



Dear Praying Friends,

The last two years I have attended the Finishing the Task (FTT) conference here in Southern California. The purpose of this conference in simple terms is to get believers to adopt (commit) to plant churches among the remaining people groups that lack a missionary presence. We call these “unengaged” unreached people groups. FTT produces lists of these unreached, unengaged peoples (UUPGs), that are changing as groups of believers adopt them. In fact, the list we used for this prayer guide changed right after I assigned stories to the writers! This month we will be praying for Muslim UUPGs in India.

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In Christ,

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Globalprayerdigest.org

<https://prayerstrategists.net/about/prayer-guides/>

October 2018

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Yuli Color Reproduction Co., LTD.
(Taiwan)

WEB SITE

www.globalprayerdigest.org

<https://prayerstrategists.net/about/prayer-guides/>

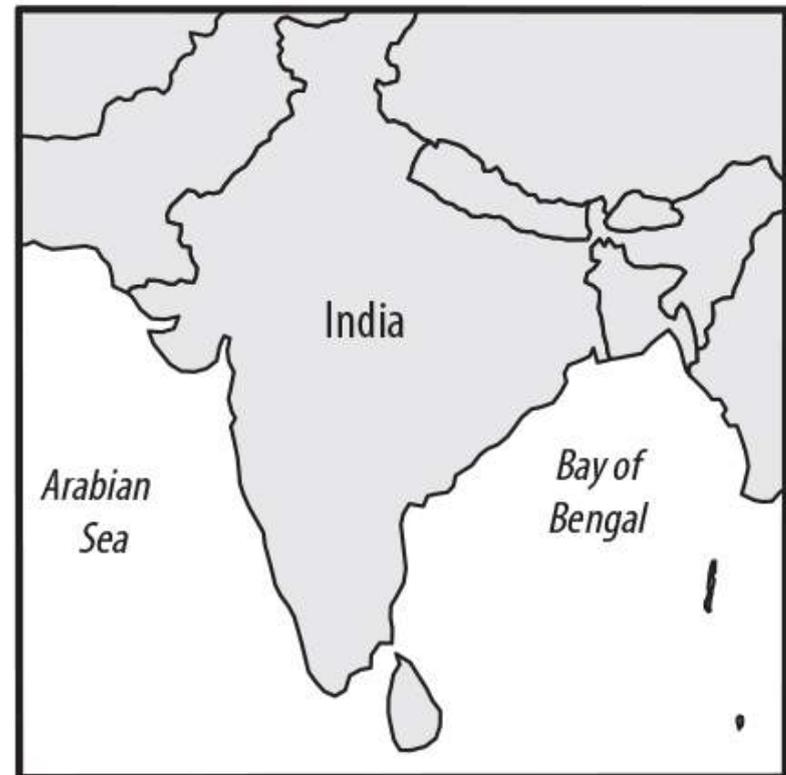
ISSN 1045-9731
Contents of the *Global Prayer Digest* © 2018
Frontier Ventures
1605 East Elizabeth Street
Pasadena, CA 91104

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PRAY FOR

*Every Unreached, Unengaged
Muslim Group in India*



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One fourth of the world lives in reclusive Frontier People Groups (FPGs—less than 0.1% Christian of any kind). These FPGs perceive Christianity as a foreign influence threatening to tear apart their families and communities. Traditional church planting and witness to individuals within FPGs reinforces these fears. Thus FPGs are reached only through the blessing of God sweeping through the families of these peoples in Jesus movements, in fulfillment of God's promise to Abram (Gen 12) to bless all earth's families.

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

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What is the Task?



Today there are 1,347 Unengaged, Unreached People Groups who are still beyond the reach of the gospel of Jesus Christ. These approximately 41 million people are spiritually lost and helpless, like sheep having no shepherd. Among them Christ remains unknown, unacknowledged, and unadorned.

These 1,347 UUPGs are perhaps the neediest of the needy. They are unengaged, which means that no church, no mission agency—no one has yet taken responsibility to tell them of our great God and savior, Jesus Christ. These groups are at the very heart of the unfinished Great Commission task. Can one church actually make a difference among the 1,347 unengaged, unreached peoples of the world?

With the evangelization of the one true living, all-powerful God, one church can make a difference. Will your church be one of those?

The Vision of UUPG

To see every people group in the world engaged with an indigenously led church planting movement.

Their Mission

To form a global network of local churches, denominations, church planters, and mission agencies that are willing to work together in partnership to see church planting initiatives launched among the 1,347 unengaged, unreached people groups (UUPGs).

Adopting an Unengaged, Unreached People Group

If you and your church are interested in adopting a people group and committing to send workers to one of these groups, please visit our "people group list" page. There you can look up people groups or even download a current list of unengaged, unreached people groups and contact us.

Orality

About two-thirds of the world's population are oral communicators. That means that they prefer or need a non-literate approach to learning.

Oral cultures tend to preserve and transmit their culture through stories, proverbs, poems, songs, dance, etc. Primary oral societies pass along everything that matters from one generation to another without putting anything into a written format.

Yet the vast majority of Christian mission work today is conducted through literate means that oral communicators simply do not understand. Since the vast majority of unreached people are oral communicators, Finishing the Task recognizes the importance of reaching these people groups with oral strategies. As communicators of the gospel, it is our responsibility to present the message in a way oral learners can understand.

A highly effective way to reach oral cultures is by telling the stories of the Bible. Oral people love to hear the stories over and over again, memorizing them word-for-word. Since story telling is highly relational and social, Bible stories can spread rapidly within a people group. Many Finishing the Task partners have found that Bible storying is effective for evangelism, discipleship, church planting, and even leadership training.

Finishing The Task

Finishing The Task Progress

We praise God for what He has done among the Unengaged, Unreached People Groups of the world. Since its inception in 2005, the Finishing The Task Network has been hard at work identifying, tracking and reaching out to the Unengaged People Groups of the world. Here is the progress that has been made thus far. This information was last updated on June 13, 2018.



Status

- 772 are adopted but not yet engaged with church planting.
- 2,658 are engaged by international churches, missionaries, or near neighbor believers

Resource Availability

Please note that just because a resource exists, it does not mean that anyone is using the resource or has ever used the resource in the past. In some cases, the resource was developed for a related people group who speak the same language.

- 2,755 have at least a portion of scripture (written or oral).
- 2,360 have a JESUS film.
- 1,205 have a faith/evangelistic film.
- 1,495 have a radio broadcast available.
- 2,960 have a gospel recording.

Finishing The Task

The Unfinished Task

There is still much work to be done. Please join us in prayer that the Lord of the Harvest would send workers to the groups that have yet to hear about the great love of our saviour, Jesus Christ.

