 Haa Dhaalu (HDh)**  
Official name: Thiladhunmathi Dhekunuburi Population: 25,116 Capital: Kulhudhuffushi, pop. 8,974 Total number of islands: 36 Inhabited islands: 16 Largest island: Hanimaadhoo, 641 acres (pop. 1,885)
- 4 Shaviyani (Sh)**  
Official name: Miladhunmadulu Uthurburi Population: 16,820 Capital: Funadhoo, pop. 2,317 Total number of islands: 51 Inhabited islands: 14 Largest island: Milandhoo, 310 acres (pop. 2,280)
- 5 Noonu (N)**  
Official name: Miladhunmadulu Dhekunuburi Population: 15,815 Capital: Manadhoo, pop. 1,802 Total number of islands: 73 Inhabited islands: 13 Largest island: Kendhikulhudhoo, 540 acres (pop. 1,738)
- 6 Raa (R)**  
Official name: Maalhosmadulu Uthurburi Population: 21,678 Capital: Ungoofaaru, pop. 1,528 Total number of islands: 87 Inhabited islands: 15 Largest island: Fainu, 124 acres (pop. 411)
- 7 Baa (B)**  
Official name: Maalhosmadulu Dhekunuburi Population: 13,483 Capital: Eydhafushi, pop. 3,123 Total number of islands: 79 Inhabited islands: 13 Largest island: Goidhoo, 281 acres (pop. 748)
- 8 Lhaviyani (Lh)**  
Official name: Faadhippolhu Population: 12,385 Capital: Naifaru, pop. 5,133 Total number of islands: 58 Inhabited islands: 5 Largest island: Maidhoo, 144 acres (unpopulated)

- 9 Kaafu (K)**  
Official name: Male' Atholhu Population: 12,224 (excludes national capital) Capital: Thulusdhoo, pop. 1,357 Total number of islands: 107 Inhabited islands: 9 Largest island: Kaashidhoo, 683 acres (pop. 2,243)
- 10 Alifu Alifu (AA)**  
Official name: Ari Atholhu Uthurburi Population: 7,490 Capital: Rasdhoo, pop. 1,090 Total number of islands: 34 Inhabited islands: 8 Largest island: Thoddo, 347 acres (pop. 1,735)
- 11 Alifu Dhaalu (ADh)**  
Official name: Ari Atholhu Dhekunuburi Population: 10,180 Capital: Mahibadhoo, pop. 2,214 Total number of islands: 47 Inhabited islands: 10 Largest island: Maamigili, 185 acres (pop. 2,639)
- 12 Vaavu (V)**  
Official name: Felidhe Atholhu Population: 2,452 Capital: Felidhoo, pop. 626 Total number of islands: 21 Inhabited islands: 5 Largest island: Felidhoo, 29 acres (pop. 626)
- 13 Meemu (M)**  
Official name: Mulaku Atholhu Population: 7,028 Capital: Muli, pop. 904 Total number of islands: 35 Inhabited islands: 8 Largest island: Kolhufushi, 187 acres (pop. 1,390)
- 14 Faafu (F)**  
Official name: Nilandhe Atholhu Uthurburi Population: 5,613 Capital: Nilandhoo, pop. 1,929 Total number of islands: 30 Inhabited islands: 5 Largest island: Nilandhoo, 121 acres (pop. 1,929)
- 15 Dhaalu (Dh)**  
Official name: Nilandhe Atholhu Dhekunuburi Population: 7,259 Capital: Kudahuvadhoo, pop. 2,544 Total number of islands: 59 Inhabited islands: 7 Largest island: Kudahuvadhoo, 159 acres (pop. 2,544)
- 16 Thaa (Th)**  
Official name: Kolhumadulu Population: 15,286 Capital: Veymandoo, pop. 1,197 Total number of islands: 67 Inhabited islands: 13 Largest island: Kandoodhoo, 193 acres (pop. 642)
- 17 Laamu (L)**  
Official name: Hadhdhunmathi Population: 16,496 Capital: Fonadhoo, pop. 2,147 Total number of islands: 88 Inhabited islands: 11 Largest island: Gan, 1,277 acres (pop. 4,385)
- 18 Gaafu Alifu (GA)**  
Official name: Huvadhu Atholhu Uthurburi Population: 13,653 Capital: Viligili, pop. 3,460 Total number of islands: 92 Inhabited islands: 9 Largest island: Kondey, 258 acres (pop. 511)
- 19 Gaafu Dhaalu (GDh)**  
Official name: Huvadhu Atholhu Dhekunuburi Population: 20,206 Capital: Thinadhoo, pop. 7,108 Total number of islands: 160 Inhabited islands: 9 Largest island: Gan, 651 acres (uninhabited)
- 20 Gnaviyani (Gn)**  
Official name: Fuvahmulah Population:

