

PRAY FOR

THE THIRTY-ONE

LARGEST FRONTIER PEOPLE GROUPS



2023 Update

A Prayer Guide for Nearly a BILLION People!

Go31.org

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Pray for the 31 Largest Frontier People Groups has been produced by JoshuaProject.net, TelosFellowship.org and Go31.org. The data included, as well as additional resources and information on Unreached and Frontier People Groups, can be found at JoshuaProject.net. Download the free FPG daily prayer app for Android and iOS at app.BlessFrontierPeoples.org. Additional printed copies of the *Pray for the 31* prayer guide can be ordered online at Go31.org.

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Thirty-One Significant People Groups!

Thank you for joining in prayer for the nearly one billion people living in these thirty-one Frontier People Groups (FPGs). Each group is over 10 million people with virtually no progress of the gospel. They have no known indigenous movements to Jesus and less than or equal to 0.1% Christian of any kind living among them.

Frontier People Groups are ethnic groups with no sign of understanding that the message of Jesus is for them. Often it is because no one has come to tell them. Or they have been warned against Jesus with false information.

Great Progress in just the last 50 years!

In recent years the Good News of Jesus has been spreading very quickly around the world! Less than 50 years ago, half of the people of the world lived in Frontier People Groups with no known Jesus movements. Now only 1/4 of the world's people live in FPGs.

Jesus has been growing communities of believing households in many FPGs. "People of Peace" (Mt. 10:11; Lk. 10:6) have welcomed believers into their families to tell them about Jesus, the families listen and then spread the news quickly to relatives and friends. Jesus says in Matthew 24:14 that His message of the Kingdom will be told to all the peoples of the earth before the end comes.

How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? (Rom. 10:14)

What still needs to be done?

In spite of this progress, many Frontier People Groups have still not heard this blessing and they are missing out on their inheritance in God's kingdom. We need to pray for these FPGs, especially the 31 largest, because their faith will impact hundreds of smaller groups living near them.

Thank you for joining us in prayer for one billion people to receive the blessing God promised to all the families of the earth through Abraham (Gen.12:3).



God's Heart for All Peoples!

God's desire is to bless all the families of the earth. He promised this to Abraham 4,000 years ago, and has revealed through His prophets that people from every tribe, language and people group will be before His throne in the last days.

Most of these Frontier People Groups live in difficult situations that keep them from knowing Jesus. So we've included insights to help you pray for God to heal their families and bring new life to their communities. As you pray, may the Lord fill you with His love for them, showing you their great value in His eyes.

***Nearly one billion people —
half the population of ALL Frontier People Groups —
live in the 31 groups you are about to pray for.***

Why is praying for these 31 groups especially important?

Almost half of these two billion people live within just these 31 largest Frontier People Groups (those over 10 million in size). We believe that movements to Jesus in these 31 largest groups will spread the love of Jesus to the smaller FPGs living near them. What an amazing opportunity we have to bring God's blessing to 25% of the world in our day!

Why are the Frontier People Groups neglected?

The vast majority of prayer, giving and laborers focuses on strengthening believers where Christians are already present. Only a small fraction goes to the FPGs (about 1%)—the quarter of the world where faith in Jesus is still unknown or considered foreign. Many Frontier People Groups live in difficult places geographically, politically or culturally. As a result they have often not heard about Jesus or Jesus has been misrepresented to them as just a god of a foreign religion.

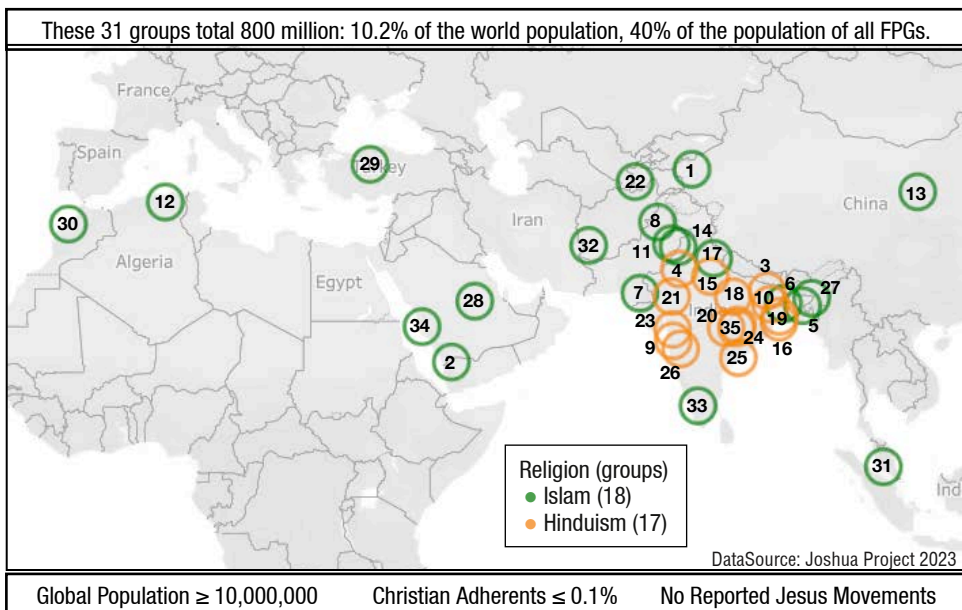
Why are Jesus Movements necessary?

In most Frontier People Groups, Christianity is seen as a powerful Westernizing political/religious force, seeking to undermine their identity as a people. The real message of Jesus is not being heard or understood. Jesus said God is looking for people who will worship Him "in spirit and truth" (Jn. 4:24). Movements are needed in the FPGs to bring Jesus' love and power to strengthen families and communities, without tearing them apart. Rapidly spreading Jesus movements will bless whole households, as they did in the book of Acts.

*Jesus said in Mt. 28, "Go and make disciples of all nations" and promises
"I am with you always, to the very end of the age."*

The Largest Frontier People Groups Map

The Frontier People Groups have been ordered from greater need to lesser need, taking into account the group's population and the need for workers, as well as isolation and persecution.



The 31 Frontier People Groups Over 10,000,000 by Estimated Level of Need:		
1 ● Uyghur in China	12 ● Algerian Arab in Algeria	22 ● Northern Uzbek in Uzbekistan
2 ● Northern Yemeni Arab in Yemen	13 ● Hui in China	23 ● Dhobi (Hindu) in India
3 ● Brahmin in India	14 ● Jat (Muslim) in Pakistan	24 ● Teli (Hindu) in India
4 ● Bania in India	15 ● Jat (Hindu) in India	25 ● Kapu in India
5 ● Shaikh in Bangladesh	16 ● Yadav (Hindu) in India	26 ● Kunbi (Hindu) in India
6 ● Shaikh in India	17 ● Ansari in India	27 ● Sylhet (Muslim) in Bangladesh
7 ● Shaikh in Pakistan	18 ● Kumhar (Hindu) in India	28 ● Najdi Arab in Saudi Arabia
8 ● Pashtun in Pakistan	19 ● Kurmi (Hindu) in India	29 ● Turk in Turkey
9 ● Mahratta in India	20 ● Mali (Hindu) in India	30 ● Moroccan Arab in Morocco
10 ● Nai (Hindu) in India	21 ● Rajput (Hindu) in India	31 ● Malay in Malaysia
11 ● Arain (Muslim) in Pakistan		

Frontier People Groups Over 10,000,000 but Not Part of 31 Largest:			
32 ● Afghan Tajik in Afghanistan	33 ● Mappila in India	34 ● Hijazi Arab in Saudi Arabia	35 ● Lohar (Hindu) in India

Further research may reveal that some of these people groups are actually related but distinct people groups, each needing one or more movements.

Full interactive map and people group listing at: joshuaproject.net/frontier/interactive



Praying for Frontier People Groups

On the opposite page you can see that almost 33% of the world identifies as Christian. 10% are trying to live for Jesus, and they can reach out to people around them, including non-believers within their own cultures. So the people groups in these areas are not called “Unreached People Groups.”

The “Unreached People Groups” are divided into two groups, one with some progress of the gospel (15% of the world) and the Frontier People Groups with no progress (25% of the world). Notice that the Frontier People Groups are mostly in Muslim majority countries and in India. Half of all people living in FPGs are represented by the people groups in this prayer guide, that is nearly one billion people.

Please join thousands of followers of Jesus around the world in global prayer to bring God’s blessing through Jesus movements to these largest Frontier People Groups.

We so easily get distracted from the priority of God’s purpose to bless all the nations. The Church gets diverted to focus on itself and its many different programs. And the priority of these two billion people slips onto the back burner. Yet FPGs need our time, our attention, our prayers and our resources to bring them to Christ. Pray that Jesus’ blessing reaches all of the Frontier People Groups.

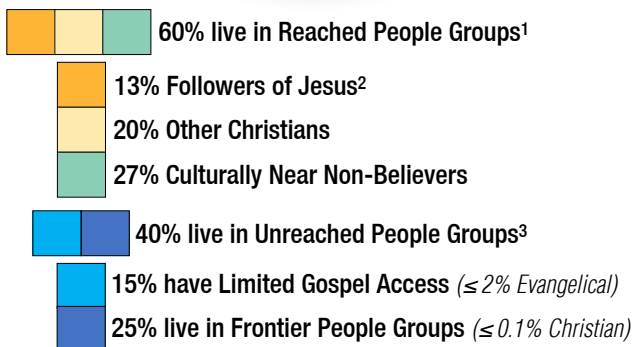
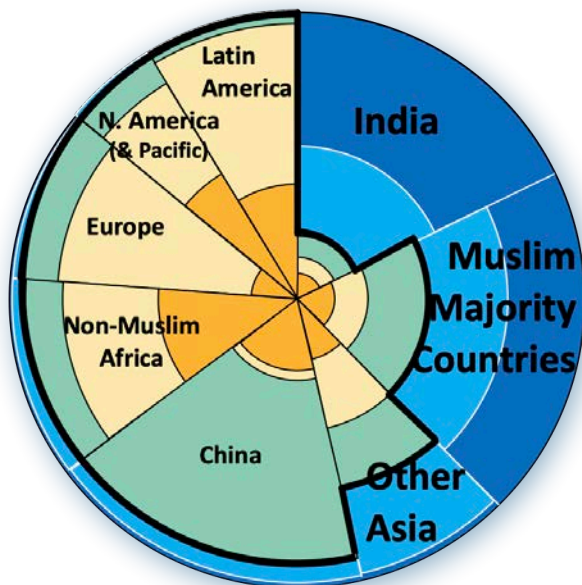
- 1** *Ask God to stir our hearts with His love for the families in these groups. God has repeatedly promised to bless all families of the earth (Gen. 12:2-3 18:18, 22:18, 28:14, Acts 3:25, Gal. 3:8).*
- 2** *Cry out to God for the right laborers to follow the leading of God’s Spirit into their towns, cities and regions. Jesus commanded us to plead with God to send out laborers into the harvest fields.*
- 3** *Ask the Holy Spirit to open your eyes and heart to the needs of each FPG. Look at the photos and ask yourself, “Do I see someone God loves?” If not, pause and look until you do.*
- 4** *Listen and pray until the reality of their life without Jesus becomes a cry of your heart. Our suggested prayers are only a starting point for you. Let God guide and direct you.*
- 5** *Use every opportunity to tell others about FPGs and how they have almost no chance of hearing the gospel. Share the need with your church, family, friends, neighbors, and even on social media, inviting them to pray and advocate for Frontier People Groups.*

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. (Jn. 3:16)

Our World Today: The Remaining Mission Task

This chart shows where all of the Christians and non-Christians live in the world today, including the Unreached and Frontier People Groups. Note particularly the 25% represented in dark blue — they are Frontier People Groups living mostly in Muslim-majority countries and South Asia.

Pray for the people groups living in the areas of the world shown in blue. Never before has a generation had opportunity for such a great harvest—with the world's population at 8 billion, a harvest in our day could eclipse the total harvest of all previous generations combined. Pray that our generation will rise up and meet this incredible opportunity God has given us.



¹ 60% of the world live in people groups that are not unreached, where the gospel is well known and has had significant impact. (greater than 2% Evangelical or greater than 5% Christian Adherent)

² Estimate based on published figures for Evangelicals, Charismatics & Pentecostals.

³ A group must be both less than or equal to 2% Evangelical & less than or equal to 5% Christian Adherent to be Unreached.

All percentages are estimates based on published figures and a world population of almost 8 billion people.

Day 1 — Uyghur in China (WEE-gur)



Photo: Colegoto, CC BY-SA 2.5

The Uyghurs are Turkic peoples who have occupied Central Asia for at least 1000 years. In 1921 various Turkic leaders met and chose the name “Uyghur” for their identity, meaning “unity” or “alliance.” They invented an ingenious irrigation system piping mountain water into oases, enabling them to grow a variety of crops in dry lands. The Uyghurs are Sunni Muslims with some folk practices, though in China’s cities young Uyghurs tend not to be religious.

Most Uyghurs live in western China’s Xinjiang province, a police state of the CCP (Chinese Communist Party). Over one million Uyghurs have been forced into “re-education” camps. Uyghur leaders say the CCP is taking the DNA of their people and forcing detainees to renounce their Uyghur identity, speak only Mandarin, and pledge allegiance to the Communist Party. Significant evidence suggests that some incarcerated Uyghurs are being killed for use in the lucrative Chinese organ transplant industry. (endtransplantabuse.org/rt201_71/) Uyghur families are being slowly destroyed. Uyghur children in orphanages are given new identities and women are forced to marry Chinese men against their will, because of the limited female population among the Han Chinese that resulted from the “one child” rule. The Bible is available in Western script in the Uyghur (Uighur) language (2010).

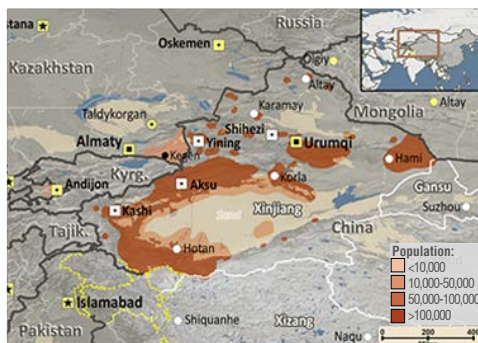
Prayers for the Uyghur families in China:

Lord, send Han Chinese believers to show the compassion of Christ towards the Uyghurs, and to love and protect their families during this time of crisis. Humble the Chinese authorities, as true authority only comes from You, the Lord of heaven. Please deliver the Uyghers and other peoples of China from unjust oppression.

Lord, strengthen any Uyghur believers as they suffer. May your Holy Spirit fill the internment camps, bringing the believers Your peace and presence. Give them access to Your Word and the power to love and lead others to You.

Lord, open the hearts of Uyghur families and religious leaders to Jesus, so He can bring God’s forgiveness and blessings to their communities. Reveal to them that Jesus suffered even death so they can have eternal life, and help them spread this to others.

The Blessing: You heard my plea: “Do not close Your ears to my cry for relief.” You came near when I called You, and You said, “Do not fear.” O Lord, You took up my case; You redeemed my life. (Lam. 3:56-58)



Population: 11,768,000
Religion: Islam
Language: Uyghur
Christians: Less than 0.1% *
Movement: None Reported
Written Scripture: Complete Bible
Oral Scripture: New Testament
Workers Needed: 235 **

* Per census reports, etc. ** for 1 worker per 50,000

Northern Yemeni Arabs in Yemen (YEH-meh-nee) — Day 2

Yemen is the poorest country in the Arab world, with a history of wars and conquests. A current civil war between the Shi'ite Houthis (backed by Iran) and the Sunni Arab coalition (backed by Saudi Arabia) has left some 17.8 million people at risk of starvation.

Seaports of entry for humanitarian supplies have been bombed and lack of clean water has resulted in a cholera outbreak with over one million cases reported. Yemen boys are recruited to fight and young girls are sold as child brides as a way for families to earn money. Few Yemeni children attend school because of the risk of death and injury. Terrorist cell groups like Al-Qaeda and addiction to their drug cash crop "qat" add to their suffering.

Many Yemeni Arabs have left the country and settled in diaspora groups in Saudi Arabia and the West. While there have been some witnesses over the centuries, Yemen remains one of the most unreached countries in the world and embracing Jesus carries heavy penalties in Yemen and Saudi Arabia. The Yemeni languages do not have a complete Bible, and only portions of Scripture have been translated into some of their languages.



Photo: Waddington, CC-BY-SA-2.0

Prayers for the families in Yemen:

Lord, have mercy on the families of Yemen, healing their trauma, and reunite them. Deliver them from the suffering caused by war, famine, disease, drugs and terrorist activities. Purify their faith in You and bless the families that follow Jesus in the way of peace. Sprout the seeds of Your word that You have planted in their hearts.

Lord, increase the spiritual hunger of the Yemeni Sunni and Shi'ite leaders in Yemen and in the diaspora. Show them how to worship You, the one true God, in Spirit and Truth through Your Messiah, Jesus (Isa). Provide translations of Your Word in their language in forms they can access, like phone apps, audio and the written word.

Lord, bless Yemeni families in both the diaspora and in Yemen, as the Spirit of God leads them to seek, discuss and apply Your Word. Give Yemeni families the desire to embrace Isa al Masih (Jesus the Messiah), depending on Him alone for salvation. Spread Your hope from family to family in both the diaspora and Yemen.

Praise God for His heart for Yemenis in the desert of suffering: "You are the God who sees me," Hagar said, "I have now seen the One who sees me." (Gen. 16:13)



Population: 15,004,000

Religion: Islam

Language: Arabic (Sanaani Spoken)

Christians: Less than 0.1% *

Movement: None Reported

Written Scripture: None

Oral Scripture: None

Workers Needed: 300 **



* Per census reports, etc. ** for 1 worker per 50,000

Day 3 — Brahmin in India (BRAH-min)



Photo: Harsha K R, CC BY-SA 2.0

The Brahmins are considered to be a priestly caste. Historically, Brahmins and kings were the dominant social and religious forces in many of the kingdoms that developed in pre-modern India. The first prime minister of modern India, Jawaharlal Nehru, was a member of the Brahmin caste. Today the Brahmins continue to be a powerful and influential group in India, still holding their high caste status.

While only around 10% of Brahmins continue to perform traditional Hindu religious duties, most seek jobs as educators, lawmakers, scholars, doctors, warriors, writers, poets, land owners and politicians. Changes in India's economy, politics, education, and job markets have started to break down the old social hierarchy system and a new secular Hindu middle class is emerging. Some poorer Brahmins are now allowed to

get government help for the poor, in spite of caste status.