Status

- 964 are still unengaged. No one is trying to reach them.
- 1 are unengaged with some known believers.
- 963 are unengaged with no known believers.

Lack of Resources

- 795 have no written scriptures
- 1,403 have no oral scriptures
- 1,278 have no Jesus Film
- 2,433 have no faith/evangelistic film
- 2,016 have no radio broadcast available
- 551 have no gospel recordings.



For more information:

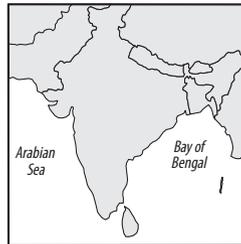
<https://www.finishingthetask.com>

**MISSIONARY BIOGRAPHY,
MOBIN KHAN**

PS 119:18, NLV

Open my eyes so that I may see great things from Your Law.

Pray that the Lord opens the eyes of all unengaged, unreached Muslims in India so they too can see great things in His true word.



Mobin Khan was born and brought up in a Sunni Muslim family in Varanasi, India. He was taught how to read the Qur'an in Arabic. Although many languages are spoken in India, Arabic is not one of these. Later, Mobin was sent to a Muslim discipleship program. While studying there, he learned about Allah, mankind, the holy angels, the prophets and the sacred Scriptures. His teacher said that God sent mankind four holy books: (1) the Tawrat (Torah), given to the prophet Moses; (2) the Zabur (the book of Psalms), given to the prophet David; (3) the Injil (Gospel), given to the prophet Jesus; and (4) the Qur'an, given to the prophet Mohammed.

Mobin remembers telling his teacher, "So far, you have taught us only the fourth book, the Qur'an. When will you teach us the other three?" But he answered, "The others are with the Jews and Christians." And Mobin, not yet six, thought, "The Jews and Christians have something which Muslims do not have." So he asked his teacher, "Could you get those books for me? Since they are God's books, I want to read them." But his teacher answered, "No, because the Jews and the Christians changed them."—AL

Pray that Muslim teachers in India will learn to value the Injil and teach it in the mosques.

KHAN, CONTINUED

While in college, Mobin was also in training to become a commissioned officer in the Indian army. At that time, he met a Christian officer. One night the Christian shared the gospel with Mobin. But Mobin, a Muslim, was not at all convinced. He was shocked at the words with which his friend concluded his witness to him: "If you die, you will go to hell. If I die, I will go to heaven because I believe in Jesus." In the morning, Mobin went back and asked the Christian to repeat once again what he had shared. Thinking that the witness of someone else might be more persuasive, the officer went to get another Christian friend. But he refused to come. "Listen, you're just wasting your time," he said. "Don't you know? Mobin is a Muslim. He'll never become a Christian."

But the officer decided to give Mobin at least a New Testament. At that time Mobin did not know that the New Testament was a part of the Bible or he would never have accepted it. He came to Romans 5:8, "But God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." The words struck deep, and he gave his heart to Christ in 1968.—AL

Pray that Muslims in India will respond to the powerful words of the Bible.



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ROM 5:8-10, NLV

But God showed His love to us. While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Now that we have been saved from the punishment of sin by the blood of Christ, He will save us from God's anger also. We hated God. But we were saved from the punishment of sin by the death of Christ. He has brought us back to God, and we will be saved by His life.

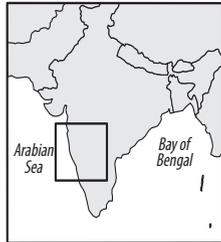
Pray that after we pray for unengaged, unreached Muslims in India this month, that thousands will have their hearts touched by God's word just as it did for Mobin many years ago.

KHAN, CONTINUED

ACTS 26:18, NLV

You are to open their eyes. You are to turn them from darkness to light. You are to turn them from the power of Satan to the power of God. In this way, they may have their sins forgiven. They may have what is given to them, along with all those who are set apart for God by having faith in me.

Pray for many Indian Muslims to internalize this verse and share it with others.



Mobin knew that God had chosen him to minister His gospel to Muslims. He now wanted to prepare himself to serve the Lord, so he earned a Ph.D. from the University of Poona in Maharashtra, India, and then came to the US where he earned his Doctorate in Missiology at Fuller Seminary. His wife Gladys also accepted God’s call for missions and earned an M.A. from the University of Poona as well as a Masters in Missiology.

Out of curiosity, Mobin and Gladys looked up their name in the phone directory. To their amazement, they found that there were about 20 other “Khans” in the phone book. Realizing that they would also be of Muslim background, they sent each one a gospel tract. Soon they had sent tracts to Muslims throughout Southern California as well as in other metropolitan areas. They received a phone directory for Fiji, and there was an amazingly favorable response to the tracts they sent Muslims in that island country. Eventually the Khans mailed specially worded gospel tracts to Muslims in 75 countries.

Mobin continues to work with Global Recordings, helping them to provide clear evangelistic materials for unreached people. Their work testifies as to what could happen when a Muslim truly surrenders to the almighty.—AL from *Christian Missions in Many Lands*, and A Testimony, by M. Mobin Khan.

JUNETA PEOPLE OF INDIA

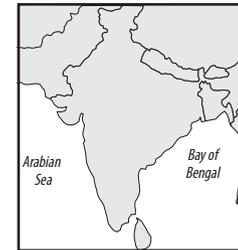
The air is tense among the Juneta (also called Juneja, and Junejo) people. They live close to the border with Pakistan, where threats and tensions are soaring. Earlier this year, the countries exchanged heavy border fire.

Mostly a Sindhi Rajput people, 325 Juneta people live in India’s western states of Rajasthan, Gujarat, and Punjab, though most live in Pakistan’s adjacent Sindh Province. Ironically, a small number of these Muslims moved to Hindu India from Pakistan during the bloody 1947 Partition.

Twenty years ago, a member of their community, Mohammad Khan Junejo, was Prime Minister of Pakistan. He called on India to enter into immediate negotiations to defuse tensions rising from the massing of troops on their mutual border. War was averted between the two nuclear-armed nations.

Many of their people are still involved in the political arena. Most, however, are involved in agriculture-related industries. Though they face physical danger by living near a border between two hostile nations, the Juneta people face a far greater spiritual danger by not embracing the son of God who is the only one who can forgive sin.

Pray that many of their people will encounter the Lord and diffuse tensions between their community and Christ. Pray that God will raise up members of the Juneta people who will bring about physical and spiritual peace.—LR



PS 2:12, NLV

Kiss the Son. Be afraid that He may be angry and destroy you in the way. For His anger is quick. Happy are all who put their trust in Him.