- 21 Seenu (S), aka Addu City**  
Official atoll name: Addu Atholhu Population: 31,999 Capital: Hithadhoo, pop. 15,183 Total number of islands: 31 Inhabited islands: 6 Largest island: Hithadhoo, 1,154 acres (pop. 15,183)
- 22 City of Male' (national capital)**  
Registered Population: 62,567 (4 July 2012) Actual Population: est. 105,000 (excludes expats) Total number of islands: 5 Inhabited islands: 3 (6 wards; see below) Main island: Male', 482 acres (pop. 92,555, 2006 census) Largest island: Hulhumale', 496 acres (pop. 2,866, 2006 census)
- 23 Henvairu ward**  
Northeast and east side of Male' island Population: 23,597 (2006 census) Size: 146 acres. Seat of government (president's office, parliament, police & military headquarters). Includes main mosque, ferry boat harbor, hotels, banks, artificial beach
- 24 Galolhu ward**  
East side of Male' island, south and west of Henvairu Population: 19,414 (2006 census) Size: 68 acres. Densely populated, narrow streets. Includes Sultan Park, National Stadium, National Library
- 25 Machchangolhi ward**  
West of Galolhu, near center of Male' island Population: 19,580 (2006 census) Size: 81 acres. City central crossroads. Includes popular shops, educational institutions
- 26 Maafannu ward**  
West side of Male' island Population: 29,964 (2006 census) Size: 188 acres. Industrial as well as residential. Includes two large harbors, sports grounds, main public hospital
- 27 Vilimale' ward (Villingili island)**  
1 mile/1.6 km west of Male' island Population: 6,956 (2006 census) Size: 79 acres. "Suburb" island, mostly residential. Eight-minute ferry boat ride from South-west Harbour
- 28 Hulhumale' ward/island**  
3 miles/4.8 km northeast of Male' island Population: 2,866 (2006 census) Size: 496 acres Artificial island: land reclamation began 1997; first settled 2004. Connected by bus causeway to international airport island
- 29 Minicoy (aka Maliku) island, India**  
Population: 10,447 (2011 Indian census) Size: 1,120 acres. Southernmost of India's Lakshadweep islands. 77 miles/125 km north of Maldives' northernmost island, on the same ocean ridge. Shares the Dhivehi language and culture of Maldives
- 30 Maldivian expatriates (estimates)**  
In Sri Lanka: 20,000 In India: 15,000 or more In Malaysia: 3,000 or more In United Kingdom: 3,000 or more Living overseas for business/employment opportunities, education, government assignments, health care, freedom



# 30 Days of Ramazan Prayer Points

Thursday the 18<sup>th</sup> of June 2015 is expected to mark the beginning of the Islamic “holy” month of Ramadan, known as Ramazan in the Maldives and elsewhere. Ramadan/Ramazan, the ninth month of the Islamic calendar, is for Muslims a month of fasting and prayer. The Islamic calendar is based on the moon’s cycle, so the month officially begins only when the new moon has been physically sighted, and may vary by a day in different countries. Holidays traditionally begin at sunset of the previous day, so Islamic scholars worldwide will be looking for the crescent moon on Wednesday evening the 17<sup>th</sup> of June 2015. (In the lunar calendar, holidays progress 10–12 days earlier each year, so in 2016 the first day of Ramadan will occur about the 7<sup>th</sup> of June.)

Ramadan/Ramazan’s status as a “holy” month traces to AD610 when the Prophet Muhammad began receiving the revelations that became the Qur’an. Many Muslims believe this initial experience took place during the last ten days of Ramazan, most likely on an odd-numbered night. Although no one knows for sure, the 27<sup>th</sup> night of Ramazan is often identified as the “Night of Power.”



**RAMAZAN** 18 June – 17 July 2015

**Day 1** In preparation for Ramazan, many islanders busy themselves with cleaning, painting, buying new dishes or curtains, and so on. Pray that in their frenzied activity they recognize the hopelessness of outward answers to inward sin—that looking good on the outside does not equate to being clean on the inside.

**Day 2** During Ramazan, Maldivians, like all observant Muslims, fast from all food and drink between sunrise and sunset. Fasting usually includes not smoking, chewing gum, taking oral medication (unless doctor-prescribed), or even—for the most pious—swallowing their own saliva. As islanders fast, pray for God to increase their hunger and thirst for him.