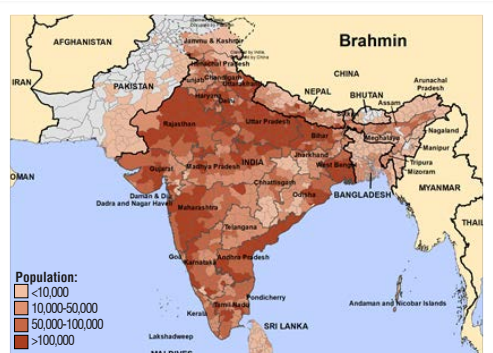
Prayers for the Brahmin families in India:

Lord, bless the Brahmin families to see their priestly identity in Jesus. Send believing families to live out the priesthood of Jesus in communities of Brahmins by discipling, teaching, healing the sick and freeing the oppressed. Raise up Brahmins to take on that role.

Lord, increase the reading and hearing of Your Holy Scriptures in the homes of Brahmin families. Help them obey the stories of Jesus that explain how to be clean and pure. Open their hearts to His warning to not be the "blind leading the blind." Help them tell the stories of what Jesus has done and what He calls His priests to do in His name.

Lord, raise up Brahmin servant leaders to know the joy that is found in laying down their life to take up the cross of Jesus. Raise up Brahmin servants who call all castes to join the priesthood of all believers. Draw the Brahmin to Your perfect and holy Son.

Bless the Brahmins to: Put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator. Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. (Col. 3:12)



Population: 34,992,000
Religion: Hinduism
Language: Hindi
Christians: Less than 0.1% *
Movement: None Reported
Written Scripture: Complete Bible
Oral Scripture: Complete Bible
Workers Needed: 700 **

* Per census reports, etc. ** for 1 worker per 50,000

Bania in India (BAHN-yuh) — Day 4

The term Bania encompasses many sub-castes within it. The Bania castes have a long history of trade, money lending, and agriculture both at the high levels of society and at the village level. They are known for their new ideas in business, but many Indian sayings advise caution in business deals with them. Flipkart, an Indian online shopping company that employs thousands and serves millions, was started by a Bania businessman. It is estimated that half of the billionaires in India are a part of this people group, and the majority of businesses are started by Banias.



Photo: Banita Tour - Pixabay

The Bania people's current and historical role in business gives them a unique way to see the world and their place in it. Among the many deities worshiped by Banias, Lakshmi, the goddess of wealth and prosperity, receives particular devotion. At the festival of Lights, Diwali, Lakshmi is asked for financial blessing as they decorate their homes with lights and set off fireworks to attract this goddess of wealth.

Prayers for the Bania families in India:

Lord, bless Your Holy Scriptures in Hindi, the heart language of the Bania. Bless the Bania homes with guests who share Bible stories with them and through the many audio versions of the Hindi Bible. Show Yourself more powerful than Lakshmi.

Lord, send families to live in Bania communities who seek the righteousness that only Jesus can offer. Raise up Bania families that see they are blessed in order to bless all the families of the earth.

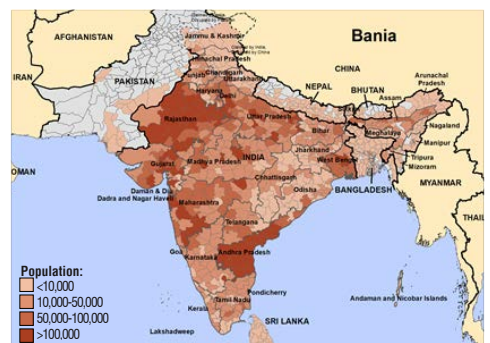
Lord, bless Bania families with the riches of God: loving, giving, healing, praying in power, teaching, breaking down strongholds and turning the hearts of their children to their parents and the hearts of the parents to their children. Draw the Bania families to Jesus and His teachings.

The Blessing of God upon His Bania Children: See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland, to give drink to My people, My chosen, the people I formed for Myself that they may proclaim My praise. (Is. 43:19)



Population: 17,064,000
Religion: Hinduism
Language: Hindi
Christians: Less than 0.1% *
Movement: None Reported
Written Scripture: Complete Bible
Oral Scripture: Complete Bible
Workers Needed: 341 **

* Per census reports, etc. ** for 1 worker per 50,000



Day 5 — Shaikh in Bangladesh (SHAYK)



Photo: Altaf Shaikh - Flickr CC

The term Shaikh is used in Bangladesh for a sociocultural group that originated with Arab settlers in South Asia. It now includes many subgroups, some of which intermarry with non-Shaikh Bengali Muslims. Islam arrived in the area now known as Pakistan in 711 AD when a Muslim Arab army conquered the northwestern part of the Indus Valley. The families who descended from these Arab Muslim communities now spread across Pakistan, India and Bangladesh.

In Bangladesh Shaikh usually means Muslim trader, not someone of Arab descent. This large group of people are thought to be converts from the warrior caste to Islam. They took on the name Shaikh to identify as Muslims. When not needed to fight, the Shaikh historically took any position in society and changed positions regularly. So, unlike Hindu castes, the Shaikh are not associated with one particular profession. Here is a common saying about the flexibility of the term Shaikh, "Last year I was a Julaha (weaver); this year I am a Shaikh; next year, if the crops are good, I shall be a Syed (lucky, happy)."

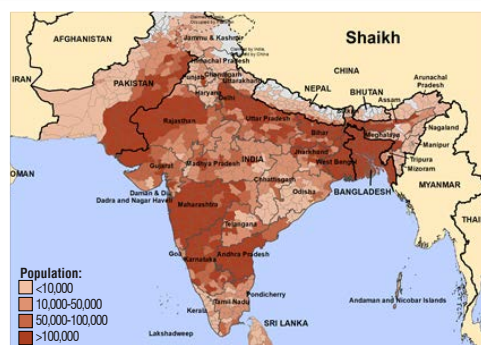
Prayers for the Shaikh families in Bangladesh:

Lord, send whole families following Jesus into the lives of Shaikh families sharing each other's burdens and learning from each other. Raise up prayer for Shaikh families to be blessed by You and to seek out Your kingdom first.

Lord, bless Your Holy Scriptures (in Bengali-Muslim translations) so Your Holy Word will be read and spoken in the Shaikh homes. Bless communities with confessions of sin and healings in Jesus' name. Raise up Shaikh leaders to share boldly what You have done for them, and their families.

Lord, give to the Shaikh households: miracles, dreams, visions, teachings in power, healing, prayer, worship, freedom from sin, broken families made whole and the coming in of Your Spirit and the Kingdom of God.

The Blessing of God upon the Shaikh families and clans: "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call upon Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. You will seek Me and find Me when you seek Me with all your heart." (Jer. 29:11)



Population: 134,244,000

Religion: Islam

Language: Bengali

Christians: Less than 0.1% *

Movement: None Reported

Written Scripture: Complete Bible

Oral Scripture: Complete Bible

Workers Needed: 2,685 **

* Per census reports, etc. ** for 1 worker per 50,000

Shaikh in India (SHAYK) — Day 6

Shaikh in India are made up of a number of different clans and trades. While sharing core Muslim beliefs, Sunni and Shi'a branches are very strong and they do not intermarry. Otherwise, the Shaikh freely marry within various Shaikh clans and trades. This is unusual in India, since most Hindus do not marry across caste/trade communities. Shaikh today are found in many types of businesses and public service jobs. Urban Shaikh are known for their business acumen, teaching their children mathematical skills and business strategies from a young age.



Photo: Mikhail Nilov - Pexels

In India, the government has reserved spots in the universities, and other benefits, for poorer peoples and the lower castes, such as OBC (Other Backward Class) and outcasts (Dalits) or tribal peoples. Since Shaikh clans historically functioned in the upper caste levels of society and were land owners, they do not receive government reservations. However, following India's independence from England in 1947, the zamindari landowner system was abolished, canceling the Shaikh's hereditary claim to land. The land was redistributed to the Hindu peasant castes who could show records of having worked the land. The way for the Shaikh to prove their "rights" to land and to citizenship is still a heated and ongoing issue in India.

Prayers for the Shaikh families in India:

Lord, send whole families to go and live with both Sunni and Shia Shaikh and learn their ways, share their burdens and bless them. Send your Holy Spirit to work in both the Sunni and Shia Shaikh communities. Move the government officials to grant them citizenship and property rights.

Lord, multiply Your Holy Scriptures in Indian Urdu, using words the Shaikh use in their daily life, not Hindu words, so that they can share Scriptures with their neighbors for Your Glory.

Lord, raise up Shaikh families to receive Your riches that come from repenting and being free from sin and leading their relatives and communities to receive Your Holy blessing of healing, forgiveness, hope and joy.

Proclaim God's River of Life in and through the Shaikh families to bless other peoples: On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. (Rev. 22:2)



Population: 72,220,000

Religion: Islam

Language: Urdu

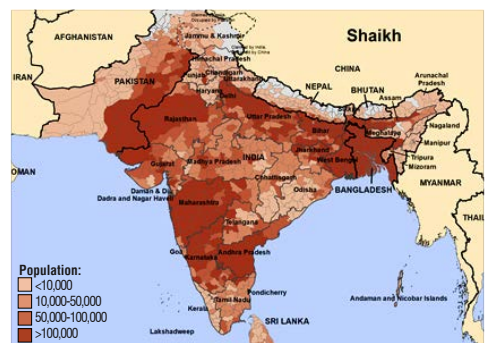
Christians: Less than 0.1% *

Movement: None Reported

Written Scripture: Complete Bible

Oral Scripture: Complete Bible

Workers Needed: 1,444 **



* Per census reports, etc. ** for 1 worker per 50,000

Day 7 — Shaikh in Pakistan (SHAYK)



Photo: Katja Tsvetkova - Shutterstock

Pakistan has the second largest population of Muslims in the world, after Indonesia. The Shaikh in Pakistan claim pre-Islamic/Arab ancestry and they are sometimes called Punjabi Shaikh. The term Shaikh is an Arabic word meaning elder or judge, historically given to someone who studies the Qur'an. Converts to Islam were given this name too. The Shaikh are one of the largest ethnic groups in the world. The countries with the largest population of Shaikh are Bangladesh, India, and Pakistan.

The Shaikh in Pakistan are mostly Sunni Muslims but some are Shi'a. These antagonistic branches of Islam separate the identities and community ties for the Shaikh. The two main occupations of the Shaikh historically have been landowning farmers and artisans, but today they have many different roles in Pakistan.

Most of the Christians in Pakistan come from outcaste Hindu backgrounds, making it hard for them to live in Shaikh communities. The New Testament is available in the Sindhi language that most Pakistani Shaikh speak, and the whole Bible in modern Pakistani Urdu.

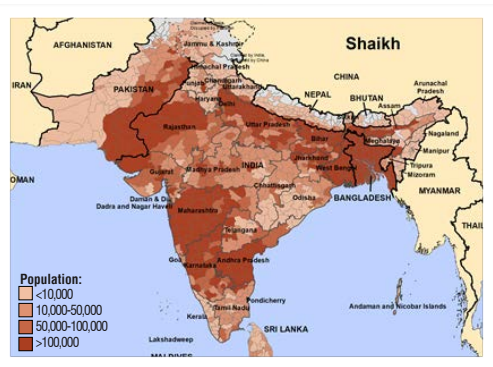
Prayers for the families of the Shaikh in Pakistan:

Lord, send believers willing to lay down their lives to love the Shaikh of Pakistan, live among them, learn their ways and share the stories of Jesus. Lord, bring healing, forgiveness, and restoration for the Shaikh families.

Lord, bless Your Holy Scriptures (in Sindhi) to gain favor, spreading Your Good News in the Shaikh homes. Lord, multiply Your blessings over every Shaikh home.

Lord, raise up Shaikh families to follow Jesus and share Him with their whole community, and other peoples as well. Give them dreams, visions, and the desire to lay down their lives for Jesus.

God's Blessing upon His Children the Shaikh: No longer will violence be heard in your land, nor ruin or destruction within your borders, but you will call your walls Salvation and your gates Praise. The LORD will be your everlasting light, and your God will be your glory. Your sun will never set again, and your moon will wane no more; the LORD will be your everlasting light, and your days of sorrow will end. (Is. 60:18-20)



Population: 12,015,000
Religion: Islam
Language: Sindhi
Christians: Less than 0.1% *
Movement: None Reported
Written Scripture: Complete Bible
Oral Scripture: None
Workers Needed: 240 **

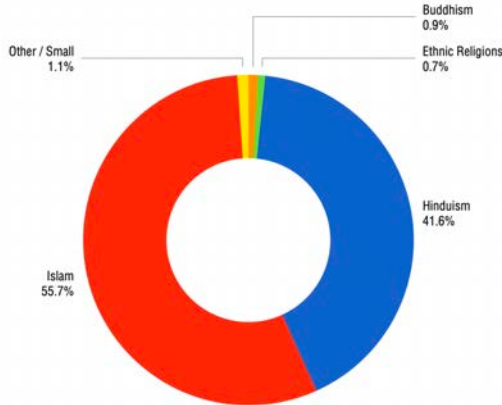
* Per census reports, etc. ** for 1 worker per 50,000

Frontier People Groups by Religion

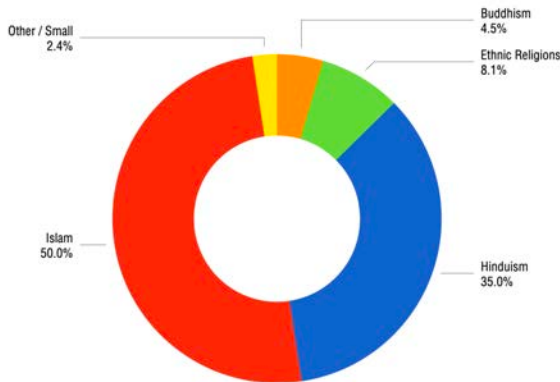
The following graphs reveal that over 97% of the two billion people living in FPGs are either Muslim or Hindu; the remaining 3% live in people groups of other religions.

Pray for the all the FPGs, but especially the 97% shown here that follow Islam and Hinduism. Pray against the religious oppression that keeps their followers in bondage to a life of works with no guarantee of eternal rewards. Pray for their freedom.

Religion by Frontier People Population



Religion by Frontier People Groups



Religion	# of FPGs	% of FPGs	Population	% Population
Buddhism	224	4.5%	17,772,400	0.9%
Ethnic Religions	402	8.1%	15,015,600	0.7%
Hinduism	1,747	35%	835,865,200	41.6%
Islam	2,489	50%	1,118,661,040	55.7%
Other / Small	120	2.4%	21,658,700	1.1%
Total of all FPGs:	4,982		2,008,972,940	

Pray for Hindus

Almost half of the people living in FPGs are Hindus, living in or originating from India.

What do Hindus believe?

Hindus have hundreds of ancient religious books and millions of gods, so the term Hindu does not specify a particular theology, practice, or deity. People groups with different languages and cultures which share the Vedic traditions are considered Hindus. Their worldview includes reincarnation and accepting suffering in this life as justly deserved for not living holy lives nor fulfilling one's duties in previous lives. Like most people, they are seeking to know the path of truth and the meaning of life. They want healthy lives for their families today. Spiritual cleanliness, as well as avoiding spiritual pollution and shame, are very important to them, and unclean food or people can pollute them.

Pray that God will show them spiritual purification of the heart is a free gift in Jesus. May they know God's personal love and acceptance through witnesses He sends to them.

What do Hindus know about Jesus?

Hindu peoples have been taught positive things about Jesus, but think of him as only the god of the Christians. Affirming all religions, they resist the universal and exclusive doctrinal claims about Jesus. However, they are attracted to His holiness and wisdom. Most confuse surrendering to Jesus with participating in Western church traditions. But in seeking a pure life, many want to learn what Proverbs, Psalms and the teachings of Jesus say about how to live in wisdom and truth. Women, in particular, seek what is best for their family in the future.

Pray that Jesus would reveal Himself to Hindus as the true living God able to guide and heal them. Pray that God will send people to love and pray for their families and to share with them the Words of Life, not an alternative religion. Pray for the many men and women seeking to worship God in Spirit and Truth, who will share this message from Jesus with joy to their families and whole communities!

What else can we pray for Hindus?

People groups among Hindus are divided by long-standing caste divisions, but a few caste groups in India have vibrant movements to Jesus where people can see that He is not foreign but The Way for them.

Pray for many families to follow Jesus and for leaders of new movements to rise up from these believing families that will cross caste or religious boundaries.



Photo: Kumbh Mela - Ninar, CC BY 2.0

Pray for deliverance: The Hindu peoples go on pilgrimages and do many rituals seeking deliverance from their spiritual and earthly problems. For example, Kumbh Mela Pilgrimage in India is believed to be the largest religious gathering on the planet. In 2019 about 200 million people attended—50 million on one day—bathing in the river to gain purity, blessings, and immortality.

Pray that they will understand that God freely gives them the purity and deliverance they long for through Jesus' sacrifice. Pray that huge movements of people finding purity and blessing through Jesus will spread throughout the land.

Over half of the people living in FPGs are Muslims, living in Muslim majority countries or South Asia.

What do Muslims believe?

Muslims believe there is only one God, the God of Abraham, whom they call Allah, just like millions of Arabic-speaking Christians have for 2000 years. Allah is the Arabic name for God used in most Arabic bibles, ancient and current. Many devout Muslims, even misguided terrorists, want above all to obey and please God. The Qur'an affirms the books of Moses (Taurat), David (Zabur), the Prophets (writings), and Jesus (Injil), and praises those who obey them (contrary to Muslim narratives today).



Photo: Ramadan, Boim - Unsplash

Pray that the Muslims will have access to and read the Holy Scriptures in their own languages, and they will hear God speaking to them through His Word.

What do Muslims know about Jesus?

The Holy Book of Islam, the Qur'an, is in classical Arabic and speaks highly of Jesus (Isa) by referring to Him as having God's Spirit and confirming his virgin birth. The Qur'an honors Isa as the "Messiah" and the "Word of God". Jesus (named Isa) is affirmed as a prophet and His disciples as true Muslims (meaning those submitted to God). Some Muslims have come to faith in Jesus through reading the Qur'an which warns that we will all rise to be judged on the Last Day, and that the true followers of Jesus will be blessed. Muslims have met Jesus in dreams and visions, or through reading the Holy Scriptures. But they are all highly offended by the idea that Jesus is called "Son of God" which to them means that God had sex with a woman.

