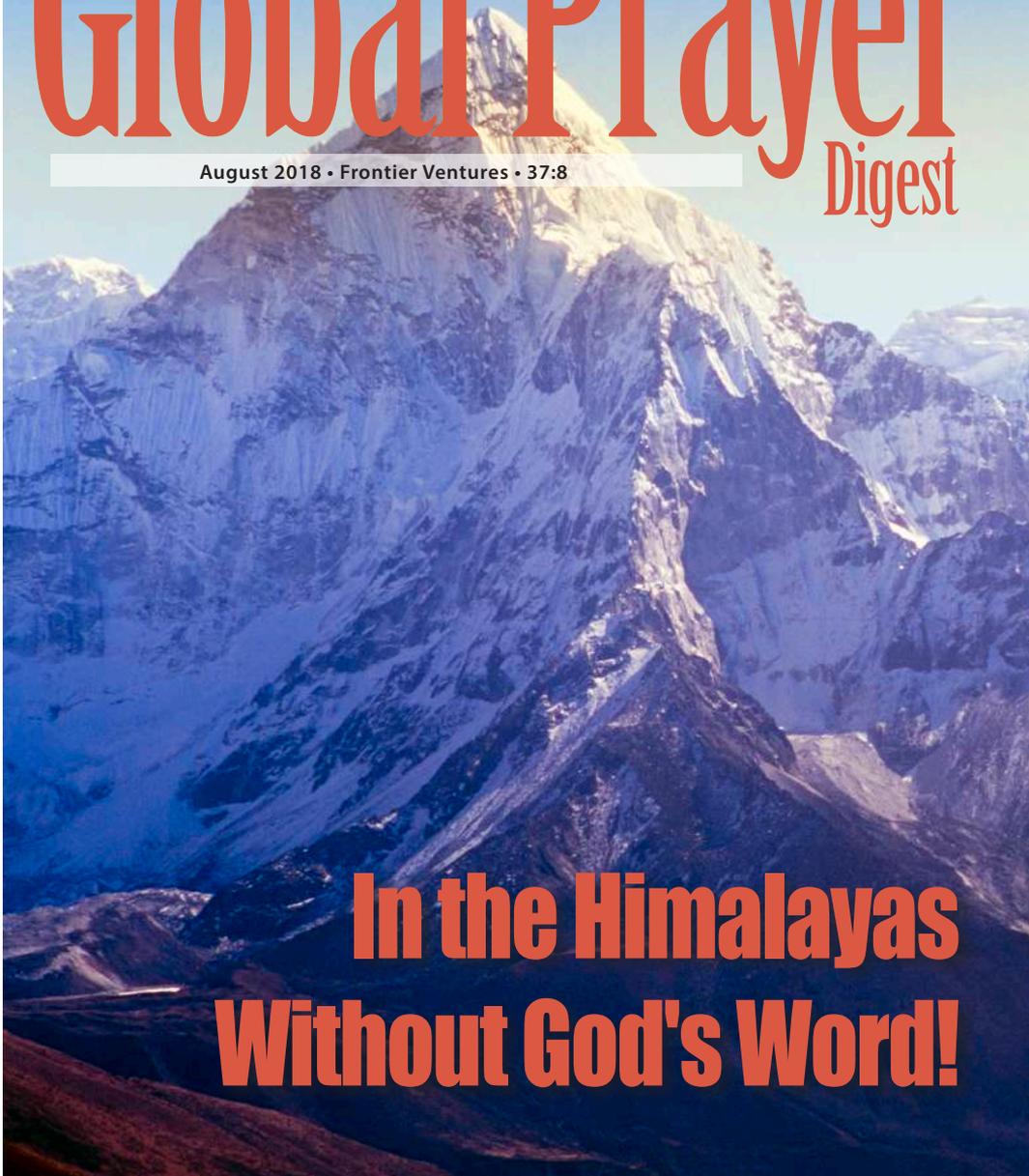




Global Prayer Digest

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In the Himalayas Without God's Word!

- 7—A Yak of All Trades?
- 8—Pushing A Boulder Uphill to Pay for Sin
- 10—No Direction Leads to Nowhere!
- 14—Hearty Hikers Needed to Reach these People
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Editorial



Dear Praying Friends,

One of the advantages of living in Pasadena, California, is our view of the San Gabriel Mountains. I look up at them and think of Ps 121:1-2, NLV, "I will lift up my eyes to the mountains. Where will my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth." I know that I can only depend on the Lord, and those beautiful mountains are evidence of His grandeur, majesty, creativity, and power. Then I worship Him!

In English, we have the Bible in so many versions that it sometimes gets complicated. You may notice in the *Global Prayer Digest (GPD)* we usually tell you which Bible translation we are using. This month we are praying for the Hindu and Buddhist peoples in the Himalayan Mountains who don't have a Bible at all. They can see the beauty all around them that He created, but they cannot give Him praise. Without His word they will depend on prayer wheels and false gods, none of which created the beautiful Himalayan Mountains. It's time to pray for a change!

In Christ,

Keith Carey, editor-in-chief, *GPD*

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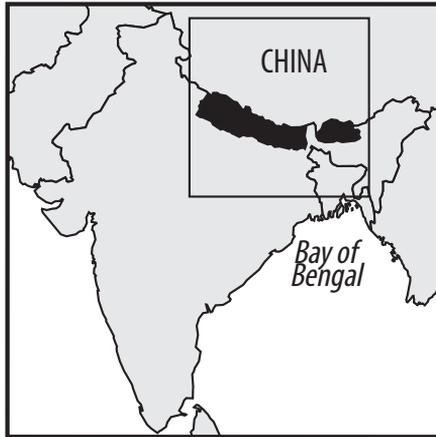
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PRAY FOR

*Every Bible-less People
in the Himalayan Mountains*



THE MANY CHALLENGES FACING BIBLE TRANSLATORS

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Bible translation has been undertaken in South Asia for hundreds of years. There are translation challenges that arise from the different cultures. There are also issues with translating the original Greek and Hebrew text into another language family. In addition, there may also be factors which arise from the translation process. Understanding these challenges will bring up many topics for prayer as you read the daily entries in this *Global Prayer Digest (GPD)*.

The Cultural Challenge

In South Asian cultures the family and family relationships are central for anything having to do with spiritual matters. Hindus and Buddhists, like the people groups we will pray for this month, practice their rituals of faith in their homes. There is often a family altar, and each person in the home will offer food or incense before the altar on a daily basis. This may be combined with a prayer or song.