**Day 3** If a day’s fast is broken accidentally by eating or drinking when the sun is up (getting timings wrong), or for necessary medical or travel reasons, then that day’s fast is “lost” and has to be made up later. Pray that, amid the stress and constraints of Ramazan, islanders will see the emptiness of human religiosity and yearn for the freedom found only in Jesus.

**Day 4** Pray for women who have extra responsibilities during Ramazan, including pressure to clean, sweep, and cook complex items without tasting them. Sometimes they call non-Muslim expats to taste-test dishes so they aren’t shamed when it’s time to eat. Pray that women, who have an unusual amount of power in Dhivehi culture, would call into question the old ways.

**Day 5** During Ramazan, islanders rise before dawn to eat and pray, then many return to bed for as long as possible. Some flip their schedules, staying up (and eating) at night while sleeping during the day. Businesses and government offices often close early to allow people to nap at the end of a long, hungry afternoon. Pray important tasks and services do not get sidelined this month, and that true godly priorities prevail.

**Day 6** Many foods are especially made during Ramazan, and in the evenings people gather and share food with friends, family, and visitors. Because of the night-time feasting, many eat more during Ramazan than during a normal month! Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal the hypocrisy and futility surrounding this practice. Pray Maldivians seek and find true spirituality.

**Day 7** Pray for honesty and integrity. Many cheat or cut corners in the fasting. Pray that islanders put away pretense and live with sincerity and transparency before each other. Intercede for profound inner healing of the culture.

**Day 8** Pray for healthy emotional growth enabling islanders to trust each other and respect differing beliefs. Pray that the isolated Maldivian followers of Jesus will eventually trust each other enough to meet in community as bands of believers.

**Day 9** For many, Ramazan is a time of heightened spirituality when they engage in more prayer and religious activities, pursuing spiritual revelation. Some will read the entire Qur’an this month—or recite it even if they don’t understand Arabic. Pray for Maldivians to see the full revelation of God in Jesus the Messiah (Isa al-Masih).

**Day 10** Muslims often use Ramazan as a time to earn spiritual merit that they hope will help their good deeds to outweigh their bad. A common belief is that good deeds get credited double (or more) this month. Pray against demonic forces ensnaring people in deception and the tyranny of futile works. Pray for islanders to experience the free gift of God’s grace through his Son.

**Day 11** Ask the Holy Spirit to give Maldivian seekers increased motivation during Ramazan to pursue spiritual truth through Internet websites and other resources. As they search for answers to their faith questions, ask the Spirit to direct them to Jesus videos and other appropriate media.

**Day 12** Pray that on-line ministries such as sidahitun.com and GodLife.com would not be blocked from access, or that islanders will find ways to get around the censorship blocks. Ask the Lord to raise up a critical mass of citizens demanding that freedom of information not be curtailed.

**Day 13** The Gospel of John, recently released in Dhivehi, is one of only a few Bible books available to islanders in their native language. Pray for a Maldivian willing to read the text of John in order to create an audio version. Pray for more islanders willing to test draft translations of Scripture, so the whole Bible in Dhivehi can become available.

**Day 14** Despite severe government restrictions, pray for many more openings and avenues to distribute Scripture in various forms, such as ways to make it downloadable to phones.

**Day 15** Pray for islanders to recognize the power of God’s Word and accept its authority. Pray that the living and active Word of God would penetrate like a two-edged sword, revealing Jesus as the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

**Day 16** Intercede for Maldivian seekers and the few scattered Jesus followers, who feel great pressure during Ramazan to conform to religious expectations. Some believers might fast as normal and pray more for friends and family. Others might wish to stand against religiosity but don’t want to risk offense and persecution. Pray each believer will seek God’s guidance on how to approach this month and obey him with both integrity and courage.

**Day 17** Pray for real transformation in the lives of islanders who have come to know who Jesus is. A truly transformed life would be an irresistible magnet for seekers.

**Day 18** Plead for a return to faith for those who trusted Jesus to some level, but have stopped closely following him. Pray against strongholds keeping islanders in spiritual bondage.

**Day 19** Pray that God would connect Maldivian “people of peace” and seekers with believers who can develop relationships and share truth with them. Pray for believers to have wisdom to know when to speak out this month, and for opportunities to share Jesus stories sensitively.

**Day 20** Pray that followers of Jesus living among Maldivians will be an attractive example to their neighbors in their actions, words, marriage relationships, and how they train their children.

**Day 21** Pray for a breakthrough church-planting movement in the islands, in which islanders are disciplined and trained to make other disciples and trainers, with a burden to reach other unreached peoples with the gospel.

