

## NIGER

<http://www.operationworld.org/nige>

Niger is located in the center of northern Africa. It borders Libya to the north and Nigeria to the south. It is 4/5 the size of Alaska with 80% of its land being Sahara Desert. The population is about 17.5million. The economy of Niger centers on subsistence crops, livestock, and some of the world's largest uranium deposits. 98% of the population is Muslim.

### Prayer concerns:

As recently as 2005 nearly 8% of the population was enslaved. Poor education and health care plus poverty are problems.

Recently (1/2015) violent protests have erupted following the French magazine, Charlie Hebdo, printing another picture of Mohammad. 72 churches were burned down. The director of communications for a mission organization Christian Aid had this to say: [The violence] was very shocking to the people there... the different religions [normally] get along. "45 churches were burned, four Christians were killed, 17 families lost homes completely-that report was from just one ministry," she said, "Then we received [similar] word from the other ministry and came to the cumulative number of 72 churches burned and at least 10 killed. [Boko Haram] was pretty much going around torching churches and known Christian homes, and they were marking other Christians' homes for further attack." Despite the tragedy she caught a glimpse of a photo of Christians standing in the ruins of their burned-out church, praising God.

"I wonder if I would do that under those circumstances. In Niger, being a Christian is a whole different world. They know their life is on the line. "For us, it's very easy to sit in a church pew, get baptized and trust Jesus as our Lord. But they teach folks who are interested in learning about Christianity that it's a hard cross to bear, and it may cost your life-it may cost your family."

Read more: <http://www.breathecast.com/articles/72-christian-churches-niger-africa-burned-charlie-hebdo-terror-attack-24182/#ixzz3R4agUE3l>