Their cultures place high value on respect for elders and they perform rituals that incorporate children into the household of faith. There are various ceremonies for a new child in a

BY A WORKER
WITH SIL



Bible Translation

family from the time the mother knows that she is pregnant. There are also ceremonies at birth and for the naming of the child, and the infant may be incorporated into the family by a ceremony which involves breathing or blowing on the child. This is seen as determining his fate or destiny. Further ceremonies are held at other “first” events, such as eating the first solid food, first attending school, first shave or menstruation, etc.

The frequency of rituals and their emphasis on the cycle of birth, death, and rebirth continually connect family members. These connections make it difficult for a person to turn to Christ, as it takes them away from the family at key times when these rituals are implemented. Those who become involved in Christian work, such as Bible translators, are further estranged from their non-Christian families. Family members view coming to faith in Christ as a rejection of them as a family. Sometimes the isolation from friends and family will cause a believer to return to their traditional beliefs.

The Worldview Challenge

How an Asian translator views the world may affect how he or she translates scripture. Since all life is sometimes seen to be of equal value in these cultures, Christian teaching may begin with the differences between humans and animals. Hindus and Buddhists believe in reincarnation where there is an unending cycle of birth and death. Translating accurately from this context requires wisdom to bring clear understanding.

In addition to a translator’s culture, background, and worldview, the translator must also consider the community’s religious characteristics when they translate. One particular area is in the complexities of the supernatural gods that these Asian cultures worship. No single god is seen as entirely good or entirely bad. The concept of a man living a perfect life is unbelievable to most South Asian people, even if he has supernatural help.

These cultural factors affect Bible translation projects. Often the initial translation is undertaken by a speaker who lives far from their family and language community. A believer in this situation may have fewer problems being involved in translation, as they will not have family or community pressures on them to return to traditional beliefs. But this estrangement may make it difficult to check Scripture passages for comprehension in the home community. It may also present challenges to having a team of several members doing translation together, as there may be just one or two followers of Christ in a given location. So a non-Christian may adopt words from their spiritual upbringing and apply them into the translation.

continued on next page



If these translators are not accepted by the home community, the community may reject the translated books. Even when the Scriptures are accepted, the distance from the home community may mean that they are not able to encourage use of the translation because the translator is not present to explain the Scriptures.



One last issue facing translators is the use of key terms or phrases for spiritual thoughts. Because of the complex hierarchies and relationships in their various religions, each term for a spiritual being has implications when used in a translation. Terms for “creator” and “God” may bring along unwanted additional meanings when used in the biblical context. Concepts such as “guilt” and “sin” also may be hard to translate in a way that communicates well to a Hindu or Buddhist. When a new term is coined or a phrase borrowed from another language to use for a difficult term, the Bible seems like a foreign book and not really in their own language.

Language and Understanding Challenges

Many Asian languages have precise forms for addressing a superior or inferior person. There may also be special forms for royalty or religious leaders. This can lead to difficulties for translators who are not native speakers of the local language as they may not know all the implications of a particular form of address. In the gospels Jesus speaks to various people from inside and outside his own language area and from various social levels. Each time the translator must be sure to use the appropriate form of address which may also affect nouns or verbs in the sentence. In particular, the way one speaks to slaves have different implications, so things can become complicated and murky. For example, in Paul’s letters he calls himself a “bond-slave” to Jesus Christ. The translator may also need to use different forms when Paul writes to Onesimus or to his owner, Philemon, about his runaway slave.



Bible Translation

Conclusion

One final area that may be affected by cultural and other factors is where to begin translation. For example, one translation project in South Asia found that translating an Old Testament book of the Law alongside the New Testament book of Hebrews gave the Hindus in their area a way to understand the background of Jesus coming as fulfillment of the Law. The religious requirements of the Law were something the group could relate to, and they understood freedom in Christ more fully because these two parts of Scripture were presented together.

Many factors important to a good Bible translation are faithfulness to the original text and accuracy in communicating it in another language. Translators must consider the cultural, religious, and language issues in order to produce a translation which communicates accurately. In addition, other cultural factors make it difficult to find skilled translators or to keep them in a long-term project.



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The Situation Needs Prayer!

- Pray for language helpers to have the stamina to stay with a Bible translation project until it is finished.
- Pray for God's wisdom for each translator in South Asia as they face these issues in translation work.
- Pray for the Holy Spirit to guide Bible translators to find the best way to translate each language.



DAY

01

TESTIMONY OF KRISHNA

ROM 10:17, NLV

So then, faith comes to us by hearing the good news. And the good news comes by someone preaching it.

Pray this verse will penetrate the hearts of hundreds of Hindus in the same way that it did Krishna.

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A Nepali man

The Apostle Paul told the church in ancient Rome that “Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.” This verse can be found in Romans 10:17 and was the reason why a Hindu man named Krishna (not his real name) put his faith in Christ by simply reading the Bible!

Life wasn’t easy for the young believer. He was repeatedly humiliated by his neighbors, accused of being a “cow eater” even though he still abstained from beef. His pastor had prepared him and the other five members of his church to endure such criticism.

From the time of his conversion, Krishna lived with his parents and younger brother as he continued to teach in his village. Within two years of his conversion, Krishna’s younger brother came to Christ. Six years later, his parents also professed faith in Jesus. They had noticed behavior changes in Krishna’s life that helped them grow in their newfound faith. By this time Krishna was hosting weekly Bible classes in his parent’s home that have resulted in encouraging local pastors to teach through the Word of God.

Give thanks to the Father for the growing faith of the believers in Krishna’s church. Pray that many people in the Himalayan nations would read the New Testament, and that the message from that book would spread throughout the region.—JY

TESTIMONY OF KRISHNA, CONTINUED

DAY

02

After coming to Christ, Krishna's parents removed the Hindu shrine (including their idol) from their home. When the family refused to contribute the annual offering of homemade alcohol to the village deity, the family was excluded from local projects like road construction, well digging, and crop irrigation. After a while, though, they were invited back into these activities.



Ganesh, a Hindu idol

In the 23 years since Krishna was saved a small church has been established in the village. While the work has been difficult, a congregation of 30 to 50 believers has been built on land that is jointly owned by Krishna's father and two pastors.

Krishna also has been working on a New Testament translation that is in the local language and is spoken by an ethnic minority within his country. One of the problems associated with this new translation concerns the healing ministry of Jesus. In Hindu cultures shamans are often hired to perform healings using blood sacrifices of chickens and alcohol offerings.

Concerned that many would view Jesus as just another shaman, the translators have included footnotes with the biblical text emphasizing His deity. Also, many pastors are being taught about how Jesus healed many people and what distinguishes Him from the local shamans.