Pray that out of reverent fear of the one true God, many from the Juneta Rajputs will devote themselves to the Son of God, Jesus Christ.

MIYANA PEOPLE

MATT 4:21, NLV

Going from there, Jesus saw two other brothers. They were James and John, the sons of Zebedee. They were sitting in a boat with their father, mending their nets. Jesus called them. At once they left the boat and their father and followed Jesus.

Pray that Jesus will “collect” many disciples from the Miyana people who will go out to tell others of His kingdom.



(This story illustrates things that could happen to this community.)

The Miyana fisherman was proud of his accomplishment. He pulled in a record haul of fish for this year! He knew that didn't compare with the accomplishments of his ancestors. His family and tribe often recounted stories of their predecessors' military greatness. Now their tribe's greatness would simply be to hold on to their identity.

Though living in India, the Miyana's culture is more similar to a Pakistani culture. According to traditions, the Miyana were Rajputs who emigrated long ago from Pakistan to Kutch in what is now western India. Like yesterday's Juneta people, these 38,000 people live in Gujarat near the Pakistani border.

The Miyana subsist by fishing and agriculture. Those without land are often day laborers. They trade with other Muslims but not those from the scheduled castes, groups with low status. Though they are Muslims they maintain cordial relations with certain Hindu communities.

The Miyana converted to Islam during the 13th century. They are considered completely unengaged, so there are no workers among them.

Pray that the Lord will prepare their hearts for an encounter with Christ's greatness. Pray that the Miyanas will come to realize that it was the accomplishment of Christ that can give them their true identity.—LR

BHODALA PEOPLE

(This story illustrates things that could happen to this community.)

Gopi, a Bhodala fisherman, paddled his small dugout canoe up to the rough deck of a little hut built over the water in Gujarat. Excited he shouted, “Maria, Bhau is coming home!” A tiny woman suddenly stepped out from the hut. She looked amazed, then started to cry. “Gopi ran to her and continued, “Bhau did not die at sea. The Pakistanis captured him but some kind Pakistani Muslims are helping him to come home.” Maria responded, “Allah has answered my prayer!” Gopi decided then and there to buy a compass so his son would never get lost at sea again.



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Both India and Pakistan have over the years detained hundreds of the Muslim Bhodala fishermen who were forced to cross into forbidden Pakistan's territorial waters in hopes of getting fish to sell. Commercial boats are taking most of the fish, so family-run fishermen are desperate. When they are detained, their boats are usually confiscated and left to rot. The 8,000 Bhodala's are Muslim in name only.

Pray that God will shower mercy on these unfortunate people. Pray that the Bhodalas will hear Jesus words as given in Luke 6:21: “Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.” May they embrace Jesus and come into His kingdom soon.—PD

MARK 4:39-41, NLV

He got up and spoke sharp words to the wind. He said to the sea, “Be quiet! Be still.” At once the wind stopped blowing. There were no more waves. He said to His followers, “Why are you so full of fear? Do you not have faith?” They were very much afraid and said to each other, “Who is this? Even the wind and waves obey Him!”

Pray that the Lord will protect the Bhodala people, and give them the gift of faith in the one who stills the water.

MUSLIM HALAYPOTRA PEOPLE

PS 19:10, NLV

The Word of the Lord is worth more than gold, even more than much fine gold. They are sweeter than honey, even honey straight from the comb.

Pray that the Muslim Halaypotra people will soon understand that the gospels, and the savior described in them, is sweeter than honey, and far more precious than gold!

Gilitukha/Stock



Honeycomb in the trees

(This story illustrates things that could happen to this community.)

With his face and arms covered, the Halaypotra Taleela father carefully approached the four-foot-wide beehive hanging from a branch of a tree that was over 20 feet from the ground. He then began to shake a burning torch, made from twigs and leaves around the hive. He prayed that Allah would cause the bees to fly away from the smoke. Carefully he cut right into the center of the beehive and honey poured into his pail along with big pieces of honeycomb. He lowered the pail to his son, Ian. Receiving the pail, Ian shouted, “Praise Allah! This is the largest amount of honeycomb we have ever had!” Taleela was happy that he would be able to buy vegetable oil and rice for his family from selling the honey along with the milk from his buffalo.

The 3,800 Kachhi-speaking Halaypotra Muslims of Gujarat consist of seven clans. They are Sunni Muslims who combine folk traditions into their Islamic beliefs and practices. Most of them are poor pastoral nomads who live mainly through the sale of buffalo milk, honey, and beautiful embroidery work done by their women.

Pray that God will open a way for Halaypotra Muslims to experience Jesus as their sustainer and Savior. May some of them joyfully disciple others in His ways.—PD

MUTWA PEOPLE

(This story illustrates things that could happen to this community.)

Hussain, a Mutwa Muslim, was happy as he drove his truck with two heads of cattle towards the trading center in Bhuj, Gujarat. His ability to sell his milk cows has allowed his family to live in a small house with electricity and his children were going to school. Life was good.

Suddenly he noticed the road was blocked by large branches of dried brush. When he stopped the truck, several men pulled him out and shouted, “you are taking these cows to be slaughtered! You will not kill these sacred animals!” They hit Hussain on the head, put his cows in their truck, and drove away. Hussain was shaken; this was the third time in less than a month that Hindus had attacked men in his village.

There are approximately 1,200 Muslim Mutwas living in Gujarat. Their ability to raise and sell healthy breeds of cattle have allowed them to be prosperous. However, the growing threat by Hindu activists is creating more problems. They are faithful Muslims, and none have accepted Christ. God’s word and the JESUS Film are available in their Kachhi language.

Pray for God’s hand of protection. Pray that God will send faithful witnesses of what Jesus can do to bless this people group. Pray that they will accept the JESUS Film and give Jesus a chance to transform their lives.—PD



A cattle drive in Gujarat

anandocart/Stock

PS 62:4-5, NLV

They have talked only about throwing him down from his high place. They find joy in lies. They pray with their mouth that good will come. But inside they hope that bad will come instead. My soul is quiet and waits for God alone. My hope comes from Him.

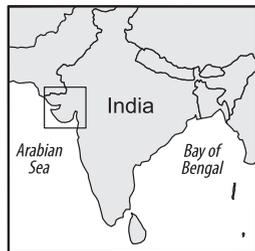
Pray that the Mutwa people, who are vulnerable to evil men, will be protected by the hand of God. Pray that they will put their hope in Jesus Christ alone.

BAFAN PEOPLE

JN 15:5, NLV

I am the vine and you are the branches. Get your life from Me. Then I will live in you and you will give much fruit. You can do nothing without Me.

