

AN APPEAL TO ALL
SEVEN TRANSFORM WORLD
2020 CHALLENGES



50 Largest
Unreached



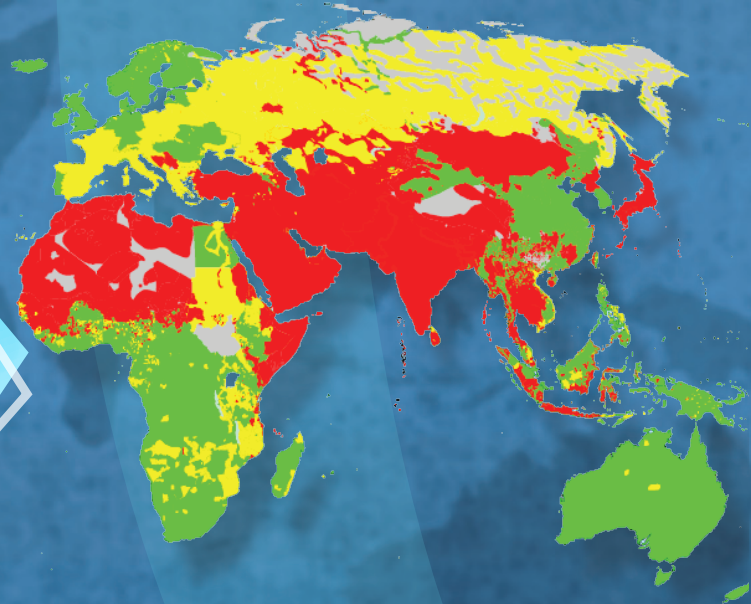
50 Largest
Unengaged



People Groups

Christ's Missional Challenge:
Reaching the Last and the Least

Transform
World Vision
2020





50 Largest Unreached and 50 Largest Unengaged Unreached People Groups

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An Appeal to all 7 Transform World 2020 Challenges: Christ's Concern for the Last & the Least



50 Largest Unreached and 50 Largest Unengaged Unreached People Groups

Christ's concern is to reach the last and the least. Each of the seven Transform World Challenges is called to have a special focus on these people groups and participate toward the expected outcomes. The Challenges are: Ideological Challenge of Islam; Family Challenge; Orphan Challenge; Poverty Challenge; Human Rights Challenge; Christ's Missional Challenge; and the Celebration Challenge.

For example, two of the expected outcomes of Christ's Missional Challenge are to reach the 50 largest unreached people groups by 2020 and to engage the 50 largest unengaged people groups by 2020. An expected outcome of the Ideological Challenge is also to reach the 50 largest unreached people groups and engage the 50 largest unengaged people groups which are Islamic, in collaboration with Transform World 2020 Christ's Missional Challenge and the Poverty Challenge. An expected outcome of the Poverty Challenge is to build transformational, self-sustainable model communities among the fifty largest unreached people groups and the fifty largest unengaged people groups.

This booklet can serve as a roadmap for accomplishing these outcomes. The following pages provide listings and profiles for both the 50 largest unreached people groups (UPGs) and the 50 largest unengaged unreached people groups (UUPGs). An unreached people is a people group among which there is no indigenous community of believing Christians with adequate numbers and resources to evangelize this people group. An unengaged people is an unreached people group in which no known active onsite church planting is occurring.

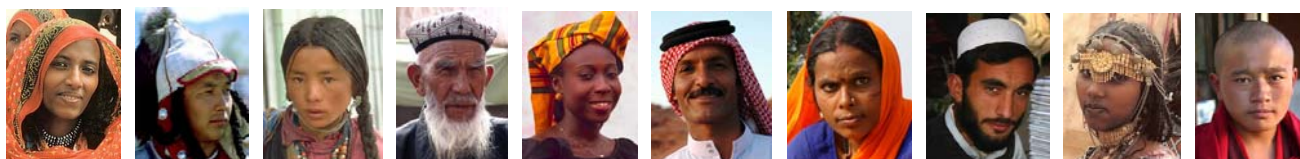
The relationship between these two lists is shown graphically on page 2. The profiles presented here have similar format, however, these two lists have different sources, methodology and criteria. [Joshua Project](#) provides the list of 50 largest UPGs and [Finishing the Task](#) provides the list of 50 largest UUPGs. Please see the introduction to each list (pg. 3 and 55) for more details.