Pray for the protection of Christian families as they face persecution from unbelievers. Pray that the work of the translators will bring the ministry of Jesus to more people groups in this unreached region.—JY

COL 1:4, NLV

We give thanks to God for you because we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus. We thank God for your love for all those who belong to Christ.

Pray that these new churches in Hindu strongholds will be known for their faith in Jesus, and for their love for others.

DAY

03

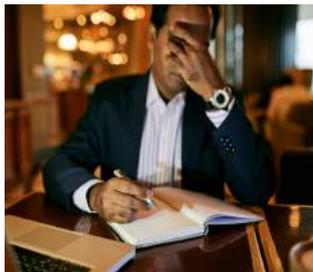
TESTIMONY OF KRISHNA, CONTINUED

COL 1:6, NLV

The good news came to you the same as it is now going out to all the world. Lives are being changed, just as your life was changed the day you heard the good news. You understood the truth about God's loving-kindness.

Pray that as this church planting movement flows throughout the Himalayan region, that it will transform lives and communities for the glory of God.

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The translation team continues to meet with local pastors to determine which words are the most useful. Krishna relates that nearly 150 pastors speak the local language.

The first pastor began his ministry in 1978.

As the final stages of the New Testament are being readied, excitement among the churches is spreading. Oftentimes pastors will choose words that are the same as in the national language. They are accustomed to reading the Bible in their own language.

There were dedications of the translation at various locations last April. The new translation will clarify key biblical concepts. This will strengthen understanding among the believers and improve evangelistic efforts.

Praise God for the good fruit that is coming from this ministry; one that began when the Holy Spirit revealed to Krishna that faith comes by hearing. Pray for the Lord to use the dedication of the new translation of the New Testament. Pray that greater knowledge and understanding of the Word of God will result. Pray that this minority people will soon invite members of unreached people groups to join them in studying God's word. Pray for these Bible studies to result in disciple-making groups emerging all over the Himalayan Mountain region.—JY



DAY

04

BROKPA PEOPLE OF BHUTAN

Bhutan's Princess Aisha was speaking to the Asia Society in Hong Kong in hopes of receiving funds to help Brokpa Buddhist monks in the restoration of Bhutan's Thangka art.



“Thangkas are Tibetan paintings of Buddhist gods on either cotton or silk which play an important role in Buddhism. The word “Thangka” means “rolled up.” They received the name because they are only unrolled at special occasions such as weddings or major Buddhist festivals. They are priceless to my people; some date to the 11th century AD. Sadly, age and natural disasters have caused many Thangkas to need restoration. However, the only people who truly understand Thangkas and how they are made are the monks who look after them. The problem has been these monks are not artists and were not trained in the preservation of these priceless works of art. However, a specialist in conserving Asian art has been teaching our monks how to restore them.”



There are over 5,400 Brokpa speaking people who live in some of the most remote villages in eastern Bhutan. They are followers of Buddhism and astrology. As far as we know, none of them follow Christ.

Pray that God will send His servants with gospel materials, so the Brokpa people can see His light!—PD

PS 27:4, NLV

One thing I have asked from the Lord, that I will look for: that I may live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to look upon the beauty of the Lord, and to worship in His holy house.

Pray that soon the Brokpa people will seek and find the Lord, whose beauty is far beyond anything mankind can imagine.



DAY

05

CHALI PEOPLE OF BHUTAN

PS 29:2, NLV

Give to the Lord the honor that belongs to Him.
Worship the Lord in the beauty of holy living.

Pray that the Chali people will learn to excel in the beauty of holy living.

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Fresh lemongrass

(This story illustrates challenges faced by this people group.)

Denju, a farmer from the Chali people, was showing his 12-year-old son, Sang, how to harvest lemongrass. He explained that the bottom of the plant would be used for oil while the blades of the plant would be dried for tea. Denju was proud to see how quickly the boy learned. A few months earlier a monk from the local monastery had suggested that Denju should send his son to the monastery to become a monk. Denju and his wife decided this would not be the right thing to do; they needed their son to someday take over the family farm.

More than 1,000 people belonging to the Chali people group live in scattered villages located in the Mongar Region of eastern Bhutan. Just recently the area became more developed through the building of a small hospital and a hydroelectric plant. The region has the perfect climate to grow lemon grass which has contributed to the economy of the Chali people. It also has a small Buddhist monastery housing about 50 monks, some of whom are boys not yet in their teens.

Chalis are under the control of Buddhist deities, rules, and social restrictions. They do not know the saving grace of Jesus or His teachings in the Bible.

Pray that the Chali people will soon accept the living Lord and be brought out of darkness into the light of Christ.—PD



TSAMANG PEOPLE OF BHUTAN

DAY

06

(This story illustrates challenges faced by this people group.)

Taking a yoga position, Nelan fixed his eyes on a painting of Chakrasamvara (Chakra-sam-vara), the chosen god of his Tsamang family. The blue faced god with 12 hands seemed to put him into a trance as he began reciting his mantra (holy words). He came to “Blessed one! Do not abandon me. And in all actions, make my mind most excellent.” He shouted out the words so the god would be sure to hear him.



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He knew he would have to say the words many times in order to have a chance to be restored to the bond he had with his lama (priest). He had questioned the lama’s advice to always meditate each day and not to drink strong wine. He complained about the lama to his friends; then he told the lama he was sorry. The lama told him if he hoped to regain honor with the gods he would have to meditate and pray for long sessions every day. However, he did not promise Nelan that he would ever regain his degree of enlightenment.

There are over 9,200 Tsamang people living in isolated villages in Bhutan. Most are strong Buddhists who meditate about their chosen Buddhist god each day. About three percent of the population are struggling Christians.

Pray that Tsamang Buddhists will be open to Christian testimonies and accept Jesus as savior.—PD

PS 97:7, NLV

Let all those who serve false gods be ashamed, those who talk about how great their gods are. Worship Him, all you gods!

Pray that soon the Tsamang people will turn from false gods to the One True God, and have their dignity and honor restored in Him.



DAY

07

DAKPA PEOPLE OF BHUTAN

PS 121:1-2, NLV

I will lift up my eyes to the mountains. Where will my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

Pray that the hearty Dakpa people will look to the Lord and worship Him!

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A Yak in the Himalayan Mountains

What can help you survive the rigors of the Himalayas? A yak of all trades! The Dakpa people of eastern Bhutan probably couldn't live without their yaks. They spin,

weave, and dye yak wool. They use their yaks as beasts of burden, and they eat yak meat and drink yak milk. On any given day, a Dakpa man might drink more than 30 cups of butter tea, the main ingredient of which is high-calorie yak butter. In addition to warming himself with tea, the man could cover himself with a yak-wool blanket to keep out the frigid Himalayan air. Wealth is measured in yaks; a wealthy family may have up to 180 yaks, a middle-class family 50 yaks, and the poorest only two. The distinctive feature of Dakpa apparel is the hat. Shaped like a flat beret, the hat is made of—you guessed it—yak hair. It sports five “tails” that allow water to run off from the face.