Though there are no workers yet among the Bafan people, it's not too early to pray for them; Pray for God to enable laborers to walk in intimate conversational relationship with Him that new Bafan believers might bear much fruit that remains for His glory.



How do you like your meat? Fried, barbecued, broiled, or boiled? There is a Muslim people group in Gujarat, India, that gets their name because of their preference for boiled meat. These are the Bafans.

Bafans are a clan from the more numerous Thaheem tribe. They have their origins in what is now Pakistan's Sindh Province, but at one time they moved to Kutch, a region within India's

state of Gujarat. Traditionally they were nomadic herders who followed their herds of buffalos, cattle, and sheep. Living in a land with a high population density, most eventually had to become settled farmers. Unfortunately, Bafan farmers today do not have access to a regular source of irrigated water. A few remain nomadic, and these tend to sell milk to members of other people groups.

This clan is entirely Muslim, and they are listed by Finishing The Task (FTT) as an unengaged, unreached people group. This means that even if they have Bible-related materials in a language they can understand, there are no missionaries trying to introduce them to the savior.

Pray for workers to go to the Bafan people. Pray that their hearts will be prepared so they will accept that His ways are far higher than our ways. Pray for them to eagerly be disciplined.—KC

HINGORZA SINDHIS IN INDIA

What people group cluster straddles at least two countries, two major religions, and can be very poor or extremely wealthy? It would be the Sindhi peoples. Most of the Muslims among them remained in their original homeland in Pakistan's Sindh Province, while most Hindus risked their lives to move to India during the 1947 partition. The Hindus are noted for being prosperous. This is not true about the Muslim Sindhis.



There are 39 different Sindhi groups. One of the subgroups are the Hingorza Sindhis. Though they are Muslim, they live in India.

The differences between subgroups is often about clan, language or affiliation. Sometimes groups will not relate to others because of some past grievance. It is not widely known what separates the Hingorzans from other Sindhi groups. But they seem to consider themselves to be of Rajput origin, which would make them stand out from other Sindhi groups.

Pray that the Hingorza Sindhis will understand that we must all humbly submit to the King of kings, no matter what our station in life might be. Pray that Hingorza people will call on the name of the Lord.—KC

2 COR 9:6, NLV

Remember, the man who plants only a few seeds will not have much grain to gather. The man who plants many seeds will have much grain to gather.

Pray that when workers are sent to the Hingorza Sindhis, that they will scatter the seeds of the gospel far and wide.

NODE PEOPLE

ACTS 18:3-4, NLV

Paul went to see them, and because he was a tentmaker as they were, he stayed and worked with them. Every Sabbath he reasoned in the synagogue, trying to persuade Jews and Greeks.

Pray for bi-vocational workers in India to gladly reach out to the unengaged Node people.

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What do you do if you are a powerless nomadic people group with only 3,400 people in highly populated India? You do what

all other groups would do; you start your own caste association to help the welfare of your people. In the case of the Node people of Gujarat, they call their caste association the Node Jamat.

As nomads, they do not own land. Like other communities, many have migrated to other places in India looking for work. In addition to cattle breeding, they are also farmers and agricultural laborers. Node people are endogamous, meaning that they do not marry outside their people group. They have many clans, for example the Sameja, and all of them are classed as equal.

Before Node people came to Kutch in Gujarat, they lived in Pakistan's Sindh Province. A few of them still live there today.

Node people are unreached and unengaged. Bible resources include the New Testament, GRN audio, the JESUS Film, and other videos in their Kacchi-based language. They are 100 percent Muslim. However, there is no one to date who has come forward to take these resources to the Node people. Will you go?

Pray that the leaders of their caste association will come to Jesus Christ and lead other Node people to salvation and discipleship. Pray for disciples, filled with the fruit and power of God's Holy Spirit, who will go out as His ambassadors.—KH

SANDHAI PEOPLE

Do you have any trouble keeping track of your relatives? The Sandhai people have 80 clans in their extended family network. And you thought cousins were hard to keep track of!



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Like yesterday's people group, the Sandhai people have a nomadic background. They once lived in what is now Pakistan's Sindh Province, however now most of them live in Gujarat, India. They migrated to India about 300 years ago, and today there are 1,200 of them. Like yesterday's Node people, the Sandhai only marry within their own people group. They are cattle, goat, and buffalo breeders. In Saurashtra, a region in Gujarat, many are farmers.

Though they are officially Sunni Muslims, they follow the way of mysticism, which often involves occult practices. They speak not only Gujarati, the trade language of Gujarat, but their heart language includes words from Sindhi and Kacchi. Resources in the Gujarati and Kacchi languages include Bible portions, GRN materials, and the JESUS Film. Our Father has a plan to reach them with His good news. Will you be part of that plan?

Pray that spiritual heaviness from mysticism will be replaced with spiritual refreshment from the Holy Spirit, and that His light of truth will shine forth into their culture. Pray that churches will be planted, and new disciples will flourish.—KH

ACTS 2:42, NLV

They were faithful in listening to the teaching of the missionaries. They worshiped and prayed and ate the Lord's supper together.

Pray to God to multiply simple house churches through every segment of the Sandhai community.

ROYMA PEOPLE

MARK 5:18-20, NLV

Jesus got into the boat. The man who had had the demons asked to go with Him. Jesus would not let him go but said to him, “Go home to your own people. Tell them what great things the Lord has done for you. Tell them how He had pity on you.” The man went his way and told everyone in the land of Decapolis what great things Jesus had done for him. All the people were surprised and wondered.

Though there are not any believers among the Royma people yet; pray for new believers to share with others the great things God has done in their lives, so that many will come to faith.



Today’s people groups are from Pakistan’s Sindh Province! These 400 pastoral nomads now live in Gujarat. The community is divided into a number of clans, called ataks, and they use the atak name as their surname. Each atak is equal to others in status. They are a little more flexible than the last two people groups in that they will marry outside their people group, but with strict limitations. They prefer to marry their cousins whenever possible.

Royma people are a community of cattle breeders. In addition to cattle breeding, the Roymas are farmers and agricultural laborers. Like other communities from Gujarat’s Kutch region, many migrate to other parts of India in search of employment. Like many Gujarati Muslims, they have a caste association, the Royma Jamat, that is responsible for the welfare of their community.

They are a 100 percent Sunni Muslim. They are unreached and unengaged, although many Bible resources exist in their Kacchi language.

Pray that Holy Spirit will give Royma clan leaders the willingness to embrace Jesus Christ as savior, depending on Him alone for salvation. Pray that the Holy Spirit will allow circumstances into their lives to reveal sin and their need for a savior. Pray for a disciple-making movement among these people that will spread to the desperately needy Muslim communities of India.—KH

GADHAI PEOPLE

“Are you worth your salt?” This question goes back to days when salt was a very precious commodity. Our English word, salary, comes from the Latin word for salt.