Feedback, corrections and progress updates are urgently needed. Do you see errors? Are you aware of these groups being engaged and/or reached? Please contact info@joshuaproject.net or info@finishingthetask.com to help keep this information up-to-date.

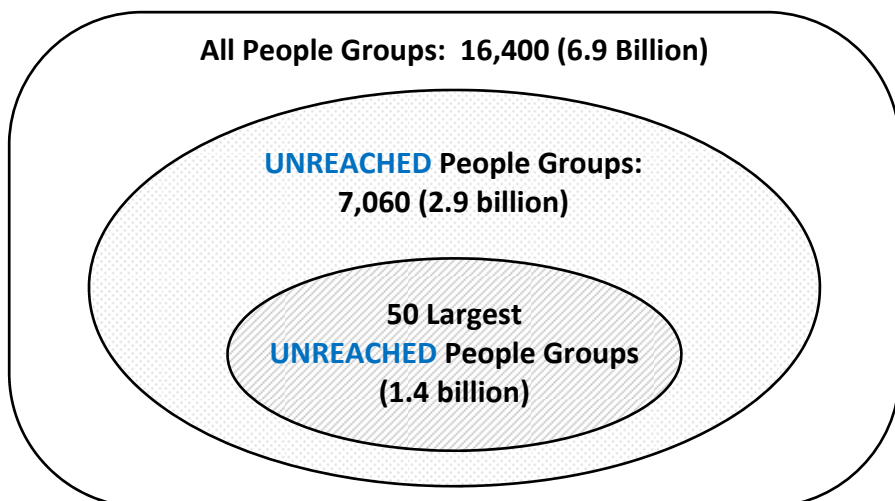
Christ's Missional Challenge



	50 LARGEST UNREACHED	50 LARGEST UNENGAGED
Data Source	Joshua Project	Finishing the Task (Subset of International Mission Board data)
People Definition	Outside South Asia ethno-linguistic South Asia by caste	Outside South Asia ethno-linguistic South Asia mixture of language and caste
Unreached Definition	Less than 2% Evangelical <u>and</u> Less than 5% Christian Adherent	Less than 2% Evangelical
Website	www.joshuaproject.net	www.finishingthetask.com



Joshua Project

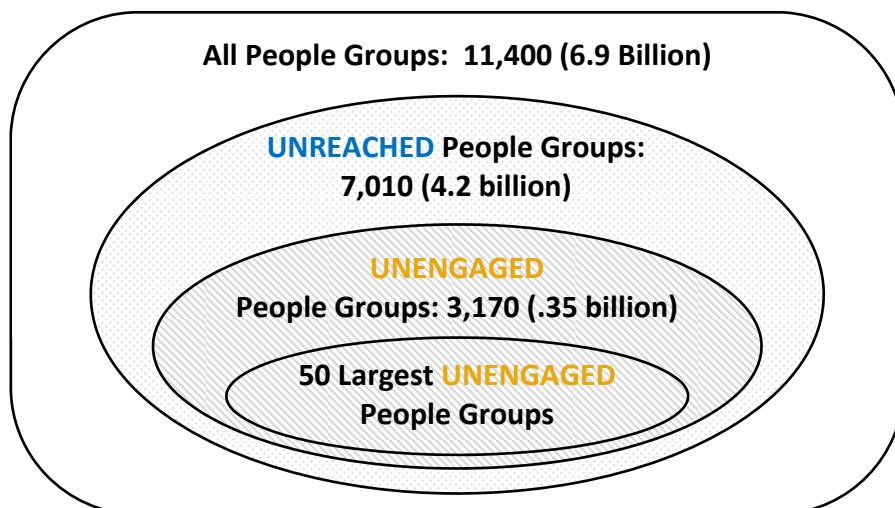


Finishing the Task / IMB



Notes:


- Unengaged = No known on-site church planting effort underway.
- Counts and populations are rounded and as of October 2012.