The Dakpa are almost entirely Buddhist; most homes have a shrine. Some families mix in a little bit of Tibetan shamanism with their religion. The Dakpa remain isolated and resistant to outsiders. No gospel resources exist in their language.

Pray for mission organizations to reach out to this small people group and give them gospel resources. Ask God to raise up prayer teams who will intercede on behalf of them, and win key Dakpa leaders to Christ.—CMW



DAY

08

DZALA PEOPLE OF BHUTAN

In Greek mythology, the mortal Sisyphus was condemned by the gods to an eternity of pushing a boulder up a hill then



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watching it roll back down again. Now imagine that you could obtain the forgiveness of your sins by climbing up a mountain. What if you could be forgiven of only the sins you had committed up to that point? You would, like Sisyphus, have to scale the mountain again and again! In the village of Duksum in Bhutan it is said that if you can ascend the rock face to the top of the hill overlooking the Buddhist temple, you can be forgiven all of the sins you have committed—but only up until that point in your life.

The Dzala people live in north-eastern Bhutan, on the border of China. Life in their villages is slow and simple. Tourists describe a visit to the region as a step back to medieval times. One publication disparagingly reports that it takes all of 10 minutes to explore the main town. The most conspicuous structure there is a tall, elaborately decorated Bhutanese-style shrine.

The Dzala have practiced Buddhism for more than 1,300 years. Buddhism entered Bhutan from Tibet, and monks strengthened the religious ties over the centuries.

Pray for the Dzala people to recognize that Christ has paid for the sins of all who call on His name. Pray for a Christ-centered fellowship in this remote corner of the country.—CMW

GEN 6:5, NLV

Then the Lord saw that man was very sinful on the earth. Every plan and thought of the heart of man was sinful always.

Thank the Lord that though our sins are great, God has provided a way to be restored into a right relationship with Him through Christ. Praise God!



DAY

09

GONGDUK PEOPLE OF BHUTAN

ROM 6:23, NASB

The payment for sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Pray for the Gongduk people to eagerly accept that gift of Christ when someone goes to them with the gospel.

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A land with a view!

The gospel has never entered the hearts of the spiritually needy Gongduk people. They believe that no god punishes sin, and that the sum of your actions in this

life cannot change your fate. Today 100 percent of them are Tibetan Buddhists.

Outsiders knew nothing about this small ethnic group until a Dutch linguist discovered them in 1991. He reported: “They are a dwindling people in a remote enclave, speaking an endangered language. It is a two-day journey up the dangerous Manas River, which accounts for the fact that they have remained largely unknown...”

Approximately 2,400 Gongduk people live in a few extremely isolated villages in Bhutan. They may have been one of the earliest people groups in Bhutan, which was completely closed off to outside influence for centuries until 1960 when the king allowed more freedom. Little has changed in their rural areas for centuries. Access to them is hindered by extreme weather and landslides. One must wonder how many other small tribes and language groups exist in the hundreds of isolated valleys of the Himalayan Mountains. All of them must be reached with the truth before Christ returns! Who will tell them God’s truth—will you?

Pray for workers to go to the Gongduk people, and for their hearts to be ready to receive their savior.—KH

LAKHA (LA-KHA) PEOPLE OF BHUTAN

DAY

10

If you don't know where you are going, any direction will get you there. The Lakha people have no spiritual direction in their lives, except toward eternal separation from the Creator. The Lakha people of central Bhutan are directed by teachings of Gautama Buddha that have no answers for problems and suffering in this life. They customarily turn to alcohol called *chang*, a common Tibetan beer made from barley. The enemy of our souls is very creative in all cultures to show his captives ways to make destructive alcoholic drinks from all kinds of things.



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No direction leads nowhere!

JN 14:6, NLV

Jesus said, "I am the way and the truth and the Life. No one can go to the Father except by Me."

Pray that the Lakha people will seek and find the direction that only Jesus offers; a direction that leads to life and truth!

Lakha literally means "language of the mountain pass," a southern Tibetan language spoken by about 8,000 people in central Bhutan. These people are descendants of pastoral yak-herding communities.

Approximately 10,000 Lakha people live in central Bhutan; nowhere else. One hundred percent follow the Buddhist religion. The Lakha are an unreached, unengaged people, with an unwritten language. There are no resources in their language, nor are there radio stations that have broadcasts in their language. Being oral communicators, they need radio broadcasts and other non-printed ways to get the gospel.

Pray that a field recordist from Global Recordings Network (GRN) will be able to visit them and make this kind of recording.—KH

KURTOP PEOPLE OF BHUTAN

PS 119:105, NLV

Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

Pray for His word to become available to the Kurtop people of Bhutan. Pray that it soon will indeed become a lamp to their communities.



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(These events are hypothetical.)

Crowds of people in the Kurtop village, stepped out of their houses to watch a land rover drive

down the road and park outside a house. A group of Indian adventurers had arrived. This was a part of Bhutan where cars were rare.

The Kurtop people group lives in a remote region of Bhutan. This is a mountainous region dominated by the high peaks of the Himalayas. As late as 1998 there were only five cars in the entire Kurtop homeland and no gas stations.

Almost all Kurtops are Buddhists. Not one verse of the Bible has been translated into the language of this people group. There is also no JESUS Film or gospel radio broadcasts in the Kurtop language. There are also no known followers of Jesus Christ among them.

Ask God to lead a mission agency to target the Kurtops for outreach. Pray that God would break the hold that Buddhism has on this people group and replace it with a spiritual hunger that will lead them to Jesus Christ. Pray that this people group would come to see Christ as the true source of salvation and peace. May there be a disciple-making movement among them that will transform their communities and bring them God's blessings.—WK



LHOP PEOPLE

DAY

12

(These events are hypothetical.)

“Come my children, bow to the statues,” said the Lhop mother to her small children.



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The family stood in a temple. On one side stood a statue depicting Talang, a deity worshiped by this community. On the other side stood a statue of Buddha. These were the only gods known to the people living in this part of Bhutan.

Bhutan is a land of high mountains. The Lhop people group lives in a remote part of this nation. Families are traced through the mother’s lineage, and she is the leader of the home.

