

Why should we pray for Unreached Peoples?

When Jesus commanded His disciples to take the Gospel to all “nations”, the original word used in the Greek New Testament is *ethnê*, meaning people groups that are defined by their unique ethnic background, culture, and language, not the larger political constructs called “nations” today. Each modern political nation is a diverse mosaic of many subgroups which are the ethnic groups, tribes, and unique socio-cultural groups that Jesus was talking about. The Great Commission is therefore about reaching the close to such unreached people groups that still do not have an indigenous body of believers with adequate numbers and resources to reach the rest of their group. You can go to www.JoshuaProject.net to get the full listing with more information, including helpful profiles to aid your prayers.

One day, the book of Revelation declares, a vast, diverse number of humans from every nation, tribe, people and language will be in heaven celebrating together the awesome salvation of God. Because mission is a supernatural endeavor, God requires our partnership through the powerful resource of prayer to disempower oppressive powers of darkness that cause many people groups to be resistant to the Gospel. That is why Jesus told His followers to stay in Jerusalem till they received power from on high. *“They all joined together constantly in prayer”* (Acts 1:14) until that explosive outpouring of the Spirit that empowered them to bear witness to their own people and ultimately the Gentiles, the peoples of the earth.

The many mission breakthroughs that followed in the book of Acts and throughout the history of missions were the result of utilizing this mighty resource of prayer and operating in the power of the Holy Spirit that the early church understood so well. Robert Glover sums up the role of prayer in the history of missions:

“From Pentecost and the Apostle Paul, right down through the centuries to the present day, the story of missions has been the story of answered prayer. Every fresh outbreak of missionary energy has been the result of believing prayer. Every new missionary undertaking that has been owned and blessed of God has been the germinating of seed planted by the divine spirit in the hearts of praying saints.”

In Psalm 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.”* The only thing we can take with us into eternity as our inheritance are other people to become part of His

eternal family. Our joy and crown, just as for the great Apostle Paul, will be those others who come to Christ through our efforts. As this Psalm reveals, asking God or praying opens the way for the unreached peoples to become our inheritance. Choosing one or more unreached people groups and praying for them persistently is, therefore, one of the most strategic things we can do to advance Christ's Kingdom on earth. **Which of the unreached people groups will become your inheritance?**

John Robb, Chairman

International Prayer Council and International Prayer Connect

Praying with Understanding

Unreached Peoples are often characterized by a fear that to become Christian will harm their people's families and communities. This fear is a primary factor by which spiritual forces of darkness isolate them from Father God's blessing. Among such Unreached Peoples, evangelism of individuals away from their families deepens these fears. For Unreached Peoples to welcome God's blessing as good news, they must directly experience the power of God's word to bless, heal and strengthen the existing families of the community. When families discover and experience God's blessing by interacting together around His word, then joyfully share this blessing with other families, a movement of rapidly multiplying household churches can result.

Prayer Points For all Unreached Peoples Groups:

1. Ask God to deliver every unreached people group from bondage to fear, and to raise up multiple Adoption Teams for each UPG, committed to interceding and advocating for a Household Church Movement to saturate their people group by 2025 (Ps 2:8, James 4:2b).
2. Ask God to make His Word run swiftly across the earth and be honored by all unreached people groups, including the Oral and Bibleless, and for Bible Translation and Orality movements to make Scripture available among every UPG by 2025. (II Th 3:1; Eph 4:16)

For the particular Unreached People Group that you want to adopt for ongoing prayer:

1. For God's blessing, strengthening and healing of families and communities within our adopted Frontier People through the abundant life and love Jesus offers to all people (Genesis 12:5, 28:14; Acts 3:25, 10:43).
2. For the binding and overthrow of spiritual forces of darkness that oppose the spread of the Gospel and keep people groups from responding freely to Christ and deliverance and through the bondage of fear hinders God's blessing from multiplying through the families and communities in our adopted UPG (Gen 3:10, Isa 25:7).
3. For God's blessing on the religious and secular leaders of our adopted UPG, along with their families, and for their communities to welcome and enjoy this blessing (I Tim 2:1-5).
4. For the Lord to multiply the reception and influence of His Word among our adopted UPG, leading them to love Him with their whole being (Acts 6:7, 12:24, 19:20, Mk 12:29-31).
5. For the Holy Spirit to inspire the families of our adopted UPG, especially the children and youth, so they will become a new generation of prayerful, multiplying witnesses (Mt 9:37-38, Lk 10:2).