50 Largest UNREACHED People Groups

Source: **Joshua Project**

Criteria: Less than 2% Evangelical and less than 5% Christian Adherent

Profiles: Blue header / footer 

Website: <http://www.joshuaproject.net>

Feedback: info@joshuaproject.net

50 Largest Unreached People Groups



www.joshuaproject.net 10/2012

Country	Unreached People	Population	Primary Religion
Afghanistan	Pashtun, Northern	12,485,000	Islam
Algeria	Algerian, Arab	25,262,000	Islam
Bangladesh	Shaikh	128,180,000	Islam
Cambodia	Khmer, Central	13,005,000	Buddhism
China	Hakka	33,041,000	Ethnic Religions
China	Han Chinese, Xiang	35,580,000	Ethnic Religions
China	Hui	12,487,000	Islam
China	Uyghur	10,696,000	Islam
India	Bania	26,721,000	Hinduism
India	Bhil	14,058,000	Hinduism
India	Brahman	56,565,000	Hinduism
India	Chamar	50,550,000	Hinduism
India	Dhobi, Hindu	11,730,000	Hinduism
India	Gond	13,170,000	Hinduism
India	Jat, Hindu	16,663,000	Hinduism
India	Jat, Sikh	10,587,000	Sikh
India	Kapu	14,621,000	Hinduism
India	Koli	12,106,000	Hinduism
India	Kumhar	14,207,000	Hinduism
India	Kunbi	15,690,000	Hinduism
India	Kurmi	17,125,000	Hinduism
India	Mahratta	26,823,000	Hinduism
India	Nai	10,920,000	Hinduism
India	Pashtun, Northern	10,930,000	Islam
India	Rajput	42,846,000	Hinduism

Country	Unreached People	Population	Primary Religion
India	Shaikh	75,082,000	Islam
India	Teli	16,867,000	Hinduism
India	Vanniyan	11,353,000	Hinduism
India	Yadav	55,471,000	Hinduism
Indonesia	Java Pesisir Lor	33,999,000	Islam
Indonesia	Sunda	32,969,000	Islam
Iran	Azeri Turk	14,816,000	Islam
Iran	Persian	29,036,000	Islam
Iraq	Arab, Iraqi	16,066,000	Islam
Japan	Japanese	122,353,000	Buddhism
Korea, North	Korean	24,355,000	Non-Religious
Morocco	Arab, Moroccan	13,622,000	Islam
Myanmar	Burmese	27,153,000	Buddhism
Nigeria	Hausa	26,041,000	Islam
Pakistan	Jat, Muslim	29,768,000	Islam
Pakistan	Pashtun, Northern	22,915,000	Islam
Pakistan	Rajput, Muslim	15,577,000	Islam
Pakistan	Shaikh	11,581,000	Islam
Saudi Arabia	Arab, Saudi Najdi	11,969,000	Islam
Taiwan	Han Chinese, Holo	13,338,000	Ethnic Religions
Thailand	Isan, Thai	18,521,000	Buddhism
Thailand	Thai, Central	20,166,000	Buddhism
Turkey	Turk	51,906,000	Islam
Uzbekistan	Uzbek, Northern	22,301,000	Islam
Yemen	Yemeni, Northern	11,733,000	Islam

Sobering Facts

- All these people groups have less than 2% Christ-followers and have very limited access to the Gospel.
- One in five people on earth live in these 50 unreached peoples.
- These 50 unreached people groups are comprised of 1.365 billion souls.
- Every group is larger than 10,000,000 in population.
- None have an indigenous church capable of taking the Gospel to the entire group.
- Primary religion: 22 are Muslim, 18 Hindu, 5 Buddhist, 3 Ethnic Religions, 1 non-Religious, 1 Sikh.
- 46 of these 50 unreached people groups are in the 10/40 Window, 43 are in closed countries.
- For every dollar of Christian resources less than a penny is directed at reaching unreached people groups.