Salt in a raw form

India is the world’s third largest producer of salt, and most of it comes from Gujarat where the Gadhai people live. For years they were sellers of salt. Harvesting the salt demands hours of back-breaking toil in temperatures over 100 degrees Fahrenheit, followed by freezing nights. Their name, Gadhai, literally means a donkey keeper, referring to their other occupation in times past when donkeys were the main beasts of burden. According to their traditions, they were once among the princely cast of the Rajputs, but lost their status when they converted to Islam.

Today there are only 100 Gadhai people left, and they are all still Muslim. Jesus talked about a shepherd who was concerned about one sheep out of a hundred, so we know the Gadhai are important to Him! The Gadhais speak Gujarati, the primary language in their state. Some also understand Urdu. The Bible is available in both these languages, as are many other Christian resources in print, audio, and video forms. It remains for someone to introduce them to this life-changing message.

Pray that the Gadhai people will hear the good news and find that God can give them a raise in status from being former princes to becoming the salt of the earth.—AHGS

MATT 5:13, NLV

You are the salt of the earth. If salt loses its taste, how can it be made to taste like salt again? It is no good. It is thrown away and people walk on it.

Pray that when the Gadhai people begin to respond to the gospel, that they will be faithful to live as Christ wants them to live.

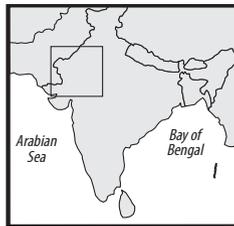
iStock/minelutsk

LANGHA PEOPLE

PS 149:1, ESV

Praise the Lord! Sing to the Lord a new song, His praise in the assembly of the godly!

Pray that the Langha people of India would begin to sing praise to the God of the Bible, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.



What would it be like to be part of a people who help celebrate the major events of life with songs? Most Langha are farmers, herdsman, and small businesspersons in the western Indian states of Gujarat and Rajasthan. However, they are mostly known for their musical abilities and skills. They perform traditional folk music at births, weddings, funerals, and on Muslim holidays. The Langhas compose and sing songs that praise their patrons, i.e., the people who pay them. In recent years Langhas have enjoyed success as part of South Asia's entertainment industry. Some have toured India and the world playing their music as examples of traditional Indian culture.

Most Langhas speak Marwari as their mother tongue. Marwari is written in the same script as Hindi and shares many of the same words. Marwari has no official status as a language for government or education. Langha people marry within their people group. They usually marry outside of their family or immediate clan.

Pray that the Lord would lead Indian believers to befriend the Langha and take Christ to them. Pray that the Marwari New Testament would get into the hands of the Langha people. Pray the Marwari JESUS Film would be shown to many Langhas, and they will be inspired to give Him their lives. Pray that the Lord would raise up growing churches among this people group.—DK

KHADIM PEOPLE

They are a tiny Muslim group hidden away in India. The thumbnail profile on Joshua Project offers only this information: population – 400, language – Urdu, largest religion – Islam, 0.00 percent Christian. If you google the Khadim, you won't even get a Wikipedia entry. All you'll find is a link to a shoe store!



iStock-Mr_Khan

Since the Bible is available in Urdu, a language they speak, some might assume that the Khadim can choose for themselves. They can take or leave the invitation to faith in Christ.

But that isn't how God works. He cares about all of His creation, loves all of the people He has made, and sent His only son to die for each and every one of them. He is a God who pursues, seeks out, and relentlessly offers the opportunity for salvation and eternal life. That's why the Khadim people need our prayers. Despite their limited numbers, language, and location, they are highly valued by God.

Pray for the Lord to put the Khadims on the hearts and minds of mission organizations so that they will reach out to them. Pray for believers in India to be burdened with a desire to see a discipleship movement established among the Khadims. Ask God to soften the hearts of the Khadim people. Ask God to work mightily and miraculously to draw this unique and valuable people group into His Kingdom.—CL

LUKE 15:20, NIV

The son got up and went to his father. While he was yet a long way off, his father saw him. The father was full of loving-pity for him. He ran and threw his arms around him and kissed him.

Pray for many from the Khadim people to accept the invitation of God the Father for eternal forgiveness.

NYARIA PEOPLE

REV 7:9-10, NLV

After this I saw many people. No one could tell how many there were. They were from every nation and from every family and from every kind of people and from every language. They were standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white clothes and they held branches in their hands. And they were crying out with a loud voice, "We are saved from the punishment of sin by our God who sits on the throne and by the Lamb!"

Pray for the Nyaria people to respond with gratitude and commitment when they hear God's call.



iStock-Mr.Khan

(This story is intended to illustrate truths about this people group.)

"I don't see them," the woman said with concern in her echoing voice. "Neither do I," the other woman said. "But they must be here. They have to be." The first woman added, "They're here. We prayed, and our God is faithful!"

They were standing in the midst of a great sea of people—a multitude so vast that there were no discernable edges, no end to the congregation of men, women, and children. Suddenly the second woman pointed. How she spotted them wasn't clear, but both woman knew that they were looking at Nyaria people in this holy crowd. They were dressed in white, waving palm branches, and singing a new worship song to the King. The women celebrated and joined their voices in the song, rejoicing that the Lord had heard and answered their prayers for the Nyarias!

Today, there are no known followers of Christ among the Muslim Nyaria people. If the glorious worship described in Revelation 7 began at this moment, they would be tragically absent. But today, you, and thousands of others will be praying for some from the Nyaria people to be added to His holy family.

Pray for the Lord to draw them by His Spirit into His kingdom. Pray for thousands from the Nyaria people group to be present in eternity to worship the Lamb.—CL

AGARIA COMMUNITY

How far can you trace back your family tree? Two generations? Three? The Agarias believe that their caste has existed from the beginning of the world. Their name comes from the Hindi word for fire. For generations, they have worked with furnaces as iron-smelters.



Iron smelter at work

iStock/Venerata

Today, the Agarias continue to work with metal. They manufacture agricultural tools such as axes, ploughshares, and sickles. Many have also turned to agricultural pursuits and raising livestock. Others specialize in making toys such as wooden masks for children.

Their children begin working at an early age. Consequently, only 10 percent of the Agaria people are literate. Of late, however, education has taken on a more important role, and parents are making efforts to send their children to school.