There are 3500 Lhop people living in Bhutan. Their language has never been written down. No one knows when this people group began worshiping Talang, a local deity only worshiped in Bhutan. Many centuries later missionaries from neighboring India brought the teachings of Gautama Buddha to the Lhop people. Most of them worship Talang and Buddha. There are no known worshippers of Jesus Christ among this group.

Pray that God would lead faithful workers to take the message of salvation to the Lhop people. Ask the Lord for the creation of a written script for the Lhop language so the Bible may be translated into their language. Pray that soon the Lhop people will be disciplined in the ways of Jesus. Pray for the safety of any missionaries led by God to serve in this remote and dangerous land.—WK

PS 119:169, NLV

Let my cry come to You, O Lord. Give me understanding because of Your word.

Pray for the Lhop people to hear His word, and to receive it as their own.



DAY

13

NUPBI (AKA, LAYAP) PEOPLE OF BHUTAN

2 TIM 3:16, NLV

All the Holy writings are God-given and are made alive by Him. Man is helped when he is taught God's Word. It shows what is wrong. It changes the way of a man's life. It shows him how to be right with God.

Pray for God's word to soon have a transforming effect on Nupbi culture.

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Bible translation is a long, arduous undertaking. Translators have to be specially trained. They then spend years

studying the target language. In addition to the translators, people are needed who can check the text for accuracy and readability. The finished project must then be typeset and published. The process can take decades and cost tens of thousands of dollars. Is all of that really worth it when those in need of a Bible number only 3,000 people?

The key word is “people.” No matter how many might be in a people group, the men, women, and children who make it up are valuable to God. They are made in His image and loved so much that He sent His only son, Jesus Christ, for them! If they were our friends and family, would the members of the Nupbi be a priority to us? Would we be concerned with their salvation? Would we pray for the word of God to be translated into their language?

Please pray that the Nupbi people would have the opportunity to put their faith in Christ and become our brothers and sisters in Him. Pray for the Lord to raise up translators who can quickly and accurately translate His word into their language. Ask Him to prepare the hearts of this group to receive the truth of scripture.—CL



BLACK MOUNTAIN MONPA PEOPLE

DAY

14

Wanted: Monpa reacher. Must be willing to travel to a remote part of central Bhutan, hike deep into the Black Mountains (the



iStockPhotos

Hiking in Bhutan

southern spur of the Himalayas), and attempt to befriend an animistic people group numbering in the low hundreds. Candidates should have a close relationship with God, a heart for the unreached, and a willingness to invest years, even decades of their life to this task. Must be a people person who enjoys seeing the lost find their Savior. Translation experience a plus as the Monpa have no portions of the Bible available in their language.

Danger, difficulty, adventure, hardship, and unexpected satisfaction should be expected. Full compensation will be deferred until eternity. Before submitting applications, please pray.

Pray for God to thrust out mission workers to go to the Monpa people. Pray for this small, but highly valued group of people to have the opportunity to hear and respond to the good news of Christ. Pray for the Lord to soften their hearts and rescue them from the darkness they have been living and dying in. Pray for them to be disciplined in the ways of Jesus Christ, and that believers among them will find ways to disciple others.—CL

MATT 6:10, NLV

May Your holy nation come. What You want done, may it be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Pray for God's will to be done among this people group that lacks His direction in life.



DAY

15

LUNAPE PEOPLE OF BHUTAN

MATT 9:12-13, NLV

Jesus heard them and said, "People who are well do not need a doctor. But go and understand these words, 'I want loving-kindness and not a gift to be given.' For I have not come to call good people. I have come to call those who are sinners."

Pray that the Lunape people will hear these words from the Lord, and realize they are in need of a real spiritual "doctor."

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How do they survive? The Lunape people live in the Himalayan Mountains of Bhutan where the air is thin, grass is sometimes sparse

for their livestock, and there isn't enough sun to be able to grow crops on a regular basis. Like most other peoples in this region, the Lunape people grow barley and raise yaks. The yaks provide them with most of their food; milk, butter, and meat. Yak hair is also an excellent source of warm clothing.

Hundreds of years ago, Tibetan Buddhist missionaries did what they could to make sure the Lunape people could hear about Buddhism. These monks risked their lives, and most likely some of them died in the process of sharing their religion with the Lunape people. Their efforts paid off, and today the Lunape people are all Tibetan Buddhists.

Imagine what could happen if missionaries who follow Christ were willing to make such sacrifices! Though it would be extremely difficult, believers could reach the Lunape people if they were willing to put their lives on the line for the sake of Christ. There are some believers doing this in the Himalayan nations, but very few.

Pray for workers! Pray for gospel recordings and Bible portions to be translated for this Bible-less people group. Pray that these Tibetan Buddhists will crave the true spirituality that only Jesus offers, and not settle for what their ancestors taught them.—KC



INFRASTRUCTURE IN BHUTAN

DAY

16

This prayer entry will be the exception—today we will be praying for physical needs for the peoples of Bhutan that potentially can help all peoples in this nation have access to the gospel.



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A hydroelectric power plant in Bhutan

PS 4:7, NLV

You have filled my heart with more happiness than they have when there is much grain and wine.

Pray that the peoples of Bhutan who pride themselves on being the happiest people on earth, will find great happiness when they hear that the God of Creation wants them to become part of His holy, worldwide family.

When a people group lives in a mountainous region with poor roads, they are isolated from outside influence. It is very difficult to have cell towers for cell phone coverage. Nor are things set up for the Internet to function as well as it should. They have television coverage, but even getting that established was very difficult given the climate and geography.

However, there are other factors. One of the few ways for the Bhutanese to make money is to export their electricity to nearby India. And the people who make decisions for this nation have concerns about allowing outside influences into their country. Do they really want to allow Western pornography into their country through the Internet? Unfortunately, keeping out the worst of the outside world also means keeping out the gospel that can transform lives and provide life to the fullest as Jesus promised to those who follow Him. The few gospel resources that could reach Bhutan are Internet-based materials from Global Recordings Network (GRN), but few can access them.

Pray for the Lord to grant a Holy Spirit-directed wisdom to those making decisions for the peoples of Bhutan.—KC



TICHURONG (AKA LHON-LA) OF NEPAL

PS 138:5, NLV

And they will sing of the ways
of the Lord. For the shining
beauty of the Lord is great.

*Pray that the beauty of the
Lord will shine through to
the Tichurong people in a
wonderful way.*



What is a “snowbird?” Well, it could be birds flying south with the on-set of winter; or it could be people going south. When that happens, Florida and southern California grow more populous.

Canadians are not the only snowbirds to go south during winter. So, too, in Nepal, the Tichurong people go south to trade and neighboring people move in to replace them in order to escape the winter's cold. Therefore, both the Tichurong and their neighbors are seasonal migrants.