Pray for God to answer the desire of their hearts to be righteous before Him and for God's Spirit to reveal to them that Jesus is The Way to have peace with God.

What else can we pray for Muslims?

The Muslim greeting, "A Salaam Walekum," means "Peace to you."

Pray for peace: Islam started in Arabia in the 600's during a time of great controversies between Christian groups. There are many different sects in Islam, too. The two largest historical divisions, the Sunni Muslims and the Shi'a Muslims, are often enemies. The Sunnis followed political leaders after the death of the Prophet Mohammed and the Shi'a Muslims followed Mohammed's relatives. Shi'a Muslims are mostly in Iran and India, while Sunni sects are the majority worldwide. Some reform movements in Islam are trying to move Muslims away from war and terrorism to faith in and obedience to God, like the Tablighi Jamaat—an itinerant preachers movement which spread to 150 countries and some 80 million people in the last 100 years.

Pray for Muslim reformers to encounter the love of Jesus, and that He would bring peace between Muslim sects as well as between Christians, Muslims and Jews. Pray that many witnesses would love them and be welcomed into Muslim families to share God's peace with them (Lk. 10).

Day 8 — Pashtun in Pakistan (pahsh-TOON)



Photo: Abuzar Xheikh - Unsplash

In Pakistan, the Pashtun live in the rural, mountainous area bordering Afghanistan; a border that is porous—due to tribal, linguistic, social and economic ties, and volatile; it is a fertile ground for the drug trade, smuggling, and cross-border militancy.

Both Islam and honor are moral authorities for their behavior, decision-making, and daily life. They are Sunni Muslims, but also enshrine a code of conduct called Pashtunwali (“the way of the Pashtuns”). This code of honor covers every area of social behavior for men, women, and children. This strong sense of identity leads many Pashtuns to say that they are Pashtun first and Muslims second. This is especially true when there is a conflict between what religion requires and what they need to do as a Pashtun when honor is challenged. In the wisdom of their own Pashto proverbs, “A true Pashtun says,

May I lose my faith, but may I never lose my honor!”

Millions of Pashtun also reside in Afghanistan and India (Pathans). While Pashtun may live and work in the city or abroad, connections to “home” are maintained via phone, text and social media. Pashtuns also send money and travel back to visit their relatives in villages and provinces. These social and economic ties are potential bridges for Good News to travel to peoples and places unreachable through other means.

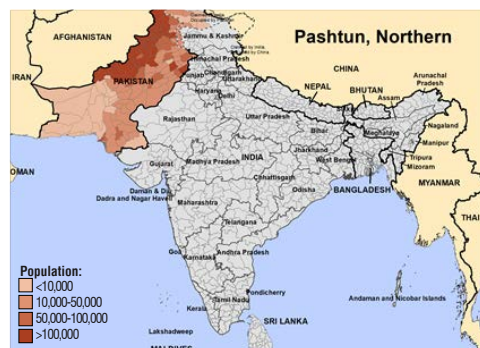
Prayers for the families of the Pashtun:

Lord, send families following Jesus and honoring the King of Kings to the Pashtun to show Your love and the power of forgiveness which brings You honor.

Lord, bless Your Holy Scriptures to be spoken in the homes of the Pashtun in their own language (Pashto). Lord, bless Scripture translations in Pashto dialects and may those translations be understood by all 30 of the largest clans.

Lord, give dreams and visions to the leaders of households, may they turn to Jesus and disciple other families. Pour out your rich blessings of miracles, healings, open repentance, and a desire to right wrongs through forgiveness, not revenge. Raise up servant leaders who model Jesus rather than man’s idea of honor. Lord show Yourself to the Pashtun clans.

God’s blessing upon the Pashtun: Lift up your heads, O you gates; be lifted up, you ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in. Who is this King of glory? The LORD strong and mighty, the LORD mighty in battle. (Ps. 24:7-8)



Population: 32,262,000
Religion: Islam
Language: Pashto, Northern
Christians: Less than 0.1% *
Movement: None Reported
Written Scripture: Complete Bible
Oral Scripture: Complete Bible
Workers Needed: 645 **

* Per census reports, etc. ** for 1 worker per 50,000

Maratha (Mahratta) in India (mah-RAH-tah) — Day 9

Maharashtra is India's second largest state. The Maratha caste is composed of many clans, combined over the centuries from families of various castes in Maharashtra. The Maratha caste groups have been dominant in the social and political life of the state, providing 80% of its chief ministers since 1961.

Marathas led the army of their 17th century warrior-king Shivaji. Several clans later ruled parts of the Maratha empire from central to south India. Considering themselves to be Kshatriyas (the warrior caste under the Brahmin priests), today they are the elite Forward Caste of Maharashtra.

The Marathas occupy the upper levels of a rural society, owning enough land to grow things to eat as well as to sell. Some farmers who are poorer claim OBC (Other Backward Class) status to gain government assistance.

Marathas are liberal compared to other Indian groups, allowing some free choice to marry, though restricted to their own caste and those above them. They fiercely defend their own culture, language (Marathi) and history, but are tolerant towards other cultures. Marathas, like all other Hindus, worship many deities and usually revere their land and earth as their mother.



Photo: Santosh Wadghule - Flickr CC

Prayers for the families of the Mahratta/Maratha clans of India:

Lord, reveal Your identity in history, how you set peoples apart to show Your Glory. Lord bless the Maratha's history of being set apart. May their families find their destiny as warriors in Your Kingdom and be drawn to make Your name great.

Lord, may Your Holy Scriptures be read and spoken in Marathi in the homes of the Marathas. Lord, capture their hearts and help them to want to study and share the Scriptures with others. Help them respect Jesus who did not cling to being God, but came down to serve mankind even to sacrifice His life on a cross.

Lord, send families to the Maratha communities that are pure of heart and walk in Your ways with great wisdom and power. Lord, bring healing to their families. Show Your power to restore what has been lost and the power to be born again to be set apart to live a life for You.

God's blessing upon the Maratha (Mahratta): My name will be great among the nations, from the rising to the setting of the sun. In every place incense and pure offerings will be brought to My Name, because My Name will be great among the nations," says the LORD Almighty. (Mal. 1: 11)



Population: 31,574,000

Religion: Hinduism

Language: Marathi

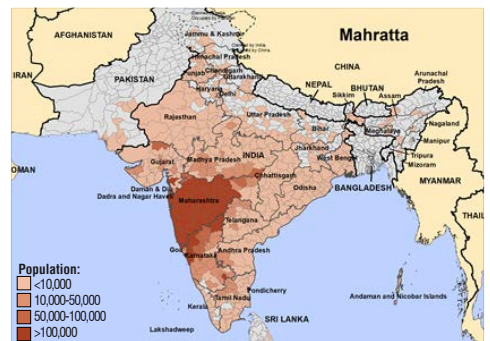
Christians: Less than 0.1% *

Movement: None Reported

Written Scripture: Complete Bible

Oral Scripture: Complete Bible

Workers Needed: 631 **



* Per census reports, etc. ** for 1 worker per 50,000

Day 10 — Nai in India (nah-EE)



Photo: Anonymous

The Hindu Nai people are located throughout India. Historically, they are barbers—cutting hair and nails. Their skills also include minor medical services like extracting teeth, blood-letting and bone-setting. Because working with body fluids is considered “polluting,” they are classified as Other Backward Class (OBC) or even Scheduled Castes (Dalits or outcastes). Nai go to people’s homes to do their job, so the barber plays an important role in village life, spreading news and matchmaking. Some castes even assign a special role to the barber in their domestic rituals.

In modern India, castes are being disrupted as large-scale occupational changes are taking place. When the Nai adopt other skills or professions, the lower castes sometimes take over their job as barbers. Currently, many of the Nai children stop attending school after a few years to help their parents earn a living, so the literacy rate is low among the Nai people.

The Nai worship the Hindu gods and believe evil spirits and local deities are the cause of trouble and diseases. They frequently go to shamans for their spiritual and medical needs. They visit Hindu temples and offer prayers, food, flowers, and incense to their gods in hopes of gaining protection, benefits and being freed from the endless cycle of birth, death and rebirth.

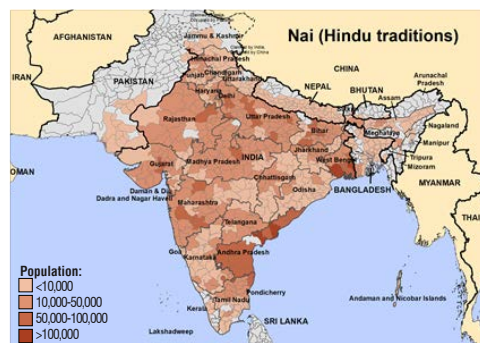
Prayers for the families of the Nai of India:

Lord, send believing families to live among the Nai, to love them, to live out Jesus’s teachings, to pray for them, seek to bless their communities and share the Nai’s burdens. Through Jesus, show the Nai that You freely love, forgive and heal them, as they repent, put off the old and put on the new.

Lord, bless Your Holy Scriptures in their language (Hindi) to spread through their homes and communities. Lord, send people to teach literacy to the adults and working teens. Meet their needs for access to easy modern Hindi translations.

Lord, raise up Nai families of peace so that their communities come to faith in Jesus and are freed from the fear of death and reincarnation. Lord, restore families through repentance, forgiveness, healing, and teaching in power so evil spirits and strongholds are overcome in their communities.

God’s blessing upon the Nai: Thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumphal procession in Christ and through us spreads everywhere the fragrance of the knowledge of Him. For we are to God the aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing. (2 Cor. 2:14)



Population: 14,140,000
Religion: Hinduism
Language: Hindi
Christians: Less than 0.1% *
Movement: None Reported
Written Scripture: Complete Bible
Oral Scripture: Complete Bible
Workers Needed: 283 **

* Per census reports, etc. ** for 1 worker per 50,000

Arain in Pakistan (ah-rah-EEN) — Day 11

The Arain are from an agricultural background but over the years many have become very influential lawmakers and politicians. Under British rule, the hard-working Arain were brought to the Punjab area to farm around the cities. Arains valued education for their children and used their new found wealth to further their education and make extensive contributions in the field of politics and the practice of law.

Benazir Bhutto, the first female prime minister of a Muslim country and two-time prime minister of Pakistan, comes from this people group. Numerous other Arains have been presidents, ministers, foreign ministers, governors, judges, navy chiefs, anchormen, and in arts and sports fields: writers, painters, film stars and cricket players.

They are mostly Sunni Muslims, with only about 19,000 Sikhs among them, and they speak many different languages, depending upon where they live. Some Arain in India practice Hinduism instead of Islam.



Photo: Imran Ali Arain - Wikimedia CC

Prayers for the families of the Arain:

Lord, give Arains discernment to see past Western Christianity to Jesus and Your Holy Scriptures. Start a movement of blessings and salvation among the Arains that would spread to those all around them.

Lord, send Your Holy Spirit on the Arain people, magnify the light of Isa al Masih (Jesus the Messiah), use dreams and visions to open their spiritual eyes. Give them a hunger to seek out Your Holy Scriptures in the many languages they speak and read, and to share these Scriptures in the Arainian homes.

Lord, touch the hearts of the Arain leaders in government and business to know and share the truth of Jesus and His Government of Love with great courage.

The blessing of God upon the Arain: You will be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will bestow. You will be a crown of splendor in the LORD's hand, a royal diadem in the hand of your God. (Is. 62:3)



Population: 11,507,000

Religion: Islam

Language: Punjabi, Western

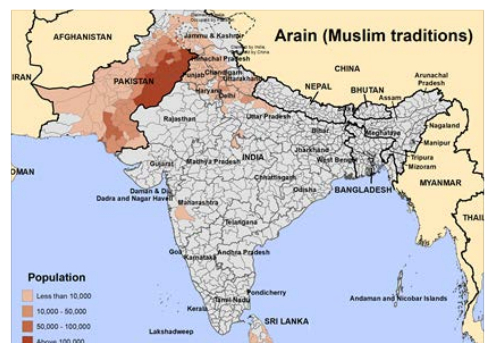
Christians: Less than 0.1% *

Movement: None Reported

Written Scripture: New Testament

Oral Scripture: New Testament

Workers Needed: 230 **



* Per census reports, etc. ** for 1 worker per 50,000

Day 12 — Arabic Speaking Algerians in Algeria (al-JEER-ee-un)

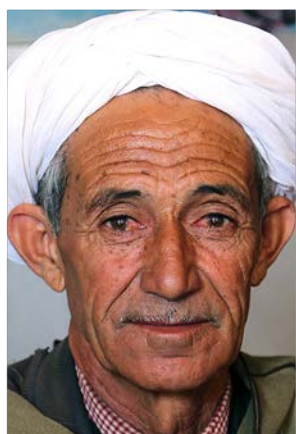


Photo: Basel 2019 - Wikimedia CC

Many indigenous Berber peoples in North Africa became Christians in the first and second centuries, with a history of martyrs under Roman rule, followed by centuries of violent conflict with Roman “Christians” and invading Vandals who were Arian Christians. The Bible was never translated into any Berber language though St. Augustine was a Berber.

When Muslim Arabs invaded in the 7th century, the Berbers became Sunni Muslims and many intermarried with the Arabs. France colonized Algeria in 1830, imposing the French language; however, the Algerian Arabs regained control with national independence in 1960. Algerians are well educated, but many unemployed adults emigrate to France and elsewhere to work and send money back to their families. In Algeria, French is still a language of government, along with Modern Standard Arabic, but the Arab descendants speak an Algerian form of Arabic in Algeria.

Berber speaking Algerians number over 12 million and they have had a significant movement to Jesus. In 1980 the Kabyles, the largest Berber tribe, staged a “Berber Spring” which was violently put down by the Arab government, but they were granted permission to use their language and even teach it in schools by 1995. Kabyle was voted an official language of Algeria in 2016. The Injil (New Testament) is now in Algerian Arabic and the complete scriptures are in Kabyle Berber.

Prayers for the Algerian Families:

Lord, open ways for global witnesses to bless Algerian Arab families and communities in both Algeria and France. Send Your Spirit to open their hearts to the love of Jesus and to read and follow Your Word.

Lord, help the Kabyle Berber believers to demonstrate Your love to their Arab neighbors, raise up strong and bold leaders to start Jesus movements also in the Algerian Arabic language.

Lord, bless Algerian government leaders that they would look favorably on believers and the printing and distribution of Your Word. Send visions and dreams of Jesus to those earnestly praying and seeking the right path to You.

God's beautiful invitation to Algerian Arabs: The hand of the LORD was upon me there, and He said to me, "Get up and go out to the plain, and there I will speak to you. (Ez. 3:22)



Population: 33,118,000
Religion: Islam
Language: Arabic (Algerian Spoken)
Christians: Less than 0.1% *
Movement: None Reported
Written Scripture: New Testament
Oral Scripture: New Testament
Workers Needed: 662 **

* Per census reports, etc. ** for 1 worker per 50,000

The ancestors of today's Hui people group are a combination of Arab, Persian, Mongol and Chinese peoples. In the seventh century, Arab and Persian merchants traveled to China in search of riches. In the thirteenth century the mobile armies of the Mongols conquered parts of Central Asia and China. These ancestors of the Hui were expected to settle down at various locations to farm while being ready to fight.

The Hui spread throughout China, becoming artisans, scholars, officials, and religious leaders. They are the largest and most widespread of China's Muslim peoples. Remarkably, they live in nearly all of China's 2,369 counties and municipalities. They are known for their business acumen.

Thousands of mosques throughout China are regularly attended by the Hui who are almost all Sunni Muslims. Although some of their practices are different from other Muslims, to be Muslim has been central to their identity for centuries. The Chinese Communist Party (CCP) has harshly persecuted Uyghurs Muslims but as yet has not done the same to Hui Muslims. The Hui speak standard Chinese with some words or phrases adopted from Arabic or Persian.



Photo: Tribes of the World - Flickr CC

Prayers for the families of the Hui of China:

Lord, open the doors for creative outreach in Hui communities, so they become part of God's family and enjoy His blessings. Send believers to live among the Hui, sharing Jesus' love with them so they become disciples who make disciples.

Lord, send Your Spirit upon the Hui people, convicting them of sin, righteousness and judgment. Put a strong desire for Jesus within them, so they hear His voice and joyfully receive His Word.

Lord, cause many families to see that Jesus is for Muslims too, spreading the news from city to city. Bless the families of our Hui brothers and sisters, and protect them from persecution.

God's promise for the Hui in His Heavenly Kingdom: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. Though it is the smallest of all your seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and perch in its branches." (Mt. 13:31-32)

Population: 13,738,000

Religion: Islam

Language: Chinese, Mandarin

Christians: Less than 0.1% *

Movement: None Reported

Written Scripture: Complete Bible

Oral Scripture: Complete Bible

Workers Needed: 275 **



* Per census reports, etc. ** for 1 worker per 50,000

Keys to Opening the Hearts of Frontier People Groups

We cannot keep doing the same thing and expect a different outcome. We need to discover why these large Frontier People Groups are either not receiving the Good News they are hearing or not having any witnesses at all. As disciples of Jesus are called to follow Him as “workers in the harvest”, they must be guided by the Holy Spirit into fresh practices in order to overcome the daunting barriers to the Good News. Pray for the potential keys to open hearts below, and for others to be discovered, that will enable them to understand that Jesus is their Savior and Healer too.

BLESSING FAMILIES:

God’s covenant with Abraham is fulfilled when we bring His blessing to all the families in the world, and encourage new Jesus followers to bless their households, communities and entire people group (Gen. 12:1–3, Gal. 3:8, Heb. 6:17).

Father, from the beginning Your heart’s desire has been for all the families on earth to be blessed. Move our hearts with Your passion for blessing families in practical ways in these FPGs, that they may know You!

JESUS MOVEMENTS:

Households of faith realize that Jesus is speaking to them and guiding them when they discuss the scriptures together. This leads them to encourage and disciple others to also study the Bible to receive and pass on the blessing within their communities.

Lord, pour out your Holy Spirit so that every Frontier People Group has its own Jesus movement. Raise up prayer teams to advocate for each of the largest Frontier People Groups until the blessing of life in Jesus is spreading rapidly from family to family (Ps. 2:8, James 4:2b).

TRANSFORMING COMMUNITIES:

Households of faith are increasingly able to discern and address the influences destroying their families and communities, when they grow in personal holiness, servanthood and godly wisdom.

Lord, raise up committed godly believers within FPGs, like Daniel and Joseph, to positions of influence, transforming their communities and destroying the works of the evil one.