In 1950, the Indian Constitution granted caste-related privileges to the Agarias. The law established quotas in government jobs and higher education. Affirmative action created development programs for basic rights. Nonetheless, some Agaria people have been prey to money-lenders and have not been able to afford amenities such as electricity. Though most Agarias are Hindu, some are Muslim.

Ask God to provide His ambassadors who will share God's riches with them. May they know the God who can provide for them on earth as well as in eternity.—CMW

MATT 1:1-2, NLV

These are the families through which Jesus Christ came. He came through David and Abraham. Abraham was the father of Isaac. Isaac was the father of Jacob. Jacob was the father of Judah and his brothers.

Pray that this people group, which is enthralled with family trees, will understand the value of being "grafted" into God's holy family. Pray that they will desire to become part of His family.

MIRSHIKAR PEOPLE

2 THES 1:11-12, NLV

For this reason, we always pray for you. We pray that our God will make you worth being chosen. We pray that His power will help you do the good things you want to do. We pray that your work of faith will be complete.

Pray for the Lord to thrust out worthy ambassadors to the Mirshikar people of India.



Blacknecked stork

iStock/Stockoflash

Men, what did it take for you to “get” a wife? Roses? Chocolate? A ring? If you are a Mirshikar, you’d have to jump through one last hoop before becoming “Mr. and Mrs.” Tradition required the bridegroom-to-be to catch a bird. This was not just any bird. It was the ferocious Loha Sarang, the Blacknecked Stork. Assuming that the man had already performed all the necessary pre-marriage conditions and formalities, he and the wedding procession would locate a Loha Sarang. The bridegroom would approach the bird with his bird-catching rod. Since the man would be at a distance, the bird would not feel threatened. Then the man would jerk his rod at the stork, and the super-glue at the end of the rod would attach to the feathers of the unwitting bird. If the man succeeded capturing the bird, he would proceed to the bride’s house. If he didn’t, the wedding would be postponed. This tradition continued until one day when a particularly strong stork fatally gored a hopeful bridegroom with its dagger-like bill.

The Mirshikar people number around 10,000 and are a people group found exclusively in India. These Muslims are unengaged and unreached.

Pray that they will hear of the heavenly bridegroom who gave His life on a cross so that He would obtain His bride, the church.—CMW

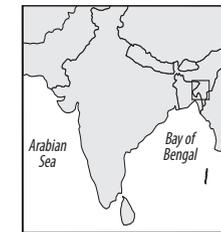
PANGAN COMMUNITY

The Pangan people live in India’s northeastern state of Manipur, where for centuries the women raised silkworms. Once an important staging post on the silk route, Manipur provided silk for trade with China’s Yunnan Province. In recent years Manipur has developed plans to revive its silk industry. Currently, each Manipur cocoon yields 800 meters of raw silk, compared to the 1,200 meters for each cocoon in Japan. Consultants are teaching the locals modern Japanese methods, hoping to increase production. India is one of the world’s largest producers of silk, and project leaders in Manipur aim to become a bigger contributor to India’s output.

There are 120,000 Pangans in India. They are able to communicate with many other peoples by speaking Manipuri, a trade language common to 29 different ethnic groups in Manipur. Manipuri is taught as a subject up to the post-graduate level (Ph.D.) in universities of India, apart from being a medium of instruction up to the undergraduate level in Manipur.

The Pangans are Muslim, and there are no followers of Christ among them. Bible translations are available in their language.

Please pray that God will put His word into the hands of the Pangans. Pray for many to be disciplined in the ways of Christ, and to share Him with others.—CMW



Asia Harvest/Operation China

1 THES 3:13, NLV

May our God and Father make your hearts strong and without blame. May your hearts be without sin in God’s sight when our Lord Jesus comes again with all those who belong to Him.

Pray that when the Pangan church is established, that it will be noted for holiness and a willingness to shun sin.

BANDUKKHAR PEOPLE

1 CHRON 22:16, NLT

You have expert goldsmiths and silversmiths and workers of bronze and iron [to build the Temple of the LORD].

Pray for the ironworking Bandukkhars to receive Christ so that God may build His living temple among them. Pray that these skilled people will use what God has given them for His glory rather than for the glory of man.



The Bandukkhars of northern India derive their name from their occupation: maker of guns. They number 700 people living in the largest city of the state of Jammu and Kashmir. Though they are part of a larger occupational caste of ironsmiths, the Bandukkhars believe that their work of making and repairing gun barrels is superior to the work of ordinary ironsmiths.

The Bandukkhars live in a region marked by opposition to Indian rule and known for international conflict between Muslims and Hindus. As a result, the Indian government has placed extreme restrictions on gun making in this region, which threatens the livelihood of the Bandukkhars.

This 100 percent Sunni Islamic people live simply. Economic transactions are typically in cash, and the community is without its own land. At the same time, Bandukkhars follow detailed traditions for things like marriages and the birth of children.

There are no believers or workers among them. But the Bible translations, The JESUS Film, gospel recordings, and radio broadcasts are available in their primary Kashmiri language.

Pray for a strong interest in Christ-centered resources among the Bandukkhars. Pray for dreams, visions, and power encounters to free their leaders from spiritual deception. Pray for God-sent witnesses. Ask God for a harvest of souls leading to a disciple-making movement.—CR

KASHMIRI BHAT

(This is a story which illustrates truths about this people group.)

Jahor strummed on his guitar; he loved to sing and tell stories. Perhaps one day he'd leave Kashmir and make a name for himself in Mumbai. Jahor dreamed of starring in a Bollywood movie and becoming rich and famous.



istock/thefinmiracle

Jahor was a member of the Kashmiri Bhat people group. They have a long history of being entertainers. Sadly, Jahor and others like him didn't realize that money and fame wouldn't bring happiness. Yet they have been committed to that belief for centuries. The Kashmiri Bhats had been bards and entertainers in India since 1295 AD when King Patapa Ruda of the Kshatriya Dynasty hired Bhats to entertain him in his palace.

This people group is 90 percent Hindu and 10 percent Muslim. Though we are focusing our prayers on the Muslims today, the Hindus also need prayer for the light. There are few, if any, followers of Jesus Christ among any of them.

Pray that Kashmiri Bhats would seek and find the light of God. May they be drawn to music that will lead them to the One who is the truth. Pray that they will use their musical abilities to share the gospel and to disciple others in how to live victorious, holy lives.—WK

EX 15:1-2, NLT

Then Moses and the people of Israel sang this song to the Lord, saying, "I will sing to the Lord, for He is praised for His greatness. He has thrown the horse and horseman into the sea. The Lord is my strength and song. He is the one who saves me. He is my God and I will praise Him. He is my father's God and I will honor Him.