The Tichurong people number some 2,400 in 13 villages in a western Nepali river valley. They are a Buddhist people. The Tichurong language is unwritten. Therefore, GRN provides them a narrated animated film on the life of Jesus in their language. Available on YouTube, it is titled “Good News Tichurong People.” The film ends with an evangelistic appeal to follow Jesus to heaven.

Pray that as the Tichurong people go south to trade that they will encounter believers. Pray that an increasing number of Tichurong people will access YouTube’s GRN video about Jesus, and that they respond in faith. Pray for them to be disciplined in the ways of Jesus Christ.—TP



TSUM PEOPLE OF NEPAL

DAY

18

The psalmist writes that "the mountains skipped like rams" (Ps. 114:4a). And so they did in Nepal in 2015, pushing Mt. Everest ever higher and killing some 9,000 persons! Many of the survivors now live in tent towns in Nepal's Tsum Valley, little touched by government or international relief monies due to their isolation. Indeed, aside from trekkers and truckers, this valley is little touched by the outside world.



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ROM 5:1, NLV

Now that we have been made right with God by putting our trust in Him, we have peace with Him. It is because of what our Lord Jesus Christ did for us.

Pray that the Buddhists who seek peace in the spiritual realm will soon find peace with God through Jesus Christ.

The Tsum people number some 27,000 and live in a river valley that is fed by glacial melted waters. There are several Buddhist monasteries, tea houses, and inns. Occasionally, the people hold a Buddhist Peace Festival. Local trail walls are inscribed with images of gods and prayers.

Into this valley come foreigners to hire guides and gear to trek the mountains. If Jews for Jesus can organize Indian treks in order to evangelize Israeli trekkers, why can't another agency organize treks to evangelize the Tsum people?

Pray that Christian trekkers will turn their treks into prayer walks and witness to the Tsum people. Pray for Christian relief agencies to provide earthquake relief so that the Tsum people will see their good works and glorify the Father. Pray for Bible translation and distribution of literature in the local and Nepali languages. Pray that any future evangelistic efforts will lead to discipleship.—TP

WALUNG PEOPLE OF NEPAL

MK 8:36-37, NKJV

What will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?"

Pray that in these difficult economic times that the Walung of Nepal would discover the true riches of God in Jesus Christ.

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What would you do if the trade that your family had depended on for many generations disappeared? This very thing has

happened to the Walung people. They have traditionally worked the trade routes between Tibet and India. With the introduction of paved roads and trucks, their source of income has vanished as other people groups have adapted better to the new technologies. Many young Walungs are abandoning the traditional way of life and moving to cities to find work.

They raise yaks and dzos, a hybrid between yaks and cattle. They grow potatoes, barley, and rye in the Himalayan valleys during the short summers.

The Walung are Tibetan Buddhists and there are no known believers in Christ. According to *Wikipedia*, no Scriptures have been translated into their spoken language, which is considered a dialect of Central Tibetan. Some audio portions of Bible stories are available. Though they all practice folk religion, life for the Walung people revolves around the Buddhist monastery and Buddhist holidays.

Pray that the Lord would lead a ministry or individuals to engage the Walungs. Pray that the Walungs living in India and Tibet would embrace the Lord and come to Nepal to share the gospel with their neighbors. Pray that the Lord would lead some followers to translate the Bible for them.—DK



DAY

20

BYANGSI (AKA, HUMLA) PEOPLE

Isolated, hard to get to, and hard to talk with. These words describe the Byangsi (Humla) people of Nepal. This also describes most unreached groups.



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Sometimes unreached peoples have a significant geographic barrier to be reached by outside society. In this case it is high mountains. Other times the government tries to forcibly resettle them and they go deeper into difficult-to-reach areas. Not so for the Humla! They simply have not wanted to assimilate into surrounding cultures. The Byangsi people live in the northwest region of Nepal, sharing a border with China. Using no roads, they walk the narrow footpaths leading to their scattered villages.

Sometimes unreached peoples have a significant language barrier because their indigenous tongue is very developed and they don't speak other languages. Other times, an indigenous language might be under the threat of extinction because the people or culture is dying out. Not so for the Humla! This people group has a developed language called Humla, while the ability to read or write in Nepali or other languages is weak. However, they speak a form of Tibetan that is somewhat similar to other Tibetan languages in Nepal, like Sherpa. The Humla are proud of their culture, community, and language, and they want to remain different.

Pray that the Lord will send believers who understand both their language and the spiritual mindset of Tibetan Buddhists. May they share Jesus with the love of the Lord!—LR

PROV 25:25, NLV

Good news from a land far away is like cold water to a tired soul.

Pray that when the Byangsi people hear the good news, they will be spiritually refreshed by it and embrace it as their own.



RAUTE PEOPLE OF NEPAL

PS 26:8, NLV

O Lord, I love the house
where You live, the place
where Your shining-
greatness lives.

*Pray that these people
will “find a home” in the
Lord, where they can enjoy
fellowship with Him and
understand His greatness.*

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*(This story illustrates
possible events in the lives of
this people group.)*

Sadness filled the village. Not only had one of their people died, but the Raute people would now have to move again. Though the nomads are well used to moving, the task requires energy. With a heavy heart, energy is hard to find.

The Raute people of Nepal number about 900, but the nomadic Raute are only 130. The last nomadic hunter-gatherer people group in Nepal, they move between steeply wooded mountains in various districts in the western part of the country. Their tradition tells them that they must move after the death of anyone in their village, and that is why they have never adopted agriculture. The Raute are deeply connected to the forest and also feel it would be a sin to sow a seed. They hunt monkeys, collect roots, and trade only one item—wooden bowls. They speak their own language, Raute, but also speak a Nepali trade language. Nepal’s government has tried to resettle them, but they are content with their lifestyle and resist modernizing.

Being a people so dependent on the environment, they have a type of animistic religious belief. Their only possible contact with the gospel is through a short Global Recordings Network video.

Pray that they will have dreams and visions of Jesus. Pray that believers from communities through which the Raute travel through will share the hope of Christ with them.—LR



THUDAM PEOPLE OF NEPAL

DAY

22

(This story illustrates possible events in the lives of this people group.)



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The children crowded around the generator, eagerly anticipating the night's festivities. Most of the children had spent the day helping their parents around the home, gathering wood for the fire and looking after their herds of yak. Now, they were eager to settle down for some fun. When the sun set and it was finally dark enough, they settled down to watch the movie. Even though they could not understand the words being spoken on screen, the foreign images were entertaining, and they laughed excitedly as their amused parents looked on.

