

ABOUT THE CAMPAIGN



MENA Fun Facts:



MENA is an acronym that stands for the **Middle East and North Africa**. Approximately 22 countries are included in this region, which is around 6% of the world's population. Countries typically included are: Algeria, Bahrain, Djibouti, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Syria, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates, and Yemen.

From a geographic standpoint, the Middle East and North Africa region extends from the Atlantic Ocean in the west to the Indian Ocean in the east, and from Turkey in the north to Yemen in the south. The bulk of the region is situated along five waterways: the Mediterranean Sea, Red Sea, Persian Gulf, Black Sea, and the Caspian Sea.

Alber, the Awana Regional Director for MENA, lives in the country of Egypt where the population is 110 million and children represent 40% of that number! Yet, in the entire region of MENA there are approximately 163 million children under the age of 15! What?? I can't even imagine that number! That's a lot of children and it represents a great opportunity and a great need.

The Need: Less than four percent of people living in the Middle East and North Africa identify as Christian with 93% identifying as Muslim practicing Islam. These children desperately need to know the eternal love and hope that only a life in Jesus Christ provides. Awana wants to reach these children with the hope of the gospel and bring light to the people of MENA.

While MENA includes 22 countries, Awana is currently in 15 of them. Some of the Awana countries in the region include Egypt, Israel, Jordan, and Lebanon. There are others but several are restricted. What does restricted mean for them? Restricted in this case, means a lack of freedom to tell others about Jesus, to become a christian, or go to church and worship God. Restricted means that if you are not muslim, you are most likely in danger. If you convert from Muslim to Christianity your life could be in danger.

Some Awana facts: In North Africa, before Awana, there were 80 underground churches, who had no idea what child discipleship was. That makes Awana pioneers in a way as Alber passionately shares with pastors and churches the importance of reaching children, **building up a solid lighthouse for the region**. He believes it is critical for the church to start early in child discipleship and that the right time is now to raise up a generation of leaders, to refocus and to rebuild. At present, churches in the region who concentrate on child discipleship, are only 5-10%!

Awana clubs are active in 15 Middle Eastern and North African countries to reach kids, equip leaders, and change the world. Five directors and missionaries are dedicated to serving churches with an exceptional program that reaches children and equips leaders with spiritual formation, discipleship, language translation, and cultural adaptability.

For our GO (Global Outreach) project this year, while your fundraising efforts will help reach the entire MENA region, we will focus on the country of Egypt...

Egypt Fun Facts:

- Population: 110 million people
- Capital: Cairo
- Currency: Egyptian pound
- Language: Arabic
- Egypt is a very dry country. The Sahara and Libyan Desert make up most of the area of Egypt.
- The longest river in the world, the Nile, runs through Egypt.
- The Great Pyramid of Giza is one of the 7 wonders of the Ancient World.
- Ancient Egyptians invented lots of things we still use today like pens, paper, locks and keys, and toothpaste
- Egypt is the country that connects Northeast Africa with the Middle East and dates to the time of the pharaohs.

Arabic pronunciation in English! (Arabic from google translate)

Hello - 'ahlan

Bye - wadaean

Jesus - eisa

Jesus loves you - almasih yuhibuk

How are you? - kayf halukum

God - allah

Joseph - juzif

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