Pray that soon there will come a day when the Kashmiri Bhats will use their voices to praise God as thankfully as Moses once did.

BOMBA PEOPLE

JER 2:28, NLV

But where are your gods that you made for yourself? Let them come if they can save you when you are in trouble. For you have as many gods as cities, O Judah.

Pray that the Bomba people will understand that there is but one God who can deliver them from sin and from any danger.

iStock/naiyyer



(This is a story which illustrates truths about this people group.)

Ali, a young Bomba man in his early 20s, wondered how

many gods there were. The Hindus said there were millions of gods and the Muslims taught that there was only one. Even if the Muslims were right, could he be sure Allah was the true God? He didn't dare ask this question openly. Ali's parents were Sunni Muslims, and they would be very upset if he ever started questioning Islam. Ali put all those thoughts aside and resumed planning his pilgrimage to Mecca.

Legend has it that the Bomba people migrated from Arabia to northern India hundreds of years ago, so Ali was hoping to learn about his roots while he was on pilgrimage. No one knows for sure if these legends are true. An Arabian origin may explain how this people group came to be completely Islamized.

The Bomba people speak the Dogr language, a language that has a complete Bible and radio gospel broadcasts. Few members of this people group have become followers of Jesus Christ.

Pray that the Bomba people would come to see Jesus Christ as more than a prophet. May this people group develop a hunger for the true God. Ask God to raise up faithful workers to reach out to this people group for the sake of Christ.—WK

KASHMIR DHOBI PEOPLE

(This is a story which illustrates truths about this people group.)

Sirjat loaded clothes into the

washing machine at her laundromat in one of India's largest cities. She was in her 30s and is a member of the Dhobi people group. Her family had once lived in Kashmir, but they left that state to get away from religious turmoil and violence. Hindus fought Muslims in Kashmir, and too many on both sides had died. As Sirjat switched on the washing machine, she thought about how dirty she felt on the inside. She was a Muslim, but Allah seemed to have no answer for the guilt she often felt.

The two million Kashmir Dhobis have been clothes washers for as long as anyone could remember. This people group is found all over India, but those who originated in Kashmir are different than the others. Most are Hindus, but some are Muslim. Most Muslim Dhobis speak Urdu, a language with a complete Bible. Few if any of them have given Jesus a chance to change their lives. At this time there are no efforts to reach Muslim Dhobis for the Lord.

Ask God to lead a mission agency to work with Muslim Dhobis. Pray that there will soon come a day when Muslim Dhobis will sing Christ's praise as they go about their daily tasks. Pray that they will disciple others until there is an unstoppable movement among them.—WK



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ZECH 3:3-5, NLV

Now Joshua was dressed in dirty clothes and standing in front of the angel. The angel said to those who were standing in front of him, "Take off his dirty clothes." And he said to him, "See, I have taken your sin away from you, and will dress you in beautiful clothes." Then I said, "Let them put a clean covering on his head." So they put a clean covering on his head and dressed him in clothes, while the angel of the Lord was standing by.

Pray that the Dhobi people in Kashmir will read this verse and understand the value of being forgiven of sin. Pray that they will understand that only Jesus Christ can make us spiritually clean.

DORMAL PEOPLE

COL 1:9B-11, NLV

I ask God that you may know what He wants you to do. I ask God to fill you with the wisdom and understanding the Holy Spirit gives. Then your lives will please the Lord. You will do every kind of good work, and you will know more about God. I pray that God's great power will make you strong, and that you will have joy as you wait and do not give up.

Pray these things for the workers who will be thrust out to the currently unengaged Dormal people.



iStock/bowie15

(This is a story which illustrates truths about this people group.)

Neal sat at a table at a language school in India trying to pronounce words

from the difficult Dogri language. His teacher, an Indian man in his 50s, watched and listened. Neal felt led by God to take the message of salvation to the Dormal people in north India, and he had to learn their language first. The teacher commented, "Be careful how you pronounce the words. Your tone of voice can completely change the meaning of a word. Neal said, "I didn't know Dogri was a tonal language." The teacher responded, "Indo-Aryan languages usually aren't tonal, but Dogri is one of the exceptions to that rule. Let's try the exercise again, and this time watch the tone of your voice." Neal carefully read the list of words again.

There are 8,900 Dormal people living in India, and almost all of them are Muslims. A complete Bible, the JESUS Film, and gospel recordings are already available in the Dogri language. All that is lacking are faithful and trained workers willing to take the message of salvation to this people group.

Pray that God would lead candidates to reach out to the Dormal people group with the message of salvation. Pray that such people will be able to learn the difficult Dogri language. Ask God to open the hearts of this people group to the true message of salvation.—WK

GANZ PEOPLE

What happens if a people leave their traditional trade? As India has become increasingly urban, this is not a hypothetical question. Traditionally the 1500 Ganz people have been taxidermists, meaning that they stuff dead animals for museums and such. Today they are becoming skilled laborers and businessmen, leaving India without taxidermists. However, in recent years a Mumbai veterinarian taught himself the trade in order to "preserve" India's vanishing wildlife for the next generation to see.



A taxidermist did fine work on this elephant

iStock/Jammoon028

Not surprisingly, given such openness to change, the Ganz males are ready to consult women concerning major decisions, property issues, and marriage. The older men, however, make the final decision. As a people, this group even has a Facebook page. Thus, they embrace new traditions. But being Muslim, they have yet to embrace Christ as more than just another prophet, despite the presence of Bible resources in Kashmiri.

Pray that the Ganz's openness to change will go beyond vocations to spiritual change. Pray that they become open to Jesus as Savior, not just as a prophet; and that families will embrace Him as Lord. Pray that social media will be effectively used by churches, mission agencies, and Kashmiri believers to reach Ganz people who are spiritually hungry. Pray for many to be disciplined, and to be used by the Holy Spirit to disciple some from other people groups.—TP

COL 1:13-14, NLV

God took us out of a life of darkness. He has put us in the holy nation of His much-loved Son. We have been bought by His blood and made free. Our sins are forgiven through Him.

Make this your prayer for the Ganz people, who still need to be led out of darkness into the light of Jesus Christ.

NAMDAGUR PEOPLE

EPH 3:16-18, NLV

I pray that because of the riches of His shining-greatness, He will make you strong with power in your hearts through the Holy Spirit. I pray that Christ may live in your hearts by faith. I pray that you will be filled with love. I pray that you will be able to understand how wide and how long and how high and how deep His love is.

Pray that when there are believers among the Namdagur people, they will internalize these truths and share them with others.



Wool to be made into felt

Today's people are even fewer in number than yesterday's, but in some ways they are about as different from the Ganz people as they can get! They make felt, which is a fibrous cloth made of wool. They have low literacy and low self-esteem and are looked down on by other communities.