The Thudam people live in isolated regions of Nepal where they have little connection with the world outside of a rare movie or traveler. The Thudam must travel up to four hours to purchase basic commodities such as salt or chili peppers for their food. To make their living, the Thudam sell medicinal plants and harvest bamboo sticks to be used for construction. They have a sparse and humble way of life. Their culture and language contrast starkly with the Nepalese majority. The Thudam are primarily Buddhist and have no access to the Bible or gospel materials.

Pray for effective tools such as gospel films in their own language to be created for the Thudam people. Pray for Christ to call loving missionaries to serve the Thudam in remote regions of Nepal.—EC

PS 77:13, NLV

O God, Your way is holy.
What god is great like
our God?

Pray that soon the Thudam people will have resources to hear about the wonderful God we serve and the faith to believe in Him.



DAY

23

LOHORUNG PEOPLE OF NEPAL

IS 55:10A-11, NLT

The rain and snow come down from the heavens . . . to water the earth . . . It is the same with my word. I send it out, and it produces fruit. It will accomplish all I want it to, and it will prosper everywhere I send it.

Pray for God's Word in the Lohorung mother tongue to go forth and produce a harvest of Christ-followers among Nepal's Lohorung people.

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In the foothills of Makalu, the world's fifth tallest mountain, live the Lohorung people. They reside in villages in eastern Nepal among

narrow valleys and interconnecting hills.

The Lohorungs are rice farmers who also hunt and forage for food. Young men often leave for a few years to work in more populated areas of Nepal or other countries. Lohorung houses are built close together, raised on stilts. One Lohorung explained, "We live close together so as not to fear."

Although 89 percent Hindu, the Lohorungs also worship their ancestors. Their language, Lohorung, is considered threatened, as Nepali makes inroads among children as well as young men working elsewhere. In 2011, an SIL language survey indicated interest among Lohorungs for mother tongue materials and programs. No Bible portions are available in the Lohorung language, though they have audio Bible teachings and the JESUS Film. No Lohorungs have turned to Jesus in Nepal. But at least 30 Lohorung believers live in northern Indian villages.

Pray for the Bible to be translated into the Lohorung language. Ask that Lohorung children and young people encounter Jesus through others. Pray that Lohorung believers in India reach out to their people in Nepal. Pray for prepared Lohorung hearts to receive Jesus and for a disciple-making movement among Nepal's Lohorung.—CR



DAY

24

DHIMAL PEOPLE OF NEPAL

Several scholars both in India and Nepal have referred to Dhimals as a “forgotten ethnic group,” even though they have their own language, culture, and customs.

Education is almost completely absent among them. The traditional occupation of the Dhimal was hunting and gathering. It has now been replaced by agriculture.

Ninety-seven percent of these people are classified as Hindu. One scholar, Hodgson, points out that they have neither temples nor idols. The Dhimal people worship nature and household gods as their family deities. They also worship other gods like Kali. She has been worshipped as the Divine Mother and Mother of the Universe. Just over one percent of the Dhimal call themselves Christian. It is not known how many are true followers of Christ.

Portions of the Bible have recently been translated into Dhimal. Unfortunately, many cannot read. Global Recordings Network (GRN) has produced recordings in their language for evangelism and church planting. Audio-visual Bible lessons in 40 pictures include a Bible overview from creation to Christ. Other recordings include short audio Bible stories, evangelistic messages, and songs and music that explain salvation and give basic teaching.

Pray that one or more Nepali believers will be led by God’s Spirit to take the message of Christ to the Dhimal community. Pray for a disciple-making movement to grow among them.—AHS



Worship of Kali, a key Hindu goddess

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PROV 3:21-22, NIV

My son, do not let wisdom and understanding out of your sight, preserve sound judgement and discretion: they will be life for you, an ornament to grace your neck.

Make this your prayer for the Dhimal people of Nepal!

BOTE-MAJHI PEOPLE OF NEPAL

DEUT 12:2, NLV

Be sure to destroy all the places of worship of the nations whose place you are taking. Destroy them on the high mountains, on the hills, and under every green tree.

Pray that the Bote-Majhi people will soon do that very thing with their idols when they hear of the God of heaven.

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A home in Nepal

How would you decide where to build a new house? A Majhi man will chew soil from the four corners of the lot. If it tastes good, he'll build a simple round house

of stone or clay. The people are uneducated and live below the poverty level with little government assistance. The occupation of the Majhi people has been to help others across the many rivers of Nepal. Now they must find new livelihoods as the government constructs bridges, improves the infrastructure, and eliminates the need for their traditional way of life.

Over ninety-nine percent of the Bote-Majhi people call themselves Hindu. Yet they follow traditional practices such as establishing gods or goddesses at the base of trees near a river. Less than one percent have put their faith in Jesus Christ.

Global Recordings Network (GRN) has recorded short audio Bible stories, evangelistic messages and songs in their language. These recordings explain salvation and give basic Christian teaching. They are currently the only Christian resources in Majhi. The Bible has not yet been translated for them. Some people who speak Bote languages like the Majhi people are switching to Nepali. There are many Christian resources in that language.

Pray for believers to train these people in new marketable skills that will help them adjust to their new circumstances. Pray for spiritual openness among the Majhi that will result in hundreds being disciplined.—AHS



BIBLELESS PEOPLES PRAYER PROJECT

DAY

26

Can I really make a difference by just praying? The Bible says, “The prayers of a righteous person are powerful and effective ...” (James 5:16b, NIV). There are still over 1600 people groups in the world that do not have a Bible in their language. Wycliffe Bible Translators’ goal is to make the Bible available in every person’s heart language.



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PS 119:18, NLV

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

Pray that many eyes will be open to the great things in God’s word because of this effort by Wycliffe Bible Translators.

The Bibleless Peoples Prayer Project is a project that includes everyone in its efforts to achieve this goal. What can you do? You can pray. Even a child can be involved. A five-year-old boy prayed daily for the Rapa Nui people on Easter Island. His parents later discovered that missionaries had specifically gone to these people at the time that the small boy started praying!

Nearly 200 million people have not yet had a chance to hear or read the Scriptures in their heart language. The Bible has a lot to say about this: “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?” (Romans 10:14a, NIV).

Thank God that He hears the prayers of His people, be they young or old! Pray for every people group to have His word. Pray that those who get a Bible translation will cherish it.—JS



PRAY FOR ZERO

PS 119:15-16, NIV

I meditate on your precepts
and consider your ways. I
delight in your decrees; I
will not neglect your word.

