

Weekly Devotions: 16th – 22nd November

Pray at the start of each devotion for help to understand. Pray at the end of each devotion for help to obey.

Monday 16th November – Acts 8:1-3

Write Out & Learn: 8:3

Focus: Why is Saul so infuriated with these Christians and what they stand for? (Read Philippians 3:4-7)

Reflect: Are you one who is willing to stand tall and out for Jesus regardless of the consequences?

Tuesday 17th November – Amos 9:1-10

Write Out & Learn: 9:8

Focus: What language does Amos use to depict the God's all seeing nature and the inescapable nature of his judgment?

Reflect: Why is it foolishness to think that you can outrun God? (Psalm 139)

Wednesday 18th November – Acts 8:4-8

Write Out & Learn: 8:4

Focus: How do we see man's attempts at stamping out the message only playing into God's sovereign hands?

Reflect: Do you trust that God is in control of all things despite how they look to us at ground level?

Thursday 19th November – Amos 9:11-12

Write Out & Learn: 9:11

Focus: What words of grace and hope does God offer here? Notice who is included in this future for God's people?

Reflect: Have you grasped God's global vision to see all things on heaven on earth united to him? (Ephesians 1:10).

Friday 20th November – Acts 8:9-25

Write Out & Learn: 8:13

Focus: Where is the gospel message spreading to? What is this telling us about the power of the gospel to unite people?

Reflect: How can you make the unifying power of the gospel visible in your life today?

Saturday 21st November – Amos 9:13-15

Write Out & Learn: 9:15

Focus: What images do the words used by Amos conjure up? Where does this imagery remind you of? (Genesis 2)

Reflect: Do you know that God is the God of all grace despite your constant failings?

Sunday 22nd November – Acts 8:1-25 & Amos 9:1-15

Pray for Algeria – No.8

Population – 39,500,000

Capital – Algiers (pop. 3,415,811)

Christian – 0.28%

Algeria is a large Muslim country in North Africa with a long complicated history. Most recently, Algeria gained independence from France in 1962 and has become a significant energy producer. Algeria is under an authoritarian regime which largely escaped the Arab Spring uprisings in 2011.

Things to pray for:

Islam - Islam in Algeria is volatile and deeply polarised between the secularists - who espouse a more liberal Islam and a Western view of progress - and the Islamists who desire to see all of society submit to shari'a law. Pray that God might use the Islamists to draw many more to discovering Christ, as he has done elsewhere. Pray for powerful conversions to Jesus among Islamist leaders in Algeria.

Persecution - Persecution of Christians is intensifying as a reaction to unprecedented Church growth; the future of the Church in Algeria hangs in the balance. Legislation has been passed that has made proselytism a criminal offence. Believers face intimidation and threats by family, friends and employers, Muslim extremists and now the government. Pray for boldness, faith and perseverance for our brothers and sisters.

The Church - The Algerian Church faces many more threats besides persecution. Pray for the unity among the Churches, a straightening of the Christian family (many young Christian girls face pressure to marry Muslim men) Church leaders and unemployment (as high as 90% among Christians from a Muslim background).

Unreached People - Almost the whole of the nation is unreached. Pray particularly for the growing cities of Algeria, the young people who are feeling frustrated and going in search of a better life and the Berber peoples of the Atlas Mountains (and the small Christian witness in the midst of these people).

Ministries - Pray for Bible translation, The Jesus film, Radio and satellite TV broadcasts, The Internet. All are widely becoming used. Pray that through these media channels that the good news of the gospel would reach people.