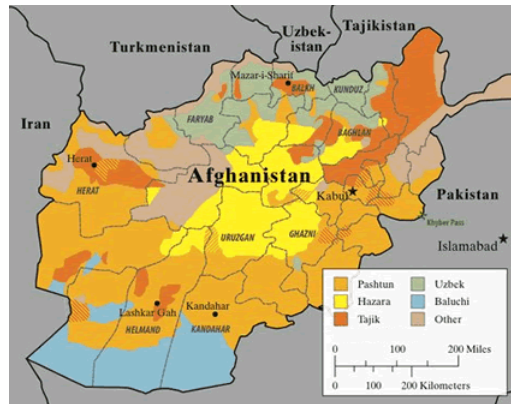
50 Largest UNREACHED People Groups

Transform-World: Christ's Missional Challenge - The Last and the Least



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Pashtun, Northern of Afghanistan



People Name	Pashtun, Northern
Country	Afghanistan
10/40 Window	Yes
Population	12,485,000
World Population	47,089,000
Language	Pashto, Northern
Religion	Islam
Bible	Complete
Online Audio NT	No
Jesus Film	Yes
Audio Recordings	Yes
Christ Followers	Less than 2 %
Status	Unreached
Progress Level	1.1

"Therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest."

BACKGROUND

The Pashtun, or Pushtun, are a race of warriors who live primarily in Afghanistan and Pakistan. They consist of about sixty tribes, each with its own territory. Although their origin is unclear, their legends say that they are the descendants of Afghana, grandson of King Saul. However, most scholars believe that they probably arose from ancient Aryans intermingling with subsequent invaders.

The Pashtun have played an important role in the history of their region. From their community have come Muslim rulers, administrators, and soldiers. While many of them have moved out of the highlands in search of an easier life in the plains, their mountainous homeland continues to be their citadel of strength and freedom.

The Pashtun are said to be elegant, colorfully attired, hospitable, considerate, fierce in hatred, and kind in friendship. Though very dedicated to their religious beliefs, they are also fond of pleasure. They are known for their marksmanship and their love of honor.

WHAT ARE THEIR LIVES LIKE?

Most of the Pashtun live in southern and central Asia. Their homes lie along a chain of barren, rugged mountains (the Indus and the Hindu Kush) and the Syistan Plateau of Iran.

At the core of Pashtun society is the extended family. Each family group owns its land and lives

in a fortified residence called a qala. Every qala is divided into two areas: a general living area and the private living quarters. A high wall in the middle separates the two areas.

Distinctive tribal customs and traditions also form an integral part of Pashtun society. The true essence of their culture can be seen in the "code of ethics" that they live by. This unwritten code is called Pushtunwali ("the way of the Pushtun"), and is close to the heart of every Pashtun.

The Pashtun tribes range from the highly educated who live in cities to tent-dwelling nomads. Although their societies are based on tribal traditions, the Pashtun who live in cities or villages have a different attitude towards social status than do the nomads. This is because the villages are made up of both Pashtun and non-Pashtun peoples. In most cases, the Pashtun are the landowners.

Members of the wealthier Pashtun families will occasionally farm or tend the animals but they will not engage in any other occupation within the village. The men usually perform the more difficult tasks outside the home, while the women are responsible for the things within the home.

WHAT ARE THEIR BELIEFS?