SHARED HUMANITY:

People of all faiths are attracted to follow Jesus on the basis of our shared challenges and desires when they find that God is seeking all who will worship Him in Spirit and Truth (Jn. 4).

Lord, help us to see all the FPGs as our brothers and sisters, so that Your love and Your Word bring peace and love between peoples. Turn us away from a “war of religions” like You did the Samaritan woman, to finding those You are calling to worship You in Spirit and Truth.

PIONEERING WORKERS:

People can go “partner” with believers in the non-Frontier UPGs when there are churches or believers in their midst, however; that is not possible in the FPGs. Pioneering is required to establish the very first believing “households of peace” which can then disciple others in what it means to follow Jesus (Lk. 10).

Father, please send forth pioneering laborers to Frontier People Groups who have no believers to partner with. Send out Your laborers to sow Your Word among these largest FPGs (Mt. 9:37-28, Lk. 10:2). Lead them to worthy households of peace that You have prepared in advance (Mt. 10, Lk. 10), that will reproduce 30-, 60- or even 100-fold (Mt. 13, Mk. 4, Lk. 8), like the good soil.

Jesus Movements: The Way People Groups Come to Jesus

In most FPGs, people believe following Jesus means betraying their family to join a different “Christian” people group. When early believers leave their people group, they hinder God’s blessing from spreading among them. But in God’s Word we see Jesus pours out love on His followers everywhere, sending them back into their Samaritan or Gentile communities, to bring blessings and peace to those there (Jn. 4; Mk. 5:1-20).

In the book of Acts, the Spirit of God spread the Good News of Jesus’ resurrection and forgiveness of sins rapidly from household to household—even without printed scriptures, church buildings or salaried preachers (Acts 6:7, 9:31, 12:24, 16:5).

Movements in Acts were the way that faith in Jesus grew faster than the population, among the Jews, Samaritans and Gentile peoples. When God’s Spirit sparks movements to Jesus, they transform existing communities and people groups by bringing God’s blessings into families.



Photo: Adam Cohn - Flickr

Why are movements necessary?

No people group in history has ever become identified with Jesus without an indigenous movement to Him taking place. Each generation of believers will die out if there is no movement to faith. And, Frontier People Groups have never had a growing indigenous movement, even if they have had many witnesses come to tell them about Jesus for centuries.

In places like China, over 100 years of witness happened before the people realized that the Creator God is their God too, and that Jesus also frees them from sin and death. Believing widows in China and Korea spread the Good News quickly from town to town. Now over 10% of the Chinese people, and 30% of the Koreans, are committed to Jesus.

Frontier People Groups tend to believe that Jesus is only for foreign Christians and drive away those who follow Him. But once they see households among their own group become believers, and households of faith experience and tell of healings and blessings from Jesus, the people group begins to understand Jesus is the Savior of the whole world, including themselves (Jn. 4:42).

We long for God’s Kingdom to come on earth as it is in heaven! So let us pray persistently for rapidly spreading Jesus movements to bring God’s promised blessing to the families of the earth. Pray especially for those people groups who have not yet had any movement to Jesus—the Frontier People Groups.

Sources on discipling through movements:

tam.oms.training

peopleofyes.com/

obedience.life/resources

www.justobeyjesus.com/

Video example of how Jesus Movements can work:
youtu.be/s-lUraCyByU?t=285s

Day 14 — Jat in Pakistan (JAHT)



Photo: Steve Evans - Flickr CC

Jat people are gifted leaders and protectors. Historically, Jat traditions fostered a martial spirit—at the command of their leaders they would draw the sword to fight invaders. Whenever they lost a kingdom they would retire to the countryside and become landlords, swords still girded round their waists. Today many Jats hold government leadership positions where they influence Pakistani politics.

The Jats in Pakistan have a long Islamic history, converting to Islam as early as the 11th century. The Jats preserve their traditions and rarely marry people from other ethnic groups. Great pride is placed in their ancestry. In fact, all the Jats in a particular village consider themselves to be the descendants of the man whom they believe founded it by the power of the sword.

There are also many Jat people groups in India, including large Hindu and Sikh communities. They are also fairly wealthy and influential in India, and proudly claim equality with the higher castes. Unlike most of the large Frontier People Groups, there are sizable communities of Jat peoples in diaspora communities. The Jat people keep extensive clan lists, maintaining a strong sense of identity across national and religious lines.

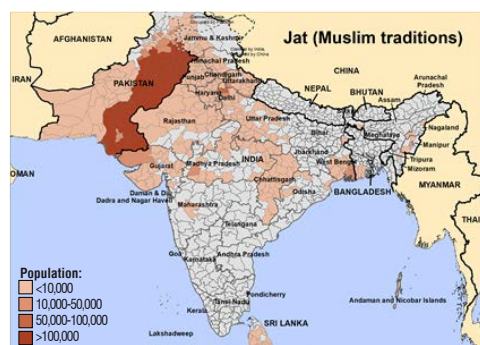
Prayers for the families of the Jat of Pakistan:

Lord, send Your workers to the Jat people; to live out Jesus' teachings, to share in their hardships, and embody hope in the Good News. Lord, raise up Jat families to lead more Jat families to share the Good News of Your Kingdom.

Lord, bless Your Holy Scriptures in the Punjabi language to impact many communities. Provide people who are best suited to convey your Word in an understandable way to those from the Muslim faith. Bless the Jat, that Your Holy Scriptures may be available in the language they use to cry out to You.

Lord, open the hearts of the leaders of the Jat families to receive Your blessing through a movement to Jesus, and to pass Your blessing on to other families and people groups.

Jesus is blessing the Jat to: Take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God, praying in the Spirit on all occasions. (Eph. 6:16-18)



Population: 13,498,000
Religion: Islam
Language: Punjabi, Western
Christians: Less than 0.1% *
Movement: None Reported
Written Scripture: New Testament
Oral Scripture: New Testament
Workers Needed: 270 **

* Per census reports, etc. ** for 1 worker per 50,000

Similar to the Muslim Jats of Pakistan, the Hindu Jat people of India have a history as brave and ready fighters. They are independent in character, value respect and offer heavy resistance against any foreign force who treats them unjustly. Historically, they have been farmers and nomadic herdsman. They are thought to be the original inhabitants of the Punjab area, though at the time they did not have a formal religious identity, instead taking on the religion of the local rulers. The Hindu Jats adhere to the traditional Hindu practices, as well as a wide variety of additional beliefs and practices.

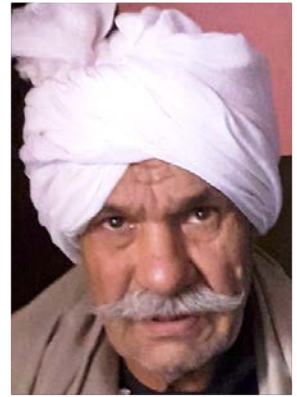


Photo: Anonymous

The Jat peoples in India are majority Hindu, but the Jat people living in the Punjab area also have large numbers which are Muslim (Pakistan) and Sikh (India). They are hardworking people who possess both the desire and ability to rule. Many of India's finest sportsmen have been Jats (leading to the saying, "Jats do it!"). Also large numbers of Jats serve in India's vast armed forces. In the last few decades there have been demands by Jats in some of India's northern states to be classified as OBC (Other Backward Class) so they can claim government benefits.

Prayers for the families of the Jat:

Lord of the harvest, send Your workers who will live out Jesus' teachings in the Jat communities. Bring a strong movement of Jat communities to Jesus that spans the three religions the Jat follow.

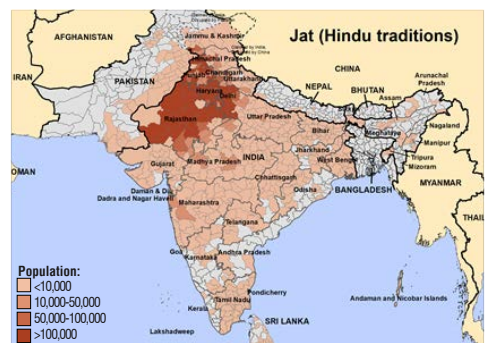
Lord, bless Your Holy Scriptures (in Hindi) to be shared in the Jat homes and along the road in their daily lives. Lord raise up Jat warriors who fight with the sword of Truth and serve with the heart of Jesus.

Lord, give visions and miracles that break the powers of evil so that whole communities can know the riches of healing, forgiveness, compassion and depending on You for their needs.

God's Holy Prayer, given to the Jat: I give You thanks, O LORD, with my whole heart; before the gods I sing Your praise; I bow down toward Your holy temple and give thanks to Your name for Your steadfast love and Your faithfulness, for You have exalted above all things Your Name and Your Word. (Ps. 138:1-2)



Population: 16,163,000
Religion: Hinduism
Language: Hindi
Christians: Less than 0.1% *
Movement: None Reported
Written Scripture: Complete Bible
Oral Scripture: Complete Bible
Workers Needed: 323 **



* Per census reports, etc. ** for 1 worker per 50,000

Day 16 — Yadav in India (YAH-dahv)



Photo: Anonymous

The term 'Yadav' covers many castes which initially had different names; Ahir in the Hindi belt of Punjab and Gujarat, Gavli in Maharashtra, Gola in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka. Their traditional occupation was that of herdsmen, cowherds and milk sellers. Hence they identify closely with their caste deity, Krishna who was from that background. However, most Yadavs today are farmers, mainly engaged in tilling the land, with less than one-third of the population involved in dairy farming.

Yadav have taken up significant roles as businessmen, teachers, doctors, engineers and political leaders; and they are a part of the rising middle class in India. In the past decades, Yadavs have led political parties and governments in the two largest states: Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. However, they have largely remained socially and educationally backward and they are now categorized as Other Backward Class (OBC). In fact, at over 40 million, Yadavs constitute the largest single caste grouping among India's OBC.

The Yadav have expertise in oral traditions and group singing about their gods: Krishna, Vishnu and others. They claim Krishna as their blood ancestor and so are especially devoted to him. For protection from curses the Yadav are also known to put faith in amulets, astrologers and traditional healers. In recent years there are some families and villages of Yadavs moving towards Christ, some led by Yadav followers of Jesus.

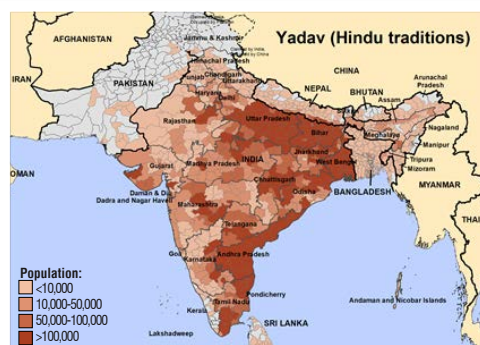
Prayers for the families of the Yadav:

Lord, send believing families who want to live with the Yadav, bless them, learn their ways, respect their history and invite them into discipleship relationships with the teachings of Jesus.

Lord, bless Your Holy Scriptures in their language (more than half are Hindi speakers). Bless the Yadav through stories shared, songs sung, and free audio Bible stories believers bring to study in their homes. Lord, draw the Yadav to those who can share Your Holy Scriptures with them.

Lord, reveal to the Yadav that You care about their history and legacy and that You have a calling for them to lay down their lives and that you want to meet their needs.

God's blessing on the Yadav and all OBCs: The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death, a light has dawned! (Is. 9:2)



Population: 41,186,000
Religion: Hinduism
Language: Hindi
Christians: Less than 0.1% *
Movement: None Reported
Written Scripture: Complete Bible
Oral Scripture: Complete Bible
Workers Needed: 824 **

* Per census reports, etc. ** for 1 worker per 50,000

Ansari in India (ahn-SAH-ree) — Day 17

Most Ansaris still live in villages like their ancestors did. The name Ansari (“helpers”) was given to the residents of Medina who helped the prophet Mohammed. After waves of migrations from the Middle East, the name was adopted by people groups becoming Muslims on the Indian subcontinent.

They have traditionally been weavers and textile sellers, but are now involved in a wide range of small businesses, agriculture and even politics. One Ansari family helped to found the Muslim Jamia Milia Islamia University in Delhi and has tried to stand up for rights of Muslims in the increasingly Hindu environment in India. Other Ansari remain poor, illiterate and could benefit from help in educating their children, learning new jobs skills, and obtaining access to clean water and electricity. Many Ansari now live in cities.



Photo: B.Ganguly - Wikimedia CC

The Ansari people are Sunni Muslims with a mix of folk religion. Because the Ansari are friendly and hospitable, believers can develop friendships and find opportunities to share the Good News. In recent years, teams of believers have begun work in north India among the Ansari and some families have come to know Jesus!

Prayers for the families of the Ansari:

Lord, send Indian followers of Jesus to their Ansari neighbors to share with them Your love and Good News. Give them eyes to see how to bless Ansari families, bringing them healing, forgiveness, and well-being.

Lord, raise up Ansari leaders to study Your Word so they would understand the destiny You have for them and turn to follow Jesus. May the Ansari adults become literate and their children have access to good schools to lift them out of poverty.

Lord bless Your Holy Scriptures in Indian Urdu. Help Ansari believers to be effective and fruitful in sowing Your Word among their families and communities. May Your Spirit give power to a movement that will spread God's blessing of salvation and grace from household to household.

The encouragement and hope from Jesus to the Ansari: "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in Me will never die." (Jn. 11:25-26)



Population: 12,713,000

Religion: Islam

Language: Urdu

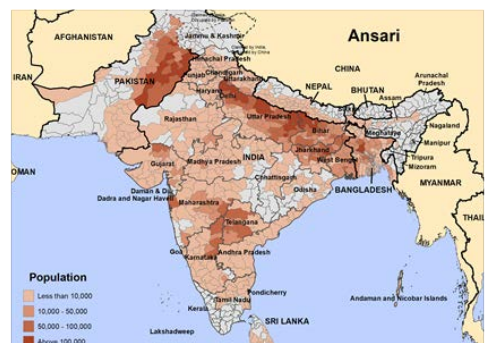
Christians: Less than 0.1% *

Movement: None Reported

Written Scripture: Complete Bible

Oral Scripture: Complete Bible

Workers Needed: 254 **



* Per census reports, etc. ** for 1 worker per 50,000

Day 18 — Kumhar in India (koom-HAR)



Photo: Yann Forget - Wikimedia CC

The Kumhar are tied to ancient Indian culture by creating clay idols, artwork, and pottery for daily use. Their name in Sanskrit means "maker of pots" and some go by the name of the Hindu supreme Creator God, Vishwakarma. Known for their hard work, the Kumhar are a large caste group of Shudra (laborers) that includes many different clans. They are usually classified as Other Backward Class (OBC) though some places classify them as Scheduled Caste (Dalit/outcaste) status.

The Kumhar are more spiritual than the average Indian; very loveable and honest. Like most Indian peoples, the Kumhar are primarily Hindu, worshipping Shiva in addition to a number of local deities, though some are Sikh and speak Punjabi.

With the decreasing demand for clay containers and dishes, it has become much more difficult for the Kumhar to earn enough money to survive. If they cannot find other work, they become more dependent on producing clay idols which tends to be only seasonal work. Education is a challenge for the Kumhar since many of them lead nomadic lives. Children often quit school after a few years to help their parents earn a living working the pottery wheel. Additionally, the Kumhar frequently lack access to modern medicine and clean water.

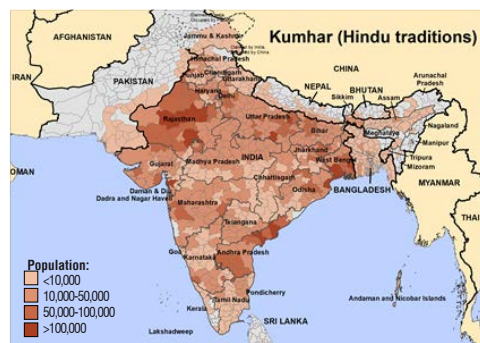
Prayers for the families of the Kumhar:

Lord, send workers who follow Jesus to love the Kumhar and to show them He is the best potter, lovingly planning and shaping our lives. Reveal Your Power as stronger than any idol created by human hands. Bring healing, health and wholeness to their families.

Lord, bless Your Holy Scriptures in the heart language of the Kumhar. Send your Holy Word into their homes, either through stories from guests they invite in or through the free audio on their phones. Send adult literacy trainers to help them learn to read and write without having to attend classes.

Lord, please heal, forgive, and be near to the Kumhar. Give the Kumhar hope for their children. Raise up whole Kumhar families to worship the Creator of the universe and to spread the news of Your love and grace to many families.

The blessing of Jesus upon the Kumhar: For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made His light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ. But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. (2 Cor. 4:6-7)



Population: 18,743,000
Religion: Hinduism
Language: Hindi
Christians: Less than 0.1% *
Movement: None Reported
Written Scripture: Complete Bible
Oral Scripture: Complete Bible
Workers Needed: 375 **

* Per census reports, etc. ** for 1 worker per 50,000

Kurmi in India (kooor-MEE) — Day 19

The Kurmi are the chief agricultural farmers in north India, especially throughout the southeastern regions of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. Though they are highly regarded for their agricultural skills and hard work, most often they are not the land owners. There is a proverb, if you see a field flourishing better than the surrounding fields it will surely be a Kurmi field!



Photo: Anonymous

Due to their history of labor without land ownership, the Kurmi are categorized as Other Backward Class (OBC). This political status provides them many benefits such as quotas in government jobs and reserved seats in medical and engineering colleges. The Kurmi have made good use of these benefits, getting professional and government jobs, making many among them part of India's growing middle class.

The Kurmi worship Hindu gods as well as deities of their family and region such as Hanuman, the monkey god. A small number of Kurmi have identified themselves as Jesus followers, but unfortunately, many Kurmi fear that "Christians" want to win their children away from their families and are therefore resistant to efforts by believers to share the blessings of Jesus with them.

Prayers for the families of the Kurmi:

Lord, give miracles, dreams, visions, and healings to the Kurmi families, showing the power of Jesus to bring salvation. Bless the Kurmi in their work and bless with faithfulness those who hear the call to work in Your field.

Lord, bless Your Holy Scriptures in their language (Hindi). May they hear the stories of Your call for laborers into Your Harvest. Help them to hear the reason Jesus came and to take on the calling for which You have made them.

Lord, raise Kurmi believers to live out Jesus' teachings; to share the Bible in their homes, to train whole families to win other whole families, to turn the hearts of children to their parents and turn the hearts of parents to their children. Give them power to share in the truth of Jesus' salvation.