The 1,100 Namdagur people are a Kashmiri-speaking Muslim population living near Lake Dal in India's northern states of Jammu and Kashmir. None live outside of India. They raise sheep for its wool and for making felt.

And like all Indians, they love tea. Indeed, they drink salted tea twice a day, a practice that is popular in the Himalayan Mountains.

They practice Sunni Islam. Because they speak Kashmiri, they have Bible resources available to them including gospel recordings.

Pray that God's Holy Spirit will draw them to Jesus, the gospel, gospel recordings, and Christian radio. Pray that they will find self-esteem in Jesus, and that through the gospel others will esteem them better. Pray churches and believers will disciple them in the ways of Christ. Pray for a disciple-making movement to move throughout all of their communities so none of them will be left without the chance to say yes to Jesus.—TP

PURIG PA

The Purig Pa people of Kashmir today live underneath the majestic Himalayan Mountains that divide India and China. Some of the tallest peaks in the world give testimony to what Paul told the Roman believers nearly 2,000 years ago: "For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead (divine nature, deity), so that they are without excuse." Romans 1:20 NKJ.

These nearly 55,000 people live as small farmers and nomadic shepherds living in homes and tents. Finishing the Task (FTT) reports that the Purig Pa are unreached and unengaged, meaning that they have no workers.

As many as 1,000 believers in Christ have come forward in Kashmir since 2010. Recent militancy among the Kashmiri Muslims have these believers in greater danger. *Operation World* reports that Bible correspondence has been very effective in showing them the way to the cross. The resources in the Purik language are the Bible, the JESUS film, gospel recordings, and radio broadcasts.

Pray that the current extremism may cause local Muslims to seek the peace that passes all understanding through a saving knowledge of Jesus. Pray that missionaries from all parts of India may reach out to the Purig Pa. Give thanks to the Father for His faithfulness in answering prayer for the Muslims of Kashmir!—JY



iStockPhotos

ROM 1:19-20, NLV

Men know about God. He has made it plain to them. Men cannot say they do not know about God. From the beginning of the world, men could see what God is like through the things He has made. This shows His power that lasts forever. It shows that He is God.

Pray that Muslim Purig Pas will see the beauty around them, and understand that God is all beautiful, powerful, and loving.

WATAL PEOPLE

EPH 1:17-18, NLV

I pray that the great God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ may give you the wisdom of His Spirit. Then you will be able to understand the secrets about Him as you know Him better. I pray that your hearts will be able to understand. I pray that you will know about the hope given by God's call. I pray that you will see how great the things are that He has promised to those who belong to Him.

Pray for the Watal people to gain the spiritual wisdom to seek and find Jesus Christ, and to share Him with others.



An Indian tanner

Although, according to India's constitution, caste is prohibited, it does exist and affects everyday life for Muslim communities as well as Hindu ones. For example, the Watal people often experience prejudice when they try to enter a mosque. They are Muslims, but being tanners, they are given low status not only by Hindus, but also by other Muslim communities.

The Watal people live in Kashmir. They are landless, illiterate, poor, and without political power. Feeling powerless, one Watal individual complained, "We are like dropped leaves from a tree being swept away by the wind in unknown directions. We have no shelter over our heads; successive governments have done so much for the poor, but we still remain deprived of benefits."

The Watal people only number about 5,300, which in Indian terms is small, but they are known and loved by God. Someone needs to reach them with the gospel because they are intended to be among those from "every tribe, tongue, and nation" who will be at the throne of God throughout eternity.

Pray for the Lord of the harvest to send forth His harvesters into this field to share with them His glorious message. May the Watal people be eternally grateful to the God who gives them dignity because of their relationship with Jesus Christ. May they learn His ways and teach them to others.—JS

WAZA PEOPLE

Global Prayer Digest's goal is to inform Christ's followers about every people group anywhere in the world that needs prayer to bring them into the kingdom of God. Jesus said, "And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come" (Matthew 24:14). What is a nation, as defined by the Bible? It is actually any group of people with a language, a culture, a religion, etc. that sets them apart from others no matter how small.

There are only 1,600 Waza people in Kashmir, but they are a "nation" in God's eyes. Their name means "cook." That is what they do; they are expert chefs, and they are hired by both Hindu and Muslim communities to cook for big occasions. Because they provide an essential service to both Hindus and Muslims, they have good relations in both communities.

The Wazas have definitely found their niche, but they have not yet heard about the one who came to elevate them to an exalted status as beloved children of God and members of His kingdom.

Pray for a Holy Spirit infiltration into their communities so that they can experience God's love, and His tender guidance. May they use their God-given talent as cooks to glorify the King of kings. Pray that the Waza people will be used as Christ's ambassadors to both Hindus and Muslims.—JS



Rantaimages/iStock

GEN 12:1-3, NLV

Now the Lord said to Abram, "Leave your country, your family and your father's house, and go to the land that I will show you. And I will make you a great nation. I will bring good to you. I will make your name great, so you will be honored. I will bring good to those who are good to you. And I will curse those who curse you. Good will come to all the families of the earth because of you."

Pray that we as a church will understand that the Great Commission is not a new idea, but God started the process of reaching all nations in Genesis!

POHUL PEOPLE

GEN 21:27-28, NLV

So Abraham took sheep and cattle and gave them to Abimelech. Then the two men made an agreement. Abraham set seven lambs of the flock away from the others.

Pray that the Pohul people will have access to the Bible, and eagerly learn from the lives of other shepherds like Abraham and David.



The oldest known community in the Himalayan Mountains of Kashmir are the Pohul people! They

are shepherds, the oldest occupation in that region. They tend their flocks of sheep and goats in these rugged mountains. Like other people groups we have read about this month they are quite small, numbering only about 3,200. The Pohul people are widely distributed in rural areas; however, some have been able to mix with more affluent Muslim communities and are now working for the government.

The Pohul people rarely eat meat primarily because it is expensive, but on special occasions they will enjoy mutton, a favorite meat in India. Like many other castes in India, the Pohul people have their marriages arranged by their parents. Indeed, marriage is their most important ritual although it is very simple. The groom and his guests arrive at the home of the bride where they are served an evening meal. Because it is a special occasion, they serve meat.

They are unengaged as well as unreached, so no one is involved in reaching out to the Pohuls with the gospel. Their rural, remote lifestyle is an obstacle in reaching them, but nothing is impossible with God.

Pray that God will put it on the hearts of Indian believers to disciple the Pohul community. Pray for God to prepare Pohul hearts to recognize the truth of the gospel message.—JS

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