The majority of Pashtun are Sunni Muslims. Islam came to them as a great liberating and unifying force, freeing them from the cult of

Brahminism and the harshness of Buddhism. For this reason, their underlying faith and steadfast devotion to Islam are very strong.

WHAT ARE THEIR NEEDS?

Many of the Pashtun are extremely poor and live in unsanitary conditions caused mainly by poor water supply). A large number of the adults are also illiterate. The need for qualified medical teams and school teachers is great.

PRAYER ITEMS

- * Ask God to raise up prayer teams that will break up the soil through worship and intercession.
- * Ask God to grant wisdom and favor to the mission agencies that are focusing on the Pashtuns.
- * Pray for the Pashtun children who grow up in fear and hatred of outsiders.
- * Ask God to encourage and protect the small number of Pashtun believers.
- * Pray that God will provide greater peace and freedom to live and work among the Pashtun.
- * Pray that God will reveal Himself to these precious people through dreams and visions.
- * Ask the Holy Spirit to soften their hearts towards Christians so that they will be receptive to the Gospel.
- * Ask the Lord to raise up strong local churches among the Pashtun.

50 Largest UNREACHED People Groups

Transform-World: Christ's Missional Challenge - The Last and the Least



Algerian, Arabic-speaking of Algeria



People Name	Algerian, Arabic-speakin
Country	Algeria
10/40 Window	Yes
Population	25,262,000
World Population	33,516,000
Language	Arabic, Algerian Spoken
Religion	Islam
Bible	New Testament
Online Audio NT	No
Jesus Film	Yes
Audio Recordings	Yes
Christ Followers	Less than 2 %
Status	Unreached
Progress Level	1.2

"Therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest."

BACKGROUND

Today, the vast region of Northern Africa is predominantly inhabited by Arab Muslims. However, this was not always the case. The territory was once dominated by the Berbers, a non-Arab people who were at one time mostly Christians. The Berbers successfully withstood numerous invasions before finally being overrun by Arabs.

Beginning in the seventh century, Arab invasions caused many non-Islamic tribes, including the Berbers, to be displaced. The Berbers were particularly affected by the mass immigrations of Arab Bedouins in the eleventh century. At that time, some of the Berbers fled. Others were driven into the desert, where they began displacing or enslaving the Negroes who lived there. Many Berbers remained and submitted, becoming "Arabized" in language and, to some extent, racially mixed with the Arabs. All of the Berbers, without exception, embraced Islam.

WHAT ARE THEIR LIVES LIKE?

For the Berbers, "Arabization" occurred in three stages. The first stage was the initial contact with the Arab invaders in the seventh century. The second stage began with the arrival of the Bedouins in the eleventh century. The third stage of Arabization, which took place between the fifteenth and seventeenth centuries, was accelerated by the arrival of refugees from Andalusia (a region in southern Spain).

Traditionally, the Berber economy rested on a fine balance between farming and breeding cattle. Each tribe depended heavily on domestic animals for carrying heavy loads, milk and dairy products, meat, and hides or wool. Similarly, there was not a single tribe that did not also rely on agriculture for survival.

The adoption of Arab speech is only one aspect of Arabization. Many Berber groups resisted Islam at first; but by two or three centuries after the Arab invasions, they had all converted to the Islamic faith, at least in name. Wherever Arabic replaced the Berber language, laws from the Koran replaced the traditional tribal order.

The harshness of the Berber lifestyle in Northern Africa has led many of the Berbers to immigrate. Today, large communities of Arabized Berbers can be found in several nations, particularly Europe. Although most of them are involved in unskilled or semi-skilled labor, they are able to earn more than they would "back home."

The Arabized Berbers, like many other groups that have immigrated to other nations, send much of their earnings back home to support their larger, extended families. Similarly, members of the extended families often travel to Europe, where they will live and work for short periods of time before returning home.

WHAT ARE THEIR BELIEFS?