The blessing of the Lord for the Kurmi: As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is My Word that goes out from My mouth: It will not return to Me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it. (Is. 55:10-11)



Population: 22,664,000

Religion: Hinduism

Language: Hindi

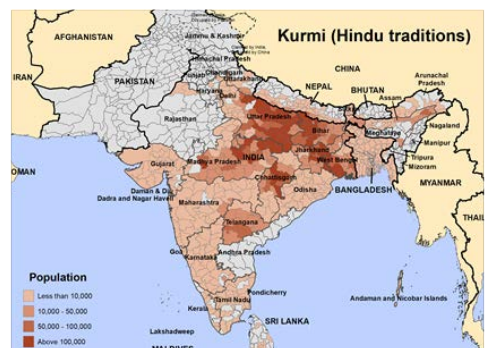
Christians: Less than 0.1%*

Movement: None Reported

Written Scripture: Complete Bible

Oral Scripture: Complete Bible

Workers Needed: 453**



* Per census reports, etc. ** for 1 worker per 50,000

Pray for Bible Access: Hearing God Speak

Having scriptures is crucial: Scripture is the authority for believers in every gospel movement. Even in non-literate cultures, where it is shared through audio recordings or oral storytelling, it is crucial for guiding believers in obedience and doctrine.

Great progress has been made in scripture translation—over 90% of the world's population have at least the New Testament available to them! Among the FPGs in this prayer guide, all 35 have the NT in an "official school language" they can read if they have been educated into their adult years, and all but 4 of these languages have the complete

Scriptures. However, due to speaking a significantly different dialect, low levels of literacy, and poor distribution of inexpensive scriptures, a large percentage of the population of these FPGs don't actually have access to Scripture.

Being primarily oral communicators, oral Scriptures in a FPGs heart language is essential for the gospel to be heard, understood and for heart transformation to occur—27 of these 35 FPGs have a complete oral Bible in their heart language or mother tongue!

Pray for Literacy: A Bridge to Hope

The benefits of literacy are many: Literacy creates opportunities to learn and develop skills that will help people provide for their family, and bring social and economic development to their community. It can benefit health, significantly decrease infant mortality rates and help people gain access to education and government programs. Whole communities can be raised out of poverty by becoming literate in their own language and/or trade languages. And last, but not least, it enables people to read the scriptures.

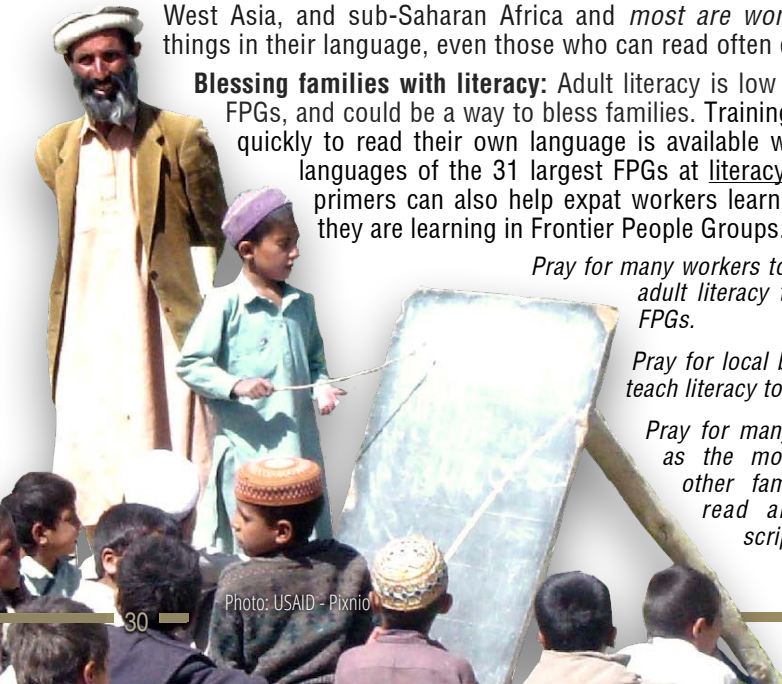
Great progress has been made: Only 12% of the world's people could read in 1820, and now 86% can read. Yet, the poorest people are often the least educated and least literate. Over 75% of the world's 781 million illiterate adults live in South Asia, West Asia, and sub-Saharan Africa and *most are women*. With few written things in their language, even those who can read often don't read well.

Blessing families with literacy: Adult literacy is low in many of the largest FPGs, and could be a way to bless families. Training in how to train adults quickly to read their own language is available with primers for all the languages of the 31 largest FPGs at literacyevangelism.org. These primers can also help expat workers learn to read the languages they are learning in Frontier People Groups.

Pray for many workers to gain the vision of using adult literacy training as a bridge into FPGs.

Pray for local believers to be trained to teach literacy to their own people.

Pray for many families to be blessed as the mothers and fathers, and other family members, learn to read and learn to love the scriptures.



And now, with most of the translation work done, doors can open for other resources to be created in their languages, such as films and videos. For each of the FPGs we have included whether that group has written and oral Scriptures. And for a complete list of Bible translations and resources go to: joshuaproject.net/languages/prs#resources or find.bible/languages/.

Faith comes by hearing God's Word and transformation comes by obeying it.

Pray for translations, audio and oral Bibles and other resources to be completed, particularly among peoples who are non-literate or oral communicators within each of the FPGs. Pray God's Word and other resources to be made known and acquired by those seeking them. Pray for each person to find the Word of God in their own heart language and to understand and apply it.

Pray for God's Word to spread rapidly and be honored by all. Pray for many to base their lives on Jesus and his Word, being obedient doers, not forgetful hearers. Ask God to exalt his Word among every Frontier People Group through having modern language Scriptures they can understand by reading and/or listening by 2025 (2 Th. 3:1; Eph. 4:16).

Pray to Bless Families: Fulfilling God's Covenant

In Gen. 12:3b, God wrote: "In you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." Since creating Adam and Eve, giving the Abrahamic Covenant, and up to today, God hasn't changed His global plan to redeem the families of the earth. For thousands of years He has remembered and fulfilled His covenant of love and blessings both into AND through extended families. And His loving kindness is new every morning. This is how we know what True Love is, by looking at the God who truly is Love. Jesus said that loving God and those near us sums up all the law and the prophets.

Love sounds so beautiful... until life hits with what it actually requires! Love always involves pain and sacrifice. His love for us sent Jesus to the cross. For His love to thrive within our own family, unending sacrifice is required for us too, as well as daily repentance, forgiveness and choosing grace when those nearest to us don't deserve it! We all fail at times, even when we have Jesus empowering us.

Think about how difficult love and forgiveness is for new Jesus followers in a Frontier People Group with no history of Jesus' sacrificial example! FPG families can easily mistake a new believer's faith as a betrayal of their heritage. Jesus movements wither when new believers neglect their families. The Apostle Paul said that a healthy family was required for anyone given ministry responsibilities.

So, as we "beg the Lord of the harvest to send workers" with His great Good News to our future brothers and sisters in FPGs, ask God to fill them with His deep love for whole families, not just individuals. Pray that "Jesus families" will thrive and multiply into healing movements, growing like a mustard seed until His love rules over their community and beyond. God's plan is still the same!

Photo: Arian Zwegers - Flickr CC



Day 20 — Mali in India (MAH-lee)



Photo: © 2022 Matt Hahnwald - Shutterstock

The Mali (meaning “gardener”) is a caste of horticulturalists known for growing vegetables, flowers, and small crops of spices. In terms of caste, they rank below grain farmers despite both groups being Shudra (laborers) and classified as Other Backward Class (OBC). Many Malis live in towns and keep their gardens and farms on the outskirts. They have been pioneers in using irrigation to grow cash crops such as sugar cane and have established hundreds of farmer-owned sugar mills throughout India. However, seasonal workers on sugarcane plantations are often treated very poorly and suffer health problems due to pesticide exposure.

The great 19th century Indian social reformer, Mahatma Jotirao Phule was Mali. Influenced by his education at a Scottish mission school and the examples of Thomas Paine and Abraham Lincoln, Phule led a movement to emancipate all the “lower” castes. In 1848, Mahatma and his wife Savitribai, were the first non-missionary Indians to launch schools for girls and Dalits.

The vast majority of Mali are Hindu, though some are Muslim. Devi is their principal deity; she is a goddess that incites fear among her followers and requires appeasement through offerings and animal sacrifices. Ancestor worship is also practiced and like most Hindus, astrology is important to them.

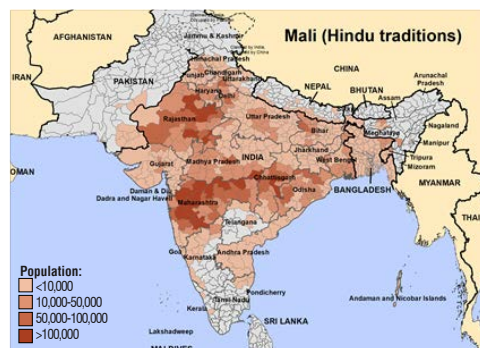
Prayers for the families of the Mali:

Lord, send believing families willing to live among the Mali and show them Your love, so that they can see Your willingness to dwell with them. Lord raise up their leaders to put aside all other gods to follow You, the Savior of all peoples.

Lord bless Your Holy Scriptures to be spoken in Mali homes and the fields where they work. Help the Mali hear Your parables about gardening and growing. Show them what following Jesus has done in other communities in lifting them out of poverty and hopelessness.

Lord, heal, forgive, speak Your Word and wisdom into their communities. Lord bless their crops and the work of their hands for Your Glory.

The Good News of Jesus for our Mali brothers and sisters: The righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear. The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy we



Population: 12,552,000
Religion: Hinduism
Language: Hindi
Christians: Less than 0.1% *
Movement: None Reported
Written Scripture: Complete Bible
Oral Scripture: Complete Bible
Workers Needed: 251 **

* Per census reports, etc. ** for 1 worker per 50,000

Rajput in India (RAHJ-put) — Day 21

Rajput in Sanskrit means, 'son of a ruler' or 'prince'. These warrior-kings have kept careful track of their royal lineages and the clans descended from them.

Predominant in the "royal state" of Rajasthan, the Rajput dynasties that once ruled are still known and their clans are still identifiable. They ruled for centuries even through the Mughal and British empires.

In 1970, India abolished their titles and property rights. They claimed Kshatriya caste status (the warrior caste below the Brahmins) and still hold a privileged position as Forward Caste Hindus, but have lost much of their wealth and power. Their palaces still stand today, some converted into luxurious hotels and some as museums.

Typically, Rajputs worship Shiva (the destroyer), Surya (the sun god), and Durga (the mother goddess). They have patron gods they turn to for protection and seek Hindu gurus for spiritual answers. There are Scriptures and many other teaching materials in print, audio, and video available in Hindi, the primary language of Rajputs, but their "superior" caste status and isolation cuts them off from hearing the Good News.

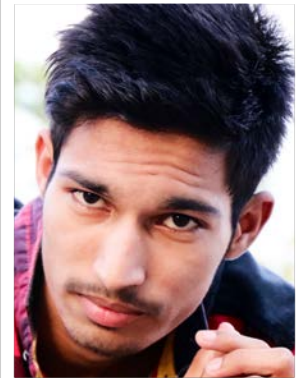


Photo: Dharmen Rajput - Piqsels

Prayers for the families of the Rajputs:

Lord, send families who follow Jesus among them. Show them what it means to follow Jesus, worshiping the King of Kings, freed from the power of sin and receiving the honor that comes from being a child of the living God. Lord, give the Rajput their inheritance to be Your children.

Lord, bless Your Holy Scriptures to be spoken in Rajput homes by guests in their home or through the many apps and resources that have been made in Hindi. May they hear Your Words and know this truth is not just for the lower castes, but for them as well.

Lord raise up whole communities coming to Jesus through disciple-making movements, where the families are marked by their willingness to share Your Holy Scriptures widely and work with families who seek Your righteousness and Your kingdom first.

Pray the blessing of fellowship with Jesus for our Rajput brothers and sisters: Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with Me. (Rev. 3:20)



Population: 27,712,000

Religion: Hinduism

Language: Hindi

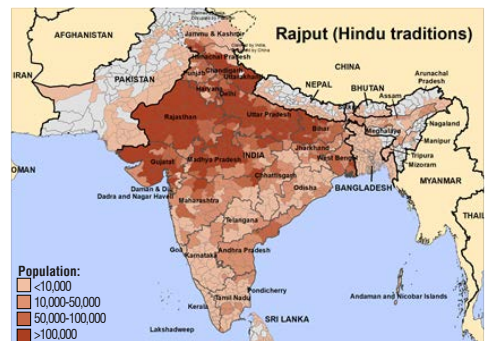
Christians: Less than 0.1%*

Movement: None Reported

Written Scripture: Complete Bible

Oral Scripture: Complete Bible

Workers Needed: 554**



* Per census reports, etc. ** for 1 worker per 50,000

Day 22 — Northern Uzbek in Uzbekistan (OOZ-bek)



Photo: USAID - Pixnio

The Uzbek people are a combination of Turkic and Persian peoples, with the Northern Uzbek language being more Turkish.

During the Soviet period the educational system achieved 99% literacy for both men and women. The Northern Uzbek language has a complicated history, and is currently written in three different alphabets (Cyrillic, Roman and Persian). The full Northern Uzbek Bible (2013) is available in the Cyrillic script and in an audio form.

The Uzbek cities of Bukhara and Samarkand have an amazing history as centers of arts and science, and beautiful buildings. Families are usually large with several generations living under the same roof, with the eldest male member having the final say in most matters. Nuclear families are more common in urban areas.

Most Uzbeks are Sunni Muslims, though folk beliefs are mingled with their Islamic practices. Many of the younger generation are atheists or non-religious due to years under communism. Recently, Islamic fundamentalists have begun calling for stricter adherence to Islamic law.

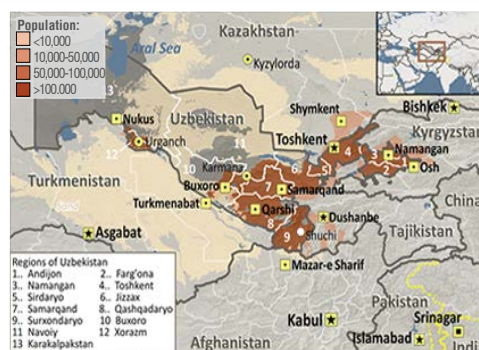
Pray for the Northern Uzbek families:

Lord, send long term laborers to live among the Uzbeks and to show them Your great love for them. Help them to recognize the truth of who You are and build a foundation on Jesus. Bless families of peace so that they open their homes and seek Your way and righteousness.

Lord, help the leaders of the Uzbek to govern wisely and to give freedom of religion to the people. Help them not to be afraid of influences coming into their country, but have discernment. Replace suspicion and fear with trust in You and love for neighbors. Give the country peace and fulfill the needs of their families.

Lord, open the hearts of many Uzbek families to the Scriptures and Jesus, so that the Good News spreads throughout the land. Send Your Holy Spirit to help them read and understand Your Word and to find healing in Jesus. Raise up strong local disciple-making households, unify Uzbek believers, and start Jesus movements within their families.

Proclaim God's blessing in and through Uzbek families who love Him: All the families on earth will be blessed through you. (Gen. 12:3)



Population: 28,516,000
Religion: Islam
Language: Uzbek, Northern
Christians: Less than 0.1% *
Movement: None Reported
Written Scripture: Complete Bible
Oral Scripture: Complete Bible
Workers Needed: 570 **

* Per census reports, etc. ** for 1 worker per 50,000

Dhobis can be found in almost every state of India. The largest number of them live in the largest state of Uttar Pradesh (UP). There, as in most other states, they are classified as Scheduled Castes (Dalits or outcastes). However, in a few states like Maharashtra and Andhra they are classified as Other Backward Class (OBC). There are many clans with their own clan names in this caste.

Traditionally, the Dhobi people did people's laundry, washing clothing and pressing it, with irons filled with hot coals. Most Dhobis still do laundry and iron clothing in street-side stalls in residential areas. Dhobis are now beginning to own their own businesses or work in government jobs.

Most Dhobis follow popular Hinduism: worshipping the major gods and local gods. As well, they worship their traditional washing or "flogging" stones, believing these stones hold a spiritual force that will help them in practical ways.



Photo: Juda M - Pixabay CC

Prayers for the families of the Dhobi:

Lord, give miracles, signs, wonders and healing in Jesus. Bless whole families and communities of Dhobi. May they see Jesus followers reach out to them and love them.

Lord, wash away the sin in the lives of the Dhobi leaders. Lord, draw the Dhobi leaders to Your Purity and Your Holiness. Send them ways to listen to Your Scriptures and share them with their families.

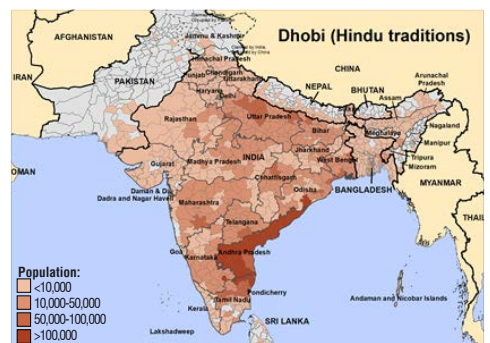
Lord, send Your overflowing love and grace to the Dhobi communities. Open doors for the Dhobi to learn to read Your Holy Scriptures and give them job opportunities allowing them to stay within their communities.

The Dhobi Blessing as Children of God: God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created them; male and female He created them, (and) God blessed them. (Gen. 1:26-27) **To the Dhobi Jesus proclaims:** I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with loving-kindness. (Jer. 31:3)



Population: 12,673,000
Religion: Hinduism
Language: Hindi
Christians: Less than 0.1% *
Movement: None Reported
Written Scripture: Complete Bible
Oral Scripture: Complete Bible
Workers Needed: 253 **

* Per census reports, etc. ** for 1 worker per 50,000



Day 24 — Teli in India (TEL-ee)



Photo: Anonymous

Once doing the hard job of pressing and extracting oil (tel) by hand, a process now done by machine, the Teli have had to turn to farming or raising animals. Many have expanded their small oil shops into small food stores in the villages. In some states like Bihar, they are popularly known as “Banias” (merchants) though they are of Shudra (laborers) lineage. They are officially classified as OBC (Other Backward Class), because they own no land and are not well educated. The current Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi, is from the Ganchi caste in Gujarat, who were also traditionally oil extractors.