*Pray that the people groups
who obtain God's word
through this work will take
the Scriptures as seriously
as the one who wrote
this Psalm.*

iStockPhotos/Jonah Cowie



Prayer works!

The number is zero. The time is now. There are 1,636 Bibleless people groups around the world today. By 2025, we believe that number will be zero—zero people without God's Word in the language that speaks to their heart. We've seen an undeniable connection between purposeful prayer and the acceleration of Bible translation. Ten Bible translation agencies, responsible for coordinating 90 percent of global Bible translation work, have come together in unprecedented unity through illuminaTions. In 2017, we saw God provide close to \$37 million for the Bible translation movement. And new, advanced technology is bringing accurate Scripture translations to unreached people groups faster than ever before.

The momentum is only beginning, but we cannot do it alone. Partnership in prayer is the highest priority in reaching this God-sized goal. So, we ask you to join us as we intercede on behalf of the Bibleless as we Pray for Zero. Prayer partners can easily adopt a Bible translation project and a language community that does not have one verse of Scripture, yet with persistent and persevering prayer people will see God move. Join the movement by visiting theseedcompany.org/prayforzero.

*Pray that the Lord Jesus, the desire of all nations,
will speed up and empower this Bible translation
movement. Pray that He will rescue the nations out of
darkness with the light of His word.—Solomon Lujon,
guest writer*



DAY

28

EVERY HOME FOR CHRIST

Nepal—the top of the world—high in the Himalayan Mountains—was closed to much of the world and to the gospel until 2006. A miracle happened in one very remote village, Dummana, which is not on most maps. Word reached the Every Home for Christ (EHC) office in Kathmandu that



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people had been worshipping regularly in this village, all due to EHC pamphlets left in every deserted home there 16 years earlier! Where were the people? Tending their flocks further up the mountain. Sixteen years later hundreds were worshipping Jesus as Savior not only in that village, but in others as well. No direct human effort achieved this miracle. In fact, a visitor once asked them if they were Christians because he heard them worshipping. They responded, “What is a Christian?” This village and others became believers in Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit and His word on the pamphlet!

Every Home for Christ literally takes pamphlets to every home in Nepal and other countries where they operate. Nepal, once without one believer, now has 350,000 people worshipping in 900 Christ Groups, as they are called. EHC’s motto is “One home at a time.” God can take one seed (pamphlet, Bible, etc.) and grow it into a mighty movement!

Pray to the God of the harvest to continue to multiply EHC’s efforts to reach every home with God’s word in the Himalayan regions.—JS

PS 119:103, NLV

How sweet is Your word to my taste! It is sweeter than honey to my mouth!

Pray that the Bible-based materials distributed by EHC will be accepted by the peoples of Nepal as sweeter than honey, and as a foundation for righteous living.



CHURCH PLANTING IN THE HIMALAYAS

MATT 10:42, NLV

For sure, I tell you, anyone who gives a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because he follows me, will not lose his reward.

Pray for the Lord to raise up many “persons of peace” who will count it an honor to give cold water and food to those taking the gospel to the high Himalayan Mountains.

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Could this be a person of peace?

Planting churches in the Himalayan Mountains requires the same thing it does in more accessible regions: Find a “person of peace.” When Jesus sent out his disciples, He knew they would need to find the person God had prepared to pave the way for access to the

gospel in a community that has never heard the gospel. Prayer precedes the first visits. Matthew 10 includes in this command: Preach that the Kingdom of Heaven is near; heal the sick, raise the dead, take along no money or an extra tunic, etc. This person of peace will welcome you, listen to your message, help you with your livelihood, and allow you to stay in his home.

One group of workers is focusing on 11 unreached people groups. These people have no known believers or churches. The team’s main national partner, Kent (not his real name), is passionate about making disciples but is yet to see a discovery group meet. His heart’s desire is for the Holy Spirit to lead him to a God-prepared person of peace.

Pray for Kent to meet a person of peace in each remote Himalayan village he visits, and pray God will move in mighty ways so that villagers will know the Kingdom of Heaven is near and will accept Jesus as their only Lord. Pray that the Holy Spirit paves the way to each village so that messengers will be welcomed and heard.—JS



DAY

30

HIGH PLACES PRAYER EFFORTS

Are you looking for adventure? Join us on a prayer adventure with Jesus in the Himalayan Mountain high places!



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PS 141:1-2A, NLV

May my prayer be set before you like incense. . .

Pray that the Lord will direct you and others in your prayer circles as to whether or not to pray regularly for these unreached high places!

The Joshua Project website comments, “The peoples of the high places are some of the most unreached and needy people groups in the world today. This belt of people groups, unaware of the Redeemer, stretches through parts of Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Afghanistan, northern Pakistan, India, Nepal, Bhutan, and Tibetan China. The rugged Himalayan geography and hostile governments form immense barriers to the spread of the gospel in these regions. Strongholds of Islam in the western section, Hinduism in the center, and Buddhism in the east make the high places a region of great spiritual opposition to the gospel. High Places Prayer is a key catalyst for fervent intercession, creative strategies and persevering ministry in this gospel-starved region.” Your prayers will open the way for the Prince of Peace to be made known.

Let’s meet Christ in His throne-room for heaven’s sake, till the 426 unreached people groups have heard His name.

*Sign up today to get our prayer materials:
www.highplacesprayer.com*

BIBLES FOR ASIANS/ASIA HARVEST

PS 119:2-3, NLV

Happy are those who keep His law and look for Him with all their heart. They also do not sin, but walk in His ways.

Pray that those who get these Bibles will be determined to walk in His ways.

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Do you remember our biography from last month? It was about Paul Hattaway, the founder of Asia Harvest. Whenever we cover unreached people groups in East Asia, the first

resource we go to is Asia Harvest. That organization has contributed excellent people group profiles in timeless books like *Operation China* and *Peoples of the Buddhist World*. Thanks to their work, we are able to pray intelligently for people groups all over this vast region.

In addition to doing research, Asia Harvest prints and distributes Bibles for those who would probably not otherwise have access to God's word. Recently Asia Harvest partnered with other ministries to provide Bibles for the Hakka Chin people of Myanmar (not an unreached people group, but formerly Bibleless). In a newsletter they commented, "The overwhelming joy and happiness that you can see in the faces of these precious believers is just a small glimpse of an incredible day in the future, when the redeemed from every tribe, language, people, and nation will worship the Lamb of God and give glory to His name! More Bible printing and distributions are in the pipeline right now in six different countries..."

Pray that efforts to distribute Bibles will not be interrupted by hostile forces. Pray that each Bible will be eagerly read by people who will cherish God's word. Pray for spontaneous Bible studies to form among the Hakka Chin people.—KC