Today, virtually all of these tribes are Sunni

Muslim, with most belonging to the Maliki branch of Islam. While the Berbers adopted the five pillars of Islam, each was modified a little to fit their local traditions and tastes. For instance, many are very casual about prayer. Also, among some tribes, alms giving was not accepted because it was perceived as being a type of tax.

WHAT ARE THEIR NEEDS?

There are several Christian resources available to the Arabized Berbers; however, most of the tribes have a minimal Christian population. Several missions agencies have focused on the Arabized Berbers living in European nations, but they have had little success. New strategies must be developed and implemented so that these tribes can be effectively reached with the Gospel.

PRAYER ITEMS

- * Ask God to call out prayer teams who will begin breaking up the soil through intercession.
- * Pray for the small number of Arabized Berber Christians.
- * Ask God to give the missions agencies new strategies for reaching these tribes with the Gospel.
- * Ask the Holy Spirit to soften the hearts of these Muslim tribes towards Christians so that they will be receptive to the Gospel.
- * Pray that God will reveal Himself to these precious people through dreams and visions.
- * Ask the Lord to raise up strong local churches among each of the Arabized Berber tribes.

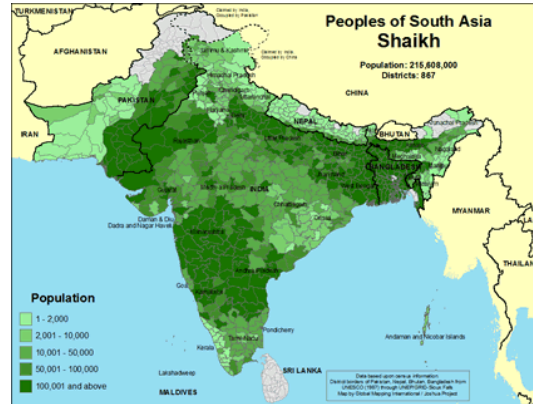
50 Largest UNREACHED People Groups

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Shaikh of Bangladesh



People Name	Shaikh
Country	Bangladesh
10/40 Window	Yes
Population	128,180,000
World Population	217,393,000
Language	Bengali
Religion	Islam
Bible	Complete
Online Audio NT	Yes
Jesus Film	Yes
Audio Recordings	Yes
Christ Followers	Less than 2 %
Status	Unreached
Progress Level	1.1

"Therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest."

BACKGROUND

Islam arrived in the area now known as Pakistan in 711 CE when a Muslim Arab Army conquered the northwestern part of Indus Valley from Kashmir to the Arabian Sea. Technocrats, bureaucrats, soldiers, traders, scientists, architects, teachers, theologians and sufis flocked from the rest of the Arab & Muslim world, to the Islamic Sultanate in South Asia and settled permanently.

The descendants of these Arabs usually go by the title of Shaikh and also known in Pakistan as Muslim Khatri. The Shaikhs of Pakistan, however, claim pre-islamic ancestry. They are a sub-group of the Zamindar group or qoum, traditionally associated with farming, which is one of the two groups making up the Pakistani Punjabis (the other group is the Moeens group or qoum, who are traditionally artisans). Shaikh is also a term that is usually attributed to the leaders or elders of Arabian social groups. Other variants of this term are Sheik, Shaykh, Shaikh, Cheikh, Šeih, Šejh, Seyh.

After the advent of Islam in South Asia, some high caste (Brahmins, Muslim Rajputs and Khatri) converted to Islam in the Punjab region and adopted this title. They are known as Punjabi Shaikh (Punjabi). Majority of the Punjabi Shaikhs are urbanized and detached from the traditional agricultural ancestry. However, a few families also cultivate their own land in the western districts of Punjab. The main professions of the urban Punjabi Shaikhs are

business and public service, and are stereotyped for their reputation for business acumen. The Khawaja Shaikh, with their sub-division the Chiniotis and the Qanungoh Shaikh are two such communities.