The Teli are slowly changing occupations in modern India, becoming businessmen, managers, metal workers, cart pullers, and common laborers. They are not usually poor, but they do need better access to higher education and good job opportunities.

The Teli are mainly Hindus who also worship their ancestors and seek protection from evil spirits. Their worship is transactional, making offerings to gods who they hope will fulfill their wishes.

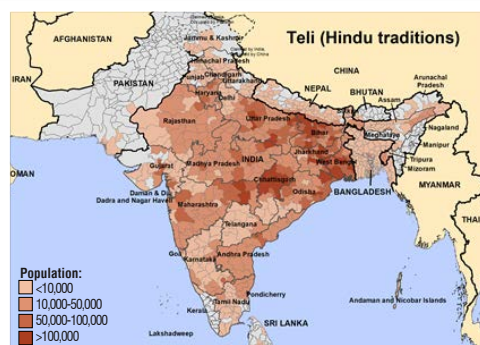
Prayers for the families of the Teli:

Lord, send believing families to live among them who see their purpose in this life is to die to themselves and live for Jesus. May they bless the Teli families and make Jesus known to them.

Lord, bless Your Holy Scriptures to be spoken in Teli homes and through the apps of their phones. May they listen to Your Word in their shops, and share what they learn with customers.

Lord, bring healing to the Teli families and to their bodies. May they seek to live without corruption and depend on You. Lord, may we see Jesus movements spreading rapidly among Teli families from state to state.

Proclaim wellsprings of the Holy Spirit for the Teli: Those who drink the water I give will never be thirsty again. It becomes a fresh, bubbling spring within them, giving them eternal life. (Jn. 4:14)



Population: 22,446,000
Religion: Hinduism
Language: Hindi
Christians: Less than 0.1% *
Movement: None Reported
Written Scripture: Complete Bible
Oral Scripture: Complete Bible
Workers Needed: 449 **

* Per census reports, etc. ** for 1 worker per 50,000

The Kapu caste are a significant part of the south Indian state of Andhra Pradesh. They make up 1/4th of the population of the state.

In the Telugu language, Kapu means “cultivator” and they are still mostly an agricultural community. However, the Kapu took on military roles when various regional wars arose. They are traditional Hindus.

The Kapu of the prosperous coastal districts of East and West Godavari are classified as Forward Caste; however, their poorer, rural Kapu cousins in some other districts are classified as OBC (Other Backward Class). Some are still fighting for their rights as OBC to qualify for government affirmative action. The Kapu have been forced to organize agricultural unions to protect their way of life. They need opportunities for education and job training that can improve their economic opportunities as well as access to modern medicine, electricity and clean water.



Photo: Anonymous

Prayers for the families of the Kapu:

Lord, show those who follow Jesus in Andhra Pradesh how to best love and bless the Kapu, so the Kapu know that You love their families too.

Lord, bless the Kapu as they have had considerable clashes with the surrounding politics and business interests against them. Bless the families of the Kapu with healing and peace when they pray in Jesus' name. Show the Kapu families that You can help them and their crops more than their traditional gods or spirits.

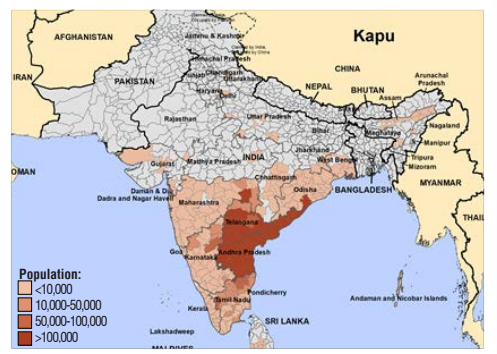
Lord, bless Your Holy Scriptures in their own language, Telugu. May Your parables about planting and reaping make Your Kingdom understood in the hearts and minds of the Kapu. Lord, heal, forgive, and set the Kapu families free.

Praise God for His blessing upon the Kapu: I will refine them like silver and test them like gold. They will call on My name and I will answer them; I will say, 'They are My people,' and they will say, 'The LORD is our God. (Zech. 13:9)



Population: 14,045,000
Religion: Hinduism
Language: Telugu
Christians: Less than 0.1% *
Movement: None Reported
Written Scripture: Complete Bible
Oral Scripture: Complete Bible
Workers Needed: 281 **

* Per census reports, etc. ** for 1 worker per 50,000



Pray for Prayer Movements

From Pentecost to the present day, the story of Jesus movements has been the story of answered prayer. Every fresh outbreak of pioneering ministry has been the result of believing prayer. Every new cross-cultural effort that has been fruitful and blessed of God has been the germination of seeds planted by the divine Spirit in the hearts of praying saints.—Robert Glover

In Ps. 2:8, the Lord invites us: “Ask of me and I will make the peoples your inheritance and the ends of the earth your possession.” All we can take with us into eternity as our inheritance are other people, people who become part of God’s eternal family. Just as for the Apostle Paul, our joy and crown will be those who come to Christ through our efforts.

Throughout history, the fruitfulness of God’s people in discipling and blessing nations has been tied directly to informed prayer. Until God intervenes, nearly every individual among these FPGs will live and die without ever knowing a believer or being prayed for by name. See the Frontier Peoples as Jesus sees them—look at their faces, look into their eyes and join in Jesus’ love for them. Jesus loved each of them enough to die for them. So implore Him to mobilize His children to bless those who are hurting or have never heard of His saving grace.

Pray that the Holy Spirit would pour out His blessing on the global disciples and frontier peoples, drawing many to Jesus. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide your prayers, and ask Father God to give you the desperate urgency in prayer for these precious people that you would have if your own mother or father, son or daughter were in peril.

Pray for Mobilization Movements

The highest priority in cross-cultural ministry today is global mobilization. Many of God’s people are asleep to the needs of FPGs and must be awakened to God’s desire to bless these two billion people who have not yet had opportunity to follow Jesus. From Genesis to Revelation, God’s unchanging purpose is to bless all the peoples through Jesus (Heb. 6:17), and it is our privilege to work with Him to reach all the nations.

Pray for the Holy Spirit to awaken every believer to recognize that the time is short, and to fully seek first God’s Kingdom and his righteousness (Rom. 13:11-14; Lk. 19:13; Ps. 90:12).

Pray that every follower of Jesus BE a disciple who fully obeys Jesus in loving God, loving others and making disciples that make disciples (Acts 1:8; Mt. 22:37, 28:18-20; Prov. 11:30).

Pray that believers see the hearts of those the Holy Spirit has prepared to hear and that they share in a way that can be understood and responded to (Jn. 4:36, 6:44; 2 Tim. 4:2).

Pray for many workers to be sent out to every place that Jesus is sending His Spirit, to find households of peace that will become the seeds of believing communities in their towns or cities. (Lk. 10)

Pray for every FPG—every last tongue, tribe and nation—to be adopted for prayer and outreach. Then pray for Jesus’ movements to spread in those FPGs, until there is no place left without gospel witness (Mt. 9:37-38; 2 Cor. 10:16; 2 Pet. 3:9; Rev. 7:9).

Pray for Christ’s Body to recognize our calling—to pursue his Kingdom and His will being done, and to work together in the unity of the Spirit, with the bond of peace, for his glory among ALL the nations (Mt. 6:10; Eph. 4:3; Mt. 12:22-26).

Pray for Laborers & Resources

In the parable of the Lost Sheep the shepherd leaves the 99 sheep to seek out the one that is lost. He uses all his resources to find the lost one. But the global church does the opposite! The vast majority of Christian resources are used to tend the flock and little is used to seek the lost. Over 95% of all missionaries work among Reached People Groups. And, less than two cents of every dollar given specifically for global foreign missions goes toward reaching Unreached People Groups.


Pray for these least-reached peoples, especially the FPGs, to come to the attention of believers worldwide. Lift them up in prayer before the throne of God.

Ask God to stir the hearts of laborers and empower them to go where they are needed most.

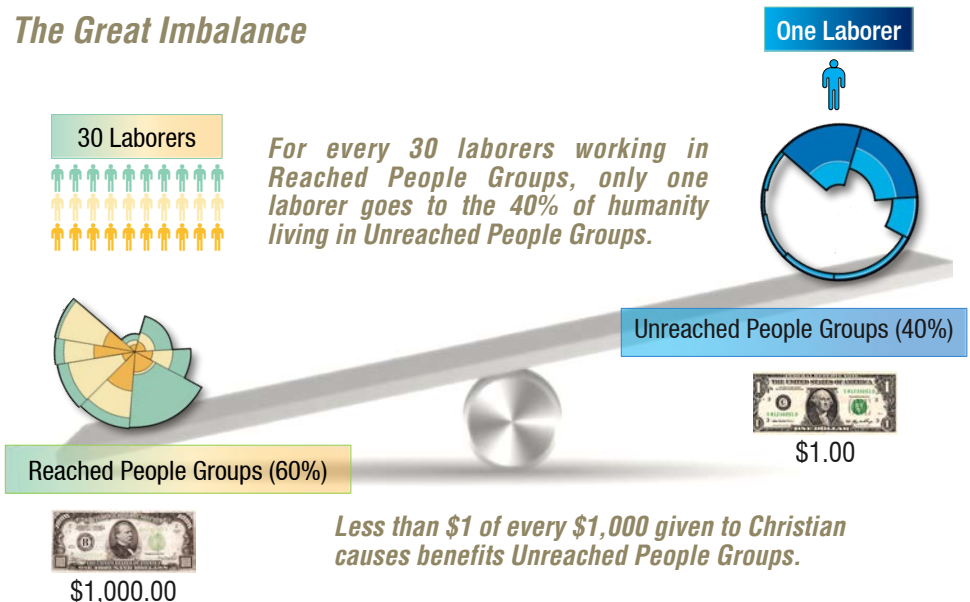
Pray for believers to give generously towards making the Good News available to all. Pray for the Holy Spirit to convict the global church to recognize and act to remedy this injustice of laborers and resources, hastening God's blessing to all nations.

Pray for the needs of Frontier People Groups with virtually no followers of Jesus living among them as their needs are even greater than the Unreached People Groups.

The Great Injustice

	25% of the World (FPGs)	Remaining 75% of the World
Population	2 Billion	6 Billion
People Groups	5,000	12,400
Jesus Followers/ Evangelicals	0.01% (100K)	99.99% (1 Billion)
Harvest Laborers	1% (4,500)	99% (445K)
Non-Believers per Laborer	450,000	7,500
Gospel Impact vs. Population Growth	Losing Ground	Gaining Ground

The Great Imbalance



Day 26 — Kunbi in India (koon-BEE)



Photo: Nabalyoti - Wikimedia

Kunbi, meaning farmer, is the name and main occupation of this people group. They are hard workers who live a simple life. From the Shudra (laborers) lineage, most of them are classified as OBC (Other Backward Class) across the states of western and central India. They account for around a third of the people in Maharashtra.

Many efforts have been made to improve the social and economic status of the Kunbi. They are increasingly making use of the government educational opportunities available to them as OBC. Some families in Kunbi villages near the major metropolitan

areas like Pune seek affordable English-medium schooling for their children; admission to Christian-run schools is highly esteemed.

The Kunbi are religious minded and a god-fearing people; this fact is highlighted in their various customs and worship of Hindu gods and goddesses. The Kunbi fear Christianity's many associations with Western culture, so it would be wonderful for them to meet Jesus followers who reflect His holiness and love so they can embrace the Good News.

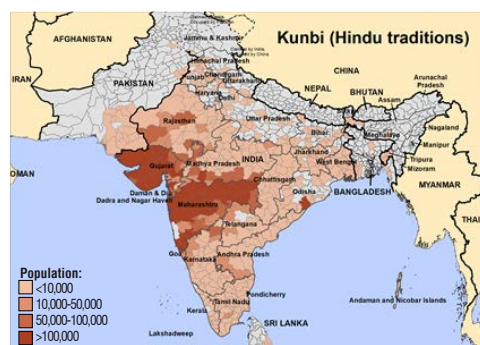
Prayers for the families of the Kunbi:

Lord, send families following Jesus to live among the Kunbi who will show them the love of Jesus, bless them and learn their ways.

Lord, bless Your Holy Scriptures in their language (Hindi) to be spoken in the Kunbi homes and in the fields where they work. Open their hearts to understand the stories of Jesus are relevant to them and not foreign stories. Lord, speak to the Kunbi leaders, forgive their sins, heal and bless their families and land.

Lord, raise up Kunbi leaders who fear You. Fill them with Your Spirit so they can speak wisdom, overcome evil, pray in power to cast out demons and restore broken relationships. Lord, spark a movement of Kunbi to follow Jesus and learn all He taught.

Bless the Kunbi to embrace Jesus' invitation: Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. (Mt. 11:28-29)



Population: 15,725,000
Religion: Hinduism
Language: Gujarati
Christians: Less than 0.1%*
Movement: None Reported
Written Scripture: Complete Bible
Oral Scripture: Complete Bible
Workers Needed: 315**

* Per census reports, etc. ** for 1 worker per 50,000

Sylhet Muslim in Bangladesh (SIH-let) — Day 27

The Sylheti in Bangladesh are Sunni Muslims (Hanafi and Sufi). Their religious practices vary from being conservatively Muslim to Sufism (an Islamic mysticism characterized by a focus on Islamic purification, spirituality, ritualism, asceticism and esotericism), and even mixing in some Hindu forms of worship.

Sylhet has been regarded as the spiritual and cultural center of the country, and often termed as the agricultural capital of Bangladesh. According to the World Bank, Sylhet has one of the lowest incidence of poverty in Bangladesh. With its vast natural resources and major infrastructural developments, it's projected to be in the forefront of Bangladesh's economic growth. Billions in currency remittances from the Sylheti diaspora working in the UK, USA, Middle East and elsewhere is one of the biggest sources behind its economic growth, alongside its natural gas, tea plantations and fisheries.

Many extremists of ISIS of Bangladesh origin are from Sylhet; the reason may be conservatism, Salafism, pro-Pakistani sentiments or anti-Bengali sentiments. The Sylheti province in Bangladesh borders some of the most Christian areas of India and tribal lands to the east of Bangladesh.

Bengali is their trade language, but Scripture portions, the JESUS Film, and audio resources exist in the Sylheti language. Many Sylhetis have grown up with stories communicating Islamic and other cultural ideals so they have a rich background in storytelling, but they lacked the one story that matters most.

Prayers for the families of the Sylheti:

Lord, speak to the Sylheti in dreams and visions, pointing them in the direction of believers, scriptures and other means to encourage them in their journey to Christ. Lord, help them see Jesus working among them and leading them to "worship in Spirit and Truth." (Jn. 4:24)

Lord, encourage Sylheti believers dispersed throughout the nations to communicate stories about the kingdom of God and His love to their families in Bangladesh. Lord, help them recognize their spiritual needs and come to Christ for the riches of his forgiveness.

Lord, encourage believing families in faith in Jesus, to study Your Word, hear Your voice and obey. Lord, raise up a solid group of spiritual leaders for the Sylheti people, blessing their service with multiplying disciple-making movements developing and spreading among and beyond all the Sylheti people.

Lord, bring diaspora Sylhet-believers and believers from nearby India to share the Gospel with Sylhet Muslims.

God's blessing for the Sylheti: A time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth, for the Father is seeking such as these to worship Him. (Jn. 4:23)



Photo: Adam Jones-CC by 2.0

Population: 12,350,000

Religion: Islam

Language: Sylheti

Christians: Less than 0.1% *

Movement: None Reported

Written Scripture: New Testament

Oral Scripture: None

Workers Needed: 247 **



* Per census reports, etc. ** for 1 worker per 50,000

Day 28 — Najdi Arabs in Saudi Arabia (nahj-DEE)



Rep.Photo: © 2022 Sam Nord - Shutterstock

Arabs who speak the Najdi dialect live in the large central plateau of Saudi Arabia, and have been led by their royal family, the Al Saud dynasty, since 1744. However, the whole peninsula was loosely controlled from 1517 to 1918 by the Ottoman Turks until they sided with Germany in WW1 and subsequently lost their empire. Then the Saudi king fought the Arabs of the Red Sea and Mecca/Medina area, who speak the Hejazi dialect, finally conquering them in 1932, forming the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Riyadh, the capital of Saudi Arabia, is in the Najdi area with seven million people, a third of whom are not Saudis but expat workers. Slavery was abolished in 1961, but many former enslaved people remained in Saudi Arabia.

The public practice of any religion other than Islam (including Christianity and Judaism), is not allowed. Saudi Arabia requires their citizens to be Sunni Muslims. Thousands of people flock to Mecca on pilgrimages each year to seek God's forgiveness and blessing.

Prayers for the families of the Najdi-speaking Arabs:

Lord, lead the Najdi-speaking Arab families to know You, the One True God. Show them the path to You though the Messiah You sent, Isa (Jesus). Allow Your love and light to shine through followers of Jesus who have come from other countries to work in Riyadh and serve their families.

Lord, bless and protect the Muslim families, taking away any fears they have of studying Your Word. Help them grow in understanding Your Word and sharing in their families and communities. Forgive and heal them in the name of Jesus.

Lord, produce the fruit of Your Spirit in those who follow Jesus: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness and self-control. May their joy and righteousness show clearly the reality of the forgiveness and cleansing from sin found in Jesus.

God's blessing on the Najdi-speaking families: See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland. (Is. 43:19)



Population: 14,668,000
Religion: Islam
Language: Arabic (Najdi Spoken)
Christians: Less than 0.1% *
Movement: None Reported
Written Scripture: Portions
Oral Scripture: Portions
Workers Needed: 293 **

* Per census reports, etc. ** for 1 worker per 50,000

Turkey has long been the crossroads of civilizations and was the first area where the Good News was welcomed by Greeks and Armenians. It was a leading Christian area for 1,000 years. Muslim Turkic peoples from Central Asia migrated into Turkey in the 11th century, interposing Islam, intermarrying and eventually taking Constantinople in 1453 (now Istanbul).

Today Turkey is the only secular republic with a majority Muslim population. Turkish law is not based on Islamic law, but European republic legal systems. Turkey's people are mostly educated, modern, and materialistic. They enjoy productive agriculture and a great climate. Minority peoples like Christian Armenians and Muslim Kurds are not always treated well. Many Turks also live in Germany and other countries.



Photo: Garry Knight

The prophets of Judaism and Christianity are generally respected by Turks who desire to be accepted by modern Europe. However, memories of wars with Christians result in the people of Turkey remaining strong Muslims despite continuous exposure to Christian witness and to various translations of Scripture into Turkish.

