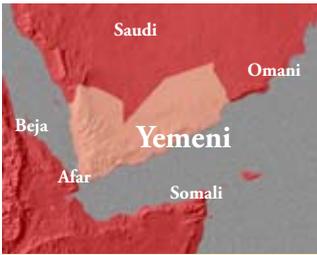


Yemeni Arab



Quick Facts

Population: 21,000,000

Yemen: 20,000,000

Saudi Arabia: 500,000

Egypt: 150,000

UAE: 25,000

Religion: Islam

Believers: 0.0009%

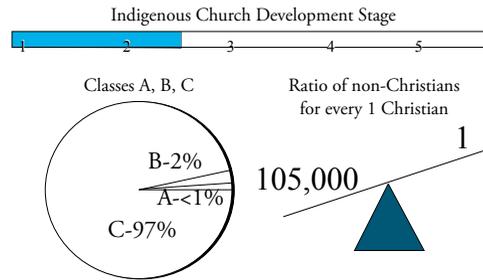
Scriptures: No

Ministry Tools: JRG

Church Status: 2

Mission Status: 2

MS Subgroups: 100+



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: Semitic tribes of Mesopotamian origin have occupied the region of Yemen for the last four thousand years. Today, there are over 1,500 clans and tribes, which can generally be grouped into two cultural and linguistic regions. The Northern Yemeni tribes claim descent from Ishmael, and speak Sanaani Arabic. The Southern Yemeni claim descent from the biblical Joktan, and speak Taizzi Adeni Arabic.

Lifestyle: Yemen is the poorest country in the Middle East. Four decades of internal strife have devastated the economy and left the nation heavily armed with over 50 million guns (2 for every person). The region has abundant rainfall, and agriculture remains the primary industry and livelihood for the majority. Over one million Yemenis work overseas.

Customs: Over 40% of the Yemeni economy is based on growing *qat*, a narcotic that is used by 80% of the

population, and remains a significant cash crop for export throughout East Africa. The practice is frowned upon by orthodox Muslims, but almost all strata of society use it, and its production helps contribute to a culture of corruption and mafia-style politics.

Religion: Roughly 45% of Yemenis are Shiite, mostly in the North, and 55% are Sunni, mostly in the South. Yemen is an Islamic state with the Quran being the sole basis for all jurisprudence. Almost all judges are religious scholars and base their judgements on interpretations of the Quran. Sufi orders, though small in number have had a huge impact on the country, as they pioneered the development of coffee as a beverage. For centuries, Yemen was the world center of coffee production. Today *qat* is replacing coffee, and Sufis are known to use the narcotic for mystical purposes.

Christian Outreach: The Yemeni Arabs have the highest ratio of non-believers

to believers of any ethnic group in the world. Proselytism is against the law, and the activity of foreigners is closely monitored. Persecution and martyrdom of believers comes mostly at the instigation of family members, who believe that in killing a Christian convert soon enough they can save his soul from damnation.

How to Pray:

☞ Before the advent of Islam, the Yemenis were “Christianized.” Tragically, the Bible was never translated into their language, an oversight which has never been corrected. Pray for culturally sensitive translations to be completed in the 3 major Yemeni dialects.

☞ Christian radio and satellite broadcasts have been a significant blessing for many isolated believers. Pray for effective programs that will contribute to the development of mature Yemeni Christian leaders.

☞ Seven underground fellowships are now functioning. Pray for their protection, growth and multiplication.

☞ Yemen is a humanitarian disaster area. Pray for continued open doors to be a blessing in Christ.

Every year 190,000 Yemeni Arabs die without Christ.