The Sikh Shaikhs living in villages at the Indian border adjoining Pakistan were remnants of the Shaikhs who chose to stay after the Independence of Pakistan in 1947, embracing Sikhism as their religion. They are famous for their lori and dhool a traditional Indian drum.

WHAT ARE THEIR LIVES LIKE?

The Shaikhs are not bound by one particular profession. The Shaikh can be broadly grouped into five communities. Three of these communities are the Siddiks, Farukis and Abbasi who are often descendants of Arab immigrants. The other two are the Chistis and Kuraishis communities who tend to be mainly from converts to Islam. Consequently, the Shaikhs profess Islam and have both Sunni and Shia traditions among them. In Nepal they speak Nepali and either Urdu, Bhojpuri or Maithili in their communities. They are not vegetarian and their common food is rice, mutton and vegetables. Common surnames are Mondal, Siddiqui, Usmani, Faroqui and Sheikh.

WHAT ARE THEIR NEEDS?

There has been much ministry activity among the Shaikh in India but few works in Nepal. Pray that this largest group of Nepali Muslims will find the truth of the Prophet Isa! There is a lot

of potential for gospel growth within the Shaikh community because of relatively few social divisions.

PRAYER ITEMS

- * Ask the Lord of the Harvest to send forth missionaries to live among the Shaikh.
- * Ask God to raise up prayer teams who will begin breaking up the soil through intercession.
- * Pray that God will begin revealing Himself to the Shaikh through dreams and visions.
- * Ask the Lord to raise up strong local churches among the Shaikh.

REFERENCES

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Punjabi_Shaikh

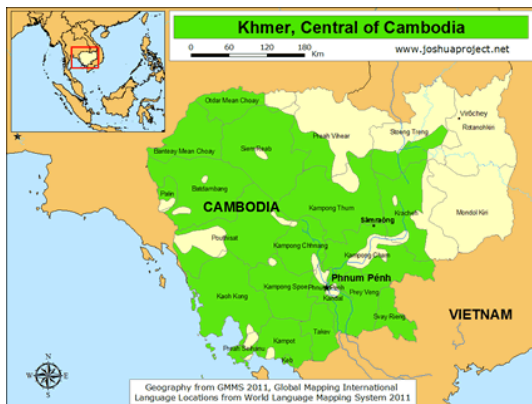
50 Largest UNREACHED People Groups

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Khmer, Central of Cambodia



People Name	Khmer, Central
Country	Cambodia
10/40 Window	Yes
Population	13,005,000
World Population	14,657,000
Language	Khmer, Central
Religion	Buddhism
Bible	Complete
Online Audio NT	Yes
Jesus Film	Yes
Audio Recordings	Yes
Christ Followers	Less than 2 %
Status	Unreached
Progress Level	1.2

"Therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest."

BACKGROUND

The Central Khmer inhabit the western and central portions of Cambodia, and make up the majority of the country's total population. The Central Khmer speak an Eastern Mon-Khmer language called Khmer, or Cambodian. It is the national language of Cambodia.

The Khmer Empire, which flourished between the ninth and thirteenth centuries, including present-day Laos, Thailand, Cambodia, and southern Vietnam. Its power declined after being conquered by the Thai and Vietnamese.

In 1969, Cambodia suffered bombings by the U.S. and invasions by the Vietnamese; events that threw the country into turmoil. In addition, a civil war broke out between the Cambodian government and Communist rebels known as the Khmer Rouge. Possibly three million Central Khmer died between 1975 and 1979, while the Khmer Rouge ruled. Since then, peace talks with the Khmer Rouge have failed, coups continue, and the Central Khmer still live in fear.

WHAT ARE THEIR LIVES LIKE?

In 1975, the Khmer Rouge regime nearly destroyed Cambodia. In order to depopulate cities, three million people were forced into the countryside as slave labor. Starvation led to the deaths of over one million people. Currency was abolished; religion was eradicated; education was suspended; medicine was forbidden; and people who could read were often massacred all in the name of the ideal of rural social reform.