Prayers for the families of the Turks:

Lord, touch the hearts of Turkish families to understand that Jesus is for them too, not just for their age-old enemies the Christians. Help true Jesus followers in Turkey to love the Turks as their brothers and sisters, blessing them in His Name.

Lord, send out Your Scriptures in the Turkish language in ways that the Muslims will hear it as coming to them from You, the One True God. Open their hearts and minds with Your Spirit to understand Your Word and who Jesus really is.

Lord, bless Turkish families who know and follow Jesus whether they live in Turkey, in the Turkish diaspora in Europe or elsewhere. Protect them from persecution and give them courage. Protect believers in the minority groups like the Kurds and Armenians as well.

Proclaim God's love for Turks: praying they may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. (1 Tim. 2:1-2)



Population: 61,482,000

Religion: Islam

Language: Turkish

Christians: Less than 0.1%*

Movement: None Reported

Written Scripture: Complete Bible

Oral Scripture: Complete Bible

Workers Needed: 1,230**

* Per census reports, etc. ** for 1 worker per 50,000



Day 30 — Moroccan Arabs in Morocco (moh-RAH-kuhn)



Photo: Hamza Nousaria-Unsplash

The Moroccan Arabs are descendants of the Middle Eastern Muslim Arabs who invaded in the 7th century. Many intermarried with the native Berber tribes of Morocco who became devout Muslims and remain 30-50% of the population of Morocco, retaining their own languages. However, the Arabs dominate Moroccan politics and industry, and farming in the lowlands, growing fruit, vegetables, olives and grains, leaving the mountainous regions to the Berbers. The Moroccan Royal Family is Arab, and one of the oldest Muslim Universities in the world is in Fes, Morocco.

Morocco has the longest unbroken treaty with America of any nation (since 1786) and America backed Morocco's independence from colonial French and Spanish powers in the 1950's. It is more liberal than most Muslim countries and has a large tourist industry. The current king since 1999, Mohammed IV, proposed a reformed constitution, which was accepted in a landslide vote in 2011.

Moroccan Arabs are Sunni Muslims, with anti-conversion laws. Other peoples are allowed to practice their religions openly but not distribute literature. Moroccan Arabic (Darija) is the official spoken language; it is significantly different from modern Arabic which is used predominantly in reading and writing. There is a new testament in Darija (MSTD, 2012), but people are not used to reading in their own dialect.

Prayers for the families of the Moroccan Arabs:

Lord, thank you for putting Your love for the Moroccan Arabs into many families who have come to Morocco over the centuries to tell them about Jesus. Help all those seeds of faith to grow. Lead Moroccan families who want to know You and hear Your voice to seek that in Your Word and in Jesus.

Lord, give the leaders of Morocco and the royal family wisdom to govern the country well. Help them to seek You for guidance and to allow freedom of faith for their people. Show them that those who love Jesus are a great blessing to the country, and their families and communities.

Lord, give Moroccan families who have met Jesus boldness to share Your Word and the love of Jesus with their friends and families. Help Jesus families bring your blessing to their whole community and multiply strong local Jesus fellowships among the Moroccan Arabs and the Berbers.

Pray blessing on Moroccan Arabs to hear God's call: I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with lovingkindness. (Jer. 31:3)



Population: 24,511,000
Religion: Islam
Language: Arabic (Moroccan Spoken)
Christians: Less than 0.1%*
Movement: None Reported
Written Scripture: New Testament
Oral Scripture: New Testament
Workers Needed: 490**

* Per census reports, etc. ** for 1 worker per 50,000

Malay in Malaysia (muh-LAY) — Day 31

The Malay people accepted Islam when Arabic and Indian traders brought it to Malaysia between the 13th and 16th centuries, although their practices include some folk Islam. The Malay are the majority people in Malaysia, Brunei, and Singapore. In Malaysia, people are classified as Malay if they speak Bahasa Malaysia, practice Malay customs, and are Muslims. Besides Malays, about 11% of the population is traditionally Christian, mostly of Chinese origin, pre-Islamic conversions, and Indian immigrants. Malay Bibles must be stamped “not for Muslims” and conversion from Islam is not allowed.



Photo: © 2022 F. Zaki - Shutterstock

Many Malay people are educated urban businesspeople, while others are farmers, traders or fishermen in rural areas. Malay students have many opportunities to start businesses. The Malay people are internationally known for beautiful art forms such as: wood carvings, metal figurines, pottery, dances, poetry and clothing.

Malay families are closely connected. Three generations often live together in one household. They join with relatives for many “Kendura” (celebrations) and help each other in multiple ways. However, technology paired with the desire for material prosperity are diluting traditional values.

Prayers for the families of the Malay:

Lord, send families that follow Jesus and His teachings together to live among the Malay people. Help them show honor, forgiveness and the love of Jesus to one another and to Malay families. Bring Godly businessmen into their communities who are following Jesus as part of daily life, not just a religion.

Lord, use the Scriptures in their own Bahasa language to reveal Your love to the Malay families. Heal their bodies and answer their prayers through Jesus. Thank You that Scriptures in three Bahasa Malaysian dialects are available in written, audio and children’s versions on the internet and through phone apps (like YouVersion).

Lord, heal and strengthen Malay families, turning their hearts toward You and each other. Give them the power to share Your loving care, forgiveness, and Good News with their relatives, neighbors and the poor. God, please raise up a new generation of Malays to bring Your Word and blessing to other people groups too!

God’s blessing for the Malays: I waited patiently for the LORD; he turned to me and heard my cry. He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God. Many will see and fear and put their trust in the LORD. (Ps. 40:1,3)



Population: 13,951,000

Religion: Islam

Language: Malay

Christians: Less than 0.1% *

Movement: None Reported

Written Scripture: Complete Bible

Oral Scripture: Complete Bible

Workers Needed: 279 **



* Per census reports, etc. ** for 1 worker per 50,000

Pray for the Poor: Addressing Root Problems

Causes of poverty are quite complex and attempts at development often fail. A 2021 United Nations report showed that poverty levels vary immensely between different ethnic groups in a country. For instance, in India five out of six poor people were from lower tribes or castes. Poverty levels are assessed based on health, education, housing, clean water and other standards of living. (hdr.undp.org/en/2021-MPI, stratus.earth)

Pray that the Lord would give wisdom to workers among the poor, giving them insight into root problems and long-term solutions. Pray that the poor will experience God's great love for their families through workers.

Great progress has been made with the arrival of electricity, transportation, cell phones, and help with water supply and health. In just the last twenty years more than a billion people left the most impoverished living conditions behind, and the number of people living on more than 10 dollars per day has increased by 900 million. (iresearch.worldbank.org/PovcalNet/povDuplicateWB.aspx)

But, even though extreme poverty has decreased, many people still go hungry, suffer from poor health, lack education and live in substandard conditions, and the Covid lockdowns have made things worse. Eighty-five percent of the world lives on less than \$30 per day, two-thirds live on less than \$10 per day, and 10% live on less than \$1.90 per day. (ourworldindata.org/extreme-poverty_urgentneeds.org/)

Drug addiction results in poverty and sex trafficking as addicted families try to survive. Many people in FPGs struggle with addiction to alcohol or drugs, consuming the few resources of the poor people. Women in the slums of N. Africa and India both said “alcohol is our worst problem.” Under Western dominance Afghanistan produced over 90% of the world's illegal heroin, with an addiction rate of 8% in their own population; also high in nearby Iran. Since the Taliban took over in August of 2021, they have denounced the “narco-state,” banned opium growing and set up rehab clinics for adults and children, as the Qur'an bans intoxicating substance use.

Pray that believers and godly organizations will show Jesus' love for addicted people by helping free them from drugs and helping them find other sources of income to replace drug trade and trafficking. Pray that believers can help families find other forms of employment that bless their families and communities.



Photo: Sonam Prajapati from Pixabay

Encourage Youth and Children to Pray!

The disciples shooed away children to prevent them from “bothering” Jesus, but Jesus viewed the children worthy of His time and told His disciples that children have a gift in the way they receive the kingdom of God, He said:

***“Let the children come to me. Don't stop them!
For the Kingdom of God belongs to those
who are like these children.” (Mk. 10:14)***

We're no better than the disciples trying to shoo the children away if we just teach them about Jesus but not how to relate to Him, so when opportunity arises encourage and teach them to pray. Have them pray



Photo: Josue Michel - Unsplash

Pray for the Persecuted: Deliverance from Death

The early followers of Jesus were persecuted for their faith throughout the Roman empire. All of the original disciples died due to persecution except for John. Persecution of believers is growing today. According to *Open Doors* in 2021 over 340 million Jesus followers faced persecution or discrimination because of their faith. There was an alarming 60% increase in deaths in 2019 and an additional 24% increase in 2020—when 5,898 believers were killed for their faith in Jesus.

Pray that God would protect believers, churches or organizations being attacked. Pray that the testimony of martyrs would speak to many. Pray for the hundreds of thousands of Jesus followers forced to leave their homes or go into hiding for faith-related reasons.

Persecution of other peoples also continues all over the world, especially against minority groups. For 35 years, the Chinese government persecuted its own people, forcing abortions on millions of women with its “one child” rule. Now it is using prisoners and minority peoples like the Uyghurs for its organ transplant industry (see [amnesty.org](https://www.amnesty.org)).

Pray for those being killed or oppressed for their faith, religious beliefs or for being a minority people group. Pray against the increasing use of technology for persecution, including video and digital surveillance, contact-tracing apps and other technologies. Pray that the pandemic would not be used to justify discrimination against anyone.

Although it is not the same as persecution, innocent people can become targets in border or sovereignty disputes. Two to three million people in Bangladesh were killed when it declared independence from Pakistan in 1971. Ukrainian civilians are being massacred in a violent war to take their territory. Conflicts like these also result in millions of displaced people each year.

Pray for the many FPGs that are suffering through generations of unending conflict, such as the peoples of Afghanistan. Ask God to help families caught up in wars.

Pray for relief organizations and others working in these areas: www.runministries.org/ministries, www.fai.org, samaritanaspurse.org.

Pray for Jesus to bring peace and healing into the problems and suffering in the world and reveal to the FPGs that He has conquered death.



Photo: Afghanistan USAID - Pixnio

with you for FPGs who have almost no opportunity to hear the Good News. Teach them to pray for people to go make disciples of all nations until there is no place left for the Good News to spread. Have them pray for those who are poor, persecuted, illiterate and without God's Word. Encourage them to learn about different cultures, religions and FPGs to empower their prayers. And teach them about God's love for all the families of the earth so they will also know how

important and valuable every single person is to Him.

Use these QR Codes to access a prayer guide and podcast leading children in prayer for FPGs:



Prayer Guide



Podcast

Other Frontier People Groups over 10,000,000

Praise God for the discovery of self-sustaining movements to Jesus and more known believers in four of the original 31 Largest Frontier People Groups—the two Hausa groups, the Fulani of Nigeria and the Azerbaijani of Iran. Praise God that these UPGs are no longer considered Frontier People Groups without any progress of the Good News! However, there are still 35 FPGs that have grown above 10 million; included are short profiles of the additional four groups as they are also significant groups that need prayer.



Anonymous



Lohar in India (LOW-har)

There are more than 11 million Hindu Lohar people in India, as well as Muslim and Sikh Lohar groups. Traditionally, the Lohar people of India were nomadic metal-smiths who traveled around to sell their goods. Formerly high-caste weapon makers of the Mewar Kingdom in India, they became poor nomads when the kingdom fell in 1568. Lohar see themselves as descendants of the god Vishwakarma, whom they worship. Many Hindu Lohar people live in the Indian state of Rajasthan and speak Hindi. Although their trade is not “unclean” like that of outcaste groups, it is hard for them to break into the modern workforce in new trades. Their nomadic lifestyle has made education difficult.

Pray for the Lohar whose trade is being pushed out by factory-made metal goods widely available. Pray for God to send His love to them through believers who can help them with their economic problems. Ask Jesus to bless and heal their families, making them a light to many others.

Population: 11,351,000

Christians: Less than 0.1% *

Language: Hindi

Movement: None Reported

Religion: Hinduism

Workers Needed: 227**

Written Scripture: Complete Bible

Oral Scripture: Complete Bible

Hijazi Arab in Saudi Arabia (hee-JAH-zee)

On the Saudi Arabian side of the Red Sea live more than 11 million Hijazi Arabic speakers, a form of Arabic most common in Medina and Mecca, but which differs significantly from Modern Standard Arabic. Although in Saudi Arabia they are difficult to get to know, over 300,000 Hijazi-speaking Arabs work in the United Arab Emirates.

Pray for them to have oral and written scriptures in their heart language. Ask God to reveal to them His love through Isa al Masih (Jesus the Messiah) and draw them to the Qur'anic passages that honor His virgin birth and healing ministry. Also pray that God's Spirit would pour out His blessing onto those seeking Him through pilgrimages to Medina and Mecca, giving them dreams and visions of the Messiah. Pray for witnesses to be able to share their testimonies with the ones working in the UAE.



Tribes of the World - Flickr



Population: 11,291,000

Christians: Less than 0.1% *

Language: Arabic (Hijazi Spoken)

Movement: None Reported

Religion: Islam

Workers Needed: 226 **

Written Scripture: None

Oral Scripture: None

God's blessing to find Him: Stand at the crossing and consider the ancient path, for it is good and leads to Me. Walk on this path and you will find rest for your souls. (Jer. 6:16)

* Per census reports, etc. ** for 1 worker per 50,000

Tajik in Afghanistan (TAH-jeek)

The Tajiks live in Tajikistan with a quarter of their population also in Afghanistan. Like most Afghan peoples, they are Sunni Muslims, though they retain some folk or animistic practices. Tajik families are hospitable, large and close-knit, with city-dwellers retaining close ties with their rural relatives. The recent political crisis in Afghanistan makes faith in Jesus and relief for refugees more difficult.

Pray for courage for any believers to share God's unconditional love with the Tajiks, especially those displaced from their homes. Pray for access to Scripture and fervent faith that will yield Tajik disciples who make disciples, spreading throughout the land. Pray for families living in this time of war, famine and unstable leadership to find healing in the Prince of Peace. Ask God to touch the hearts of leaders in Afghanistan, bringing them to Himself along with food and peace for the people of Afghanistan.



Steve Evans - Flickr CC



Population: 11,598,000

Christians: Less than 0.1% *

Language: Dari

Movement: None Reported

Religion: Islam

Workers Needed: 232 **

Written Scripture: Complete Bible

Oral Scripture: Complete Bible



S.Kannur - Wikimedia CC



Mappila in India (MAH-pee-lah)

Over 10 million Mappila Muslims live in India, mostly in the southern state of Kerala and its offshore islands. They were won to the Muslim faith by Sunni Muslim seafarers involved in the spice trade and Muslim missionaries. They are mostly part of the Salafi sect of Sunni Islam. Though they consider themselves a separate Muslim people, they do speak the state language, Malayalam, like the Mar Thoma Christian Mappilas, an ancient sect won to Christ by the disciple Thomas in the 1st century.

Please pray that God would put a love for the Mappila Muslims in the heart of the many Mar Thoma Jesus followers, so that they could win them to Jesus without feeling they needed to become Mar Thoma-style Christians. Pray that the many Mappila who diligently seek to obey God would read His Word, and be led to Jesus through dreams, visions, and healings, spreading the Good News to others.

Population: 10,436,000

Christians: Less than 0.1% *

Language: Malayalam

Movement: None Reported

Religion: Islam

Workers Needed: 209**

Written Scripture: Complete Bible

Oral Scripture: Complete Bible

A Strategic Prayer Focus—Mega-Frontier People Groups

Despite progress, especially in the past 50 years, two billion people still live in people groups without multiplying disciples. Two billion is a lot, but not when we realize that there are over a billion believers worldwide. Furthermore, 1.6 billion of the global FPG population are concentrated in the 293 mega-FPGs, each with a population over one million. These mega-FPGs are a strategic pathway for movements to spread to the many smaller, neighboring FPGs.

Lord, thrust out laborers for pioneer work soon among all FPGs, especially these mega-FPGs. Engage Your people to pray, give, send and go—using all available resources and technology to finish the Great Commission!

Year	World Pop.	World FPG Pop. (%)	# of Believers	FPG Pop./Believers	Source
33 AD	0.23 billion	230 million (99.99%)	120	2,000,000 to 1	Acts 1
1792 AD	0.73 billion	550 million (75%)	110,000*	5,000 to 1	William Carey's Enquiry
1980 AD	4.3 billion	2.5 billion (60%)	0.23 billion	10 to 1	Ralph D. Winter, 1980
2023 AD	8 billion	2 billion (25%) (80% live in 293 FPGs)	1 billion	2 to 1	JoshuaProject.net

Estimates rounded from published data.

“Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. (Mk. 16:15)

Become an Advocate for a Frontier People Group

Ask the Lord to give you a Frontier People Group for whom you can become an advocate—embracing them in your heart and prayers, and asking the Holy Spirit to lead your family or small group in blessing that FPG. You can pick one of the largest, neediest groups in this prayer guide or you can search on the Joshua Project's interactive map at www.joshuaproject.net/frontier/interactive to pick a Frontier People Group by country, language, religion or size. Then, find or get others involved with your people group at www.getinvolved.com/.

Please pray the following for all the Frontier People Groups, especially the 293 larger than one million who could help bring the Good News to all the smaller groups.

Ask God to show you a Frontier People Group to focus on in prayer, or if you should pray for all of them.

Ask God to bring forth His blessing—strengthening and healing families and communities within your chosen people group. Ask God to cause His abundant life and love through Jesus to be widely embraced by the families and clans of your group (Gen. 12:3, 28:14; Acts 3:25, 10:43).

Ask God to send His people to fight suffering and evil in His name, and to overthrow the spiritual forces of darkness that oppose the spread of His love.

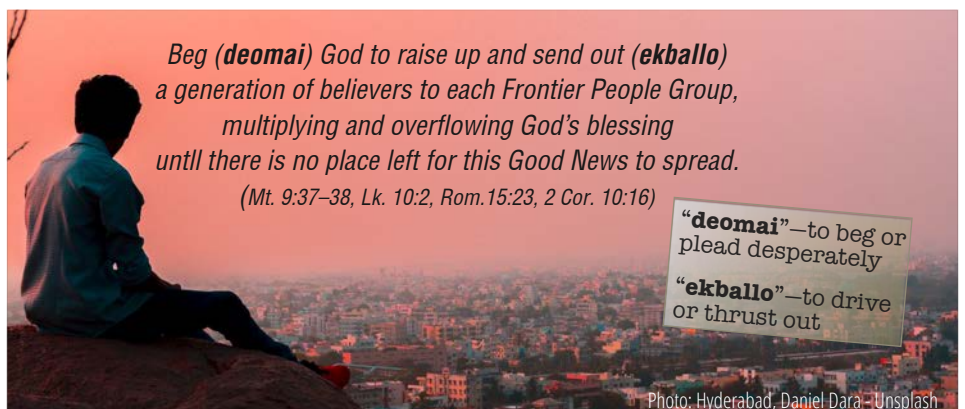
Ask God to deliver the families and communities in your chosen FPG from fears about following Jesus.

