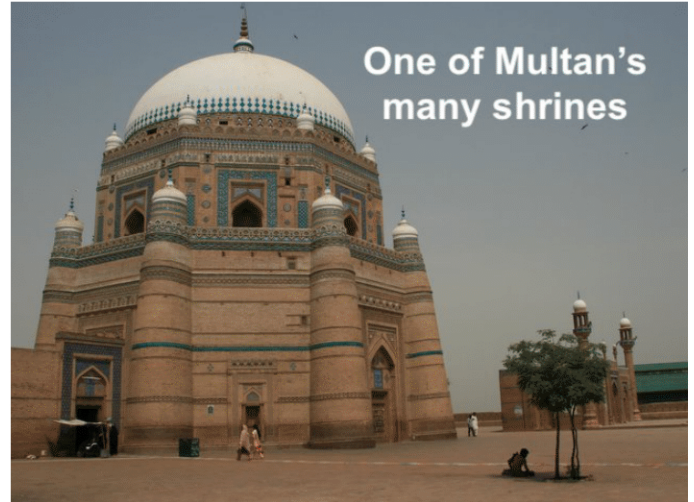




You have the opportunity to make a difference in Southwest Asia. Are you up for the challenge?

Multan

Pakistan



One of Multan's many shrines

“...they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge.”

— Romans 10:2 —



Multan is the largest city in the south of Pakistan's populous Punjab Province. One of the oldest living cities on earth, Multan was once a center of Hindu worship and learning. Islam first came to the Indian Subcontinent when the Arab general Muhammad bin Qasim conquered the area in 711 AD. Since the twelfth century Multan has been home to many Sufi luminaries, and today over a hundred of their shrines and mausoleums are found in the city, giving Multan the popular epithet "The City of Saints." Some shrines are pilgrimage sites visited by needy patrons who petition the saint to appeal to Allah on their behalf. The majority of Multanis are Sunni Muslims, but the city is also home to sizeable Shia and Ismaili minorities. Many of Multan's industries are agriculture-related, but it is also a center for higher education, with several universities and a prominent medical college and hospital. A small but active Christian community, both Protestant and Roman Catholic, also calls Multan home.

Quick Facts

Population: Approx. 1.9 million

Languages: Urdu, Saraiki, Punjabi

Gospel resources: Bible (Urdu), Jesus Film, satellite TV programs, Internet, mobile media with Bible stories and studies.



Madrassa students returning from prayers at one of Multan's mosques

Opportunities to Engage

A ready opportunity is for female medical professionals at the Women's Christian Hospital of Multan. Started by the Church of England 120 years ago, the hospital has a good local reputation, and provides general as well as specialist gynecological and obstetrics services, and pediatric care for young children. The hospital treats about 60,000 outpatients and 18,000 inpatients annually, and about 2,600 babies are delivered each year. A midwifery training program is also hosted at the hospital. In addition, community outreach programs provide clinical services in some rural parts of the district, along with preventive health training and first aid classes in schools. Present pressing needs at the hospital are for women physicians, especially OB/GYN doctors and a pediatrician. The hospital administration can help facilitate the visa application process for foreign workers. For more information visit the [hospital's website](#).

Another opportunity is with the recently built [Victoria Memorial Hospital](#) in nearby Muzaffargarh (45 km from Multan). The hospital is not yet fully functional and is currently in need of medical and other support staff.

Multan's largest and most distinguished institution of higher learning, Bahauddin Zakariya University, has in the past had foreign instructors among its faculty. With the improved law and order and security situation in Multan in recent years the university may be open to accommodating foreigners among its faculty once again.

For those wishing to establish a business presence in Multan, it might be most practical to first settle for a time in a city such as Karachi, Lahore, or Islamabad, where foreigners involved in business are commonplace and accepted.

"I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert."

— Isaiah 43:19 —

Prayer Points

- Pray for needed medical staff at the Christian hospital, and that the hospital's witness would impact patients so they are drawn to learn more about God's love and purposes for them through Jesus Christ.

- Recordings of gospel resources are needed in the local dialect, Saraiki. Pray for a good translation of Bible portions and helpful supporting materials.

- Growing dissatisfaction with Islam and new openness to the Christian message has been reported, especially among the younger generation. Pray that the gospel message, spread through various means, would reach more people in Multan, and result in many coming to saving faith in Jesus Christ. Pray too that there would be good follow-up discipleship available for new believers.

- Pray for new vocational opportunities for foreign workers in Multan, whether in business, academia, medicine, humanitarian or other community development work.

- Thank God for the improved law and order situation in Multan, and pray for increased boldness for witness among national believers.



A group of midwifery students prepare for morning class

Is God calling you to live among the Muslim peoples of Southwest Asia? Contact us. We would love to help you get there!