**Day 22** Pray that Maldivians traveling outside the islands will have opportunity in situations of greater freedom to meet true Jesus followers who can share effectively with them.

**Day 23** Lift up the children of Maldives, many of whom live in the shadow of divorce and broken families. Pray for more opportunities for them to receive a solid foundation of moral teaching in safe, trustworthy relationships.

**Day 24** As the month of Ramazan continues, some people become cranky and irritable at having to deny themselves food, drink, and other pleasures all day long—even if they more than make up for these sacrifices during the night hours. Pray for grace, patience, and forgiveness in all kinds of interpersonal relationships (family, friends, business, government).

**Day 25** Pray for those who are dissatisfied with “religion” and sense there is more. Ask the Lord to reveal himself and his love to them. Pray for more Maldivians to recognize Isa (Jesus) and his offer of salvation by grace through faith, not by works such as fasting.

**Day 26** Pray that islanders will have meaningful spiritual dreams or visions of Jesus (Isa) and the courage to share with others what they saw or experienced. Ask the Lord to direct them to people and resources that can help them interpret what God is saying to them.

**Day 27** On Ramazan’s “Night of Power,” many believe if they spend all night in prayer, Allah will hear and answer and their sins will be forgiven. Ask the Lord to give true revelations to those earnestly seeking him—to show that starting fresh is possible only through the finished work of Jesus, not by human effort or some “lucky draw.” Whatever their prayer (especially for forgiveness of sins), intercede for islanders to meet the living God this night.

**Day 28** As Ramazan draws to a close, continue to pray that many Maldivians will hunger after the true God and meet with him. Pray they experience Jesus in all his fullness and his power to deliver them from the forces of darkness that seek to steal, kill, and destroy.

**Day 29** Ramazan 2015 is projected to end on Friday the 17<sup>th</sup> of July at sundown. The Eid ul-Fitr (“festival of breaking the fast”) commences with the sighting of the new moon/month, traditionally announced by a cannon in Male’, the Maldivian capital. During this three-day public holiday when islanders are not tied to their normal routines, pray the Holy Spirit will find ways to speak to their hearts.

**Day 30** Eid ul-Fitr is a joyous occasion like Christmas when gifts are given and people visit from house to house and invite friends and even strangers to share meals. Pray that generosity and hospitality would not become ways of seeking to earn God’s favor. Pray that the spiritual sensitivity heightened by Ramazan would continue to motivate Maldivians to pursue the Straight Path to God.

Material below and right adapted from the Every Home for Christ World Prayer Map, written by EHC President Dick Eastman. Used by permission.

## Biblical Prayer Claims with Scriptures to pray each day:

**OPEN HANDS (to minister the gospel)**  
“Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to act” (Proverbs 3:27, NIV).

**OPEN DOORS (to spread the gospel)**  
“Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful . . . that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim . . . Christ” (Colossians 4:2–3, NIV).

**OPEN MINDS (to hear the gospel)**  
“I am sending you to them [the lost] to open their eyes and turn them from

darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God” (Acts 26:17–18, NIV).

**OPEN HEARTS (to embrace the gospel)**  
“For God . . . made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God’s glory displayed in the face of Christ” (2 Corinthians 4:6, NIV).

**OPEN HEAVENS (to reveal the gospel)**  
“Open up, O heavens, and pour out your righteousness. Let the earth open wide so salvation and righteousness can sprout up together” (Isaiah 45:8, NLT).

## Seven Spheres of Influence

**Arts and Entertainment**  
Pray for those involved in the fields of the arts, entertainment, and sports. Ask God to use Jesus-followers in these arenas to touch others.

**Business**  
Pray for a spiritual awakening in the marketplace and a rejection of corrupt practices. Pray for believers engaged in business to have favor and open doors.

**Education**  
Pray for all institutions of education, whether for the young or those at a higher level. Pray for all teachers, and for God-honoring curriculum.

**Family**  
Pray for the healing of broken relationships in marriages and families.

Pray for protection of the families of believers and gospel workers, that they would shine like lights.

**Government**  
Pray for leaders of local and national government, including the president, vice president, Cabinet, military, parliament, city and atoll councils, and island councils.

**Media**  
Ask God to cause the media

to become a tool to change the culture for his honor and glory. Pray for honesty, integrity, and greater freedom for dissemination of biblical truth.

**Religion**  
Pray for the Holy Spirit’s anointing on all ministries involved in evangelism and discipleship. Pray for Muslims and followers of other religions (or none) to see the truth of the gospel.



The Seven Spheres of Influence

Seven Spheres of Influence graphic by Kevin Govro