Ask God to fill believers with His Spirit and replace any fear in your FPG with love, power, and self-discipline, as God's blessing flows from family to family (Rom. 12:21, Gen. 3:10, Is. 25:7, 2 Tim. 1:7).

Ask God to pour out His blessing on the religious and secular leaders of your chosen Frontier People Group. Ask Him to bless the families of these leaders, and inspire whole communities to welcome salvation through faith in Jesus (1 Tim. 2:1-5).

Pray for God's Spirit to lead the people of your chosen FPG to love His Word and spread its influence, and love Him with their whole being and walk in His ways (Acts 6:7, 12:24, 19:20; Mk. 12:29-31).

Ask God to pour out His Holy Spirit in anointing the families of your chosen Frontier People Group, especially the children and youth.



*Beg (**deomai**) God to raise up and send out (**ekballo**) a generation of believers to each Frontier People Group, multiplying and overflowing God's blessing until there is no place left for this Good News to spread.*

(Mt. 9:37-38, Lk. 10:2, Rom. 15:23, 2 Cor. 10:16)

"deomai"—to beg or plead desperately
"ekballo"—to drive or thrust out

Photo: Hyderabad, Daniel Dara - Unsplash

Frontier People Groups Over One Million People

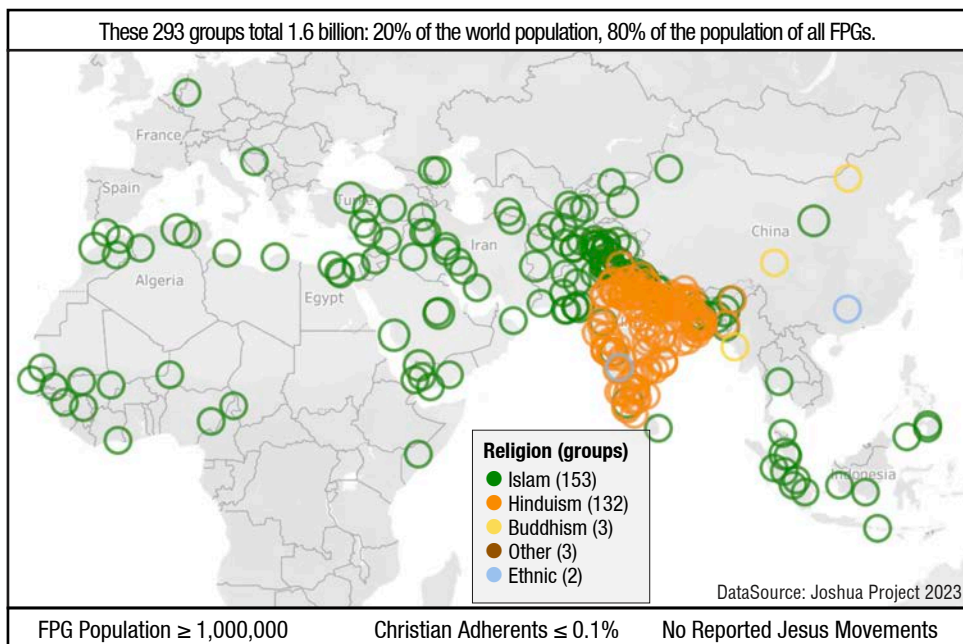
Jesus tells us in Mt. 24:14, that the good news of His kingdom,

“will be preached throughout the whole world, so that all nations will hear it; and then the end will come.”

Jesus’ disciple John writes of his vision in Rev. 7:9:

“I saw a vast crowd, too great to count, from every nation and tribe and people and language, standing in front of the throne.”

These 293 Frontier People Groups (over 1 million in size) contain 80% of the population of all FPGs and make up over 20% of the world’s population. Our task is defined and attainable, so as Jesus’ disciple Peter writes, let’s make every effort to hasten the coming day of God (2 Pet. 3:12), by telling all the world’s people groups about Jesus.



Ask God to guide you to a Frontier People Group that He wants you to pray for, bless and take other steps to hasten the day that they will be represented before His throne. You can access a sortable list of all 293 FPGs by location, religion, language, etc. and view individual profiles for each group by clicking on circles or names on the online map at www.joshuaproject.net/frontier/interactive or use the QR Code below.

*The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few.
Therefore, beseech the Lord of the harvest
to send out workers into His harvest. (Mt. 9:37-38)*



Make a Difference in the Lives of Frontier Peoples

Much progress is being made among Non-Frontier UPGs, but not yet among FPGs. Since the late 1970's, the Holy Spirit has led many missionaries and agencies to go to UPGs. They have increasingly promoted the fruitfulness of multiplying disciples and churches through simple obedience. As of Sept. 2023, researchers are now tracking almost two thousand Acts-like Jesus movements, mostly among UPGs. In just a few decades, these movements have produced about 114 million new disciples in rapidly multiplying household churches. That's more than 2% of the global population of Unreached People Groups. (*Frontier*

People Groups are the subset of UPG groups where no such movement exists yet.)



Photo: Afghan children, USAID on Pixnio

One-fourth of the world still lives in Frontier People Groups—with virtually no contact with Jesus followers, and no sign yet of a gospel movement bringing God's promised blessing to their families. Nearly half of these households live in these 35 largest FPGs. Reaching these largest groups with the Good News of Jesus will, we expect and pray, spread to the smaller FPGs living near them. What an amazing opportunity we have to bring God's blessing to 25% of the world in our day!

God's unchanging purpose was, is, and always will be to bless all the families of the earth: every nation, tribe, people and language. We can see that's exactly what happens in the end according to Revelation 5:9 and 7:9-10.

Jesus has all authority over all nations and has told us He will go with us to the ends of the earth, helping us make disciples of all peoples (Mt. 28:18-20). So let's be courageous! Pray, learn, go, tell others and give so that God's blessing of forgiveness and eternal life will reach all the families of the earth—especially in the FPGs where there are no Jesus movements yet.

We look forward to rejoicing with you before the throne of God, along with people from every tribe, language, people and nation.



Photo: Morocco, Héctor Martínez - Unsplash



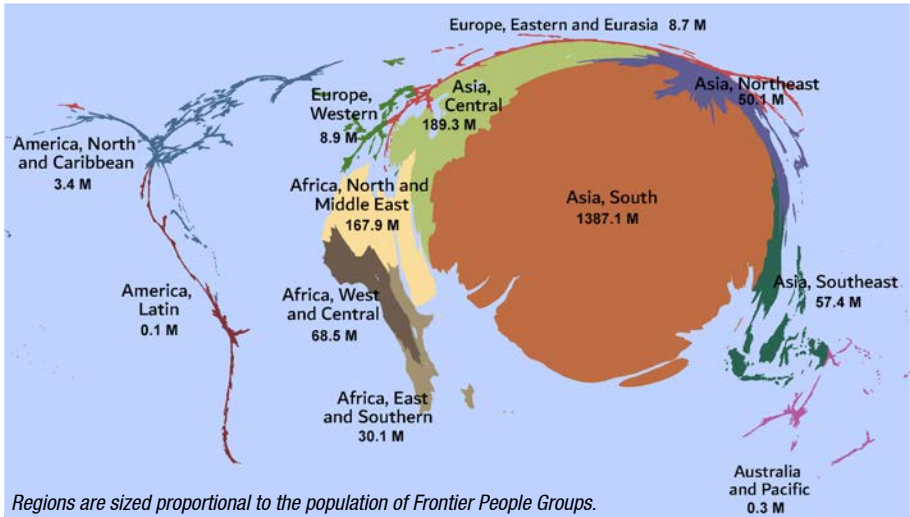
Photo: India-Public Domain



Photo: Sikh India, Thomas Schoch, CC BY-SA 3.0

Learn more about Frontier Peoples at go31.org or joshuaproject.net/frontier/, a collaborative research hub highlighting the least-reached people groups of the world to finish the Great Commission.

Pray for all the Frontier Peoples: Population by Region



America, Latin (106,000)	
Australia and Pacific (324,000)	
America, North and Caribbean (3,377,000)	
Europe, Eastern and Eurasia (8,700,000)	
Europe, Western (8,870,000)	
Africa, East and Southern (30,139,000)	
Asia, Northeast (50,128,000)	
Asia, Southeast (57,413,000)	
Africa, West and Central (68,481,000)	
Africa, North and Middle East (167,901,000)	
Asia, Central (189,261,000)	
Asia, South (1,387,083,000)	

Frontier People Groups are the world's least-reached peoples—with virtually no access to the gospel! This graph and map show the distribution of all the Frontier People Groups by population in different regions. The vast majority of them live in South Asia and the rest are mostly in Muslim-majority countries.

Pray for self-sustaining Jesus movements to begin in all these groups, filling the earth with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. (Hab. 2:14).

Pray that every million people in each of these FPGs will have at least two prayer teams advocating for them, and two engagement teams sharing God's love and the freedom that comes from knowing Jesus with them.

Commit to Reaching All the Frontier People Groups!

Please pray about making one or more of the following commitments:

- I'll pray** specifically for His will to be done on earth, that every people group may hear, and that laborers will be thrust forth into the harvest (Mt. 9:37-38). Give this prayer guide to others to pray (go31.org).
- I'll live** according to God's purpose. I'll evaluate my priorities and begin to adjust my lifestyle in light of God's purpose (Mt. 6:24-33, 10:37-39).
- I'll give** by supporting those working at home or abroad on behalf of Frontier People Groups.
- I'll serve** at a mission organization at home or abroad, utilizing my skills in the most strategic way possible to reach the Frontier Peoples.
- I'll study and learn** all I can about God's global purpose in Scripture (Lk. 24:45-47) and in the world today, especially among Frontier People Groups. I will look into taking the Perspectives on the World Christian Movement course (www.perspectives.org).
- I'll connect** with and become accountable to other believers to pray, study, give, grow, send or go as I play my part in God's plan (Heb. 10:24-25).
- I'll share** this vision and help spread the news of what God is doing and the needs of Frontier Peoples worldwide.
- I'll challenge** my home fellowship and see that a global worldview gets into every level of my church and that the members know how they can each fit into the overall task of reaching all peoples. I'll encourage my fellowship and global outreach ministry to designate funds toward efforts to serve the FPGs.
- I'll give** my time. I'll devote 5 or 10 hours every week to helping my church or fellowship reach out to the Frontier Peoples of the world.
- I'll mobilize.** I'll serve the churches in my area, making them aware of opportunities, resources, training classes and tools that exist to help them catch the vision of finishing world evangelization.
- I'll advocate** "adopting" Frontier People Groups. I'll encourage other churches and individuals to "adopt" one of the remaining Frontier People Groups (see www.getinvolved.com)
- I'll obey.** I commit to be part of God's work to disciple the "nations," the people groups of the world (Mt. 28:19). I will obey Jesus, who said "go unto all the world and make disciples of all peoples/families/nations."
- I'll go.** I will commit my life to the Great Commission and God's unchanging purpose, being willing to follow Him where He leads me. To explore opportunities among FPGs go to Beyond.org, Frontiers.org, Pioneers.org or one of the other organizations seeking to reach the least of the least-reached peoples.



Photo: Ben White - Unsplash

The world is divided into political countries, but the Bible shows that God sees the world as many families and people groups speaking different languages, with different histories. India, for example, is one political COUNTRY but it has over 3,000 different people groups (*ethnē*). These people groups each have their own special identity, languages, cultural traditions, marry within their group and resist outside influences. To reach all these people groups, researchers and strategists have developed the following terminology to help identify where the need for additional laborers and resources is greatest.

People Group or Nation (*ethne*):

A family line seeking to preserve its generational identity (shared history and ancestry, like the people or nation of Israel in the Bible). To preserve this identity, nations maintain their traditions, intermarry, and resist outside influences (often, including the gospel). In urban areas ethnic identities are sometimes replaced by affinity groups, as people still need a group to belong to and be identified with, but such groups are not as strong or enduring as blood lineages.

Frontier People Groups (FPGs):

A Frontier People Group (FPG) is a UPG with virtually no followers of Jesus and NO known movements, still needing pioneer cross-cultural workers. For data purposes, FPGs are approximated as groups with 0.1% or fewer Christian Adherents and no confirmed, sustained movements to Jesus. 60% of the UPGs still fall into this least-reached FPG category, though some have had gospel witnesses for many years. Most people in FPGs will never meet someone from their own people group who knows Jesus. The gospel needs to be implanted in families so God's blessing in Jesus can multiply throughout the group.

Unreached People Groups (UPGs):

UPGs are no more than 5% Christian of any kind and no more than 2% Evangelical (2 out of every 100 people), so the message of Jesus is not widely known and has little impact on the people group. However, many of these groups now have movements to Jesus underway. In the 40% of UPGs that aren't FPGs it is possible to partner with national believers.

Unengaged Unreached People Groups (UUPGs):

"Unengaged" people groups are UPGs or FPGs with no known laborers among them seeking to start Jesus movements. This metric of effort is independent of the FPG metric of response.

Reached People Groups:

Reached groups have enough believers living among them that people know about Jesus and can choose to follow Him. They have Bibles they can read and communities of believers that can reach out to them who speak their own language. They have more than two evangelicals for every 100 people (2%), or at least 5% who identify as Christian.

Evangelicals:

Researchers count these by denominational adherence to Biblical faith. This guide uses published figures for Evangelicals, Charismatics and Pentecostals to estimate a global count for Spirit-led Christ-followers—who want others to share the blessing they enjoy, of a loving relationship with God based on faith in Jesus.

Jesus Movement:

Disciples making disciples, multiplying rapidly through households and other existing relational networks, powered by the Holy Spirit.

Pioneer Workers:

When there are no known believers, pioneer workers seek to establish the first "household of peace" (Lk. 10) or first community of believing households within an FPG so that others can see that they can also follow Christ without betraying their people.

Collaborators & Resources

Every day, thousands of believers unite in prayer for a people group, then do the same the next day for a different people group. Such united prayer for people groups often coincides with breakthroughs among the peoples prayed for, and we encourage you to make good use of each of these resources.

For printed copies of this **Pray for the 31 Prayer Guide**, including discounted bulk orders, go to: go31.org.



To download the free daily **Bless Frontier Peoples Prayer App** for Android and iOS use the QR Code or go to: app.blessfrontierpeoples.org.



Other resources:

Download Joshua Project's Unreached People of the Day (phone app also available): unreachedoftheday.org.



Frontier People Group of the Day, website and phone app is currently being developed specifically for Frontier People Groups, for more information go to: frontierpeoples.net.



Resources to increase understanding of the Great Commission within our contemporary and globalized world are available at: worldchristian.com.



Seasonal prayer guides for Muslims, Hindus, and Buddhists, for adults and children are available at: worldprayerguides.org.



Disciple Keys, 24:14 and Finishing the Task have compiled a global church planting movement prayer guide, get it at: www.disciplekeys.world or listen to their podcast at open.spotify.com/show/3b9yKkCXZaLOAsELfXMMMI?si=4460a89910ae4eaf.



For ways to get involved and fuel your prayers for the unreached peoples, visit: alliancefortheunreached.org.



Discover the International Prayer Connect (ipcPrayer.org), a coalition of prayer networks, ministries, leaders, and intercessors throughout the world whose vision is to mobilize and equip prayer for the Unreached and the transformation of the nations.



Find literacy training resources for adult learners at: literacyevangelism.org.



Learn and understand the keys insights for reaching Frontier People Groups: telosfellowship.org.



Collaborators & Resources

Join with others championing a specific Frontier People Group at: getinvolved.com.



Find prayer videos on UPGs and FPGs: prayercast.com.



Look into data on the world's most urgent spiritual and physical needs: stratus.earth.



Explore the ways available to meet the spiritual and physical needs of UPGs: urgentneeds.org.



Find diaspora groups of Unreached Peoples in North America, even in your community: upgnorthamerica.com.



Discover videos and animations to share the gospel message in many languages: indigitube.tv.



If you're interested in going to a Muslim FPG, visit: frontiers.org.



For those interested in going to a Hindu FPG, explore opportunities at: beyond.org and view their video on Church Planting Movements at youtu.be/s-lUraCyByU?t=285s.



Explore other opportunities with FPGs at: pioneers.org.



A Children's Prayer Guide for FPGs, by Indigitous, is available at: <https://idserve.us/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Indigitous-FPG-Booklet-PDF.pdf>



Telos Studios' podcast engages children (and adults) in prayer for FPGs through stories and prayer requests; it's available at: <https://prayforthe31childrensguide.buzzsprout.com/share>



Learn why the task of finishing the Great Commission in our generation is not simply a dream: 2414now.net.



Join Team Expansion to see every person in the world reached with the gospel of Christ, working toward that goal through evangelism, church planting, and disciple-making movements. <https://teamexpansion.org>.



To fuel vision for birthing Acts-like movements among these largest FPGs, check out free books and resources at: go31.org/offers.



Join others via Zoom to pray for Mega-FPGs (over 10M in population): go31.org/pray.

All the families on earth will be blessed through you. (Gen. 12:3)

**An invitation to the global body of Christ
to Pray for the 31 Largest Frontier People Groups!**

This prayer guide is a gift to Christ's body through the collaboration
of these organizations and networks:

24:14
Alliance for the Unreached
Beyond
Ethnê Movement
Fellowship of Prayer Strategists
Frontier Ventures
Frontiers
Go2020
International Journal of Frontier Missiology
International Prayer Connect
International Society for Frontier Missiology
Joshua Project
Light of the World Prayer Center
Mission Network
Perspectives
Telos Fellowship
The Seed Company/Pray for Zero
International Orality Network
and many others...

"When Jesus saw the crowds, he had compassion on them." (Mt. 9:36)

In this booklet we join Father God on the streets and in the homes of
overlooked peoples to "see" His sons and daughters through His eyes.

*"Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest
to send out laborers into his harvest." (Mt. 9:38)*

Questions? email: go31now@gmail.com



Visit Go31.org to: Get the latest electronic version
(always free), request a review copy or to order print
copies of this Pray for the 31 Prayer Guide.



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