Many people fled north to Thailand; others took the trail of tears into Communist Laos. Unfortunately, there they struggled to find clothing, shelter, medical care, and food. Some Khmer found permanent homes; others found shelter in crowded refugee camps.

Sadly, bombing, civil war, and war with the Vietnamese decimated a once thriving agricultural economy. Today, most of the Khmer still live in small villages and grow rice in irrigated paddies. Rubber is also important to their economy. Unfortunately, land mines have made it dangerous for farmers to work the fields since the 1970's. The mines have caused more wounds to the Central Khmer than any other weapon. International aid has helped remove the mines and build new roads.

In the villages, Buddhist rules of conduct maintain social control. These rules forbid lying, stealing, drinking alcoholic, committing adultery, and killing living creatures. Some remnants of traditional culture can be seen in the villages: folk dance, the classical royal ballet, and traditional Khmer music.

WHAT ARE THEIR BELIEFS?

The former Khmer Empire was influenced by India, from which it adopted Hinduism and Buddhism. Today, the majority of the Central Khmer are Buddhist, although relics of ethnic religions such as ancestor worship and spirit worship are very important to them.

The Buddhist Khmer also seek the middle path to nirvana, or ultimate peace through gaining merit in this life. Merit may be gained through supporting the construction of Buddhist temples, giving food to monks, and studying in the monastery.

WHAT ARE THEIR NEEDS?

Although the Bible and other Christian resources are available in Khmer, few of their population have turned to Christ. They remain a war-torn people in need of true, inner peace. Prayer is the key to reaching them with the Gospel.

PRAYER ITEMS

- * Ask the Lord to call people who are willing to go to Cambodia and share Christ with the Central Khmer.
- * Pray that God will grant wisdom and favor to any missions agencies that are currently working among the Central Khmer.
- * Ask the Lord to begin revealing Himself to these precious people through dreams and visions.
- * Pray that God will encourage and protect the Central Khmer who have accepted Jesus.
- * Ask God to use these new converts to reach out and share the love of Christ with their own people.
- * Ask God to call forth prayer teams who will begin breaking up the soil through intercession.
- * Pray that strong local churches will be planted among the Central Khmer.

50 Largest UNREACHED People Groups

Transform-World: Christ's Missional Challenge - The Last and the Least



Hakka of China



People Name	Hakka
Country	China
10/40 Window	Yes
Population	33,041,000
World Population	40,613,000
Language	Chinese, Hakka
Religion	Ethnic Religions
Bible	Complete
Online Audio NT	No
Jesus Film	Yes
Audio Recordings	Yes
Christ Followers	Less than 2 %
Status	Unreached
Progress Level	1.2

"Therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest."

LOCATION

More than 30 million Hakka are located in over 200 cities and counties spread throughout seven provinces and administrative areas of China. An additional two million Hakka live in Taiwan. The Hakka are concentrated in Guangdong, Jiangxi, Guangxi, Fujian, Hong Kong, and Hunan provinces. There are also small numbers in Sichuan and Hunan provinces. In addition, Hakka communities are scattered throughout many nations around the world.

IDENTITY

The Hakka, although proud of their cultural differences, have never claimed to be non-Chinese. Many famous Chinese have been Hakka, including Deng Xiaoping, Lee Kwan Yew, and Hong Xiuquan (the leader of the Taiping Rebellion).

LANGUAGE

Despite living in geographically scattered communities, the Hakka language is marked with high intelligibility and uniformity between widespread areas. The Hakka are proud of their language and say they would "rather surrender the ancestral land, but never the ancestral speech."

HISTORY

There is much speculation concerning the historical roots of the Hakka. Some claim that they were the first Chinese people to arrive in China. Others claim that the Hakka are the descendants of the Xiongnu tribe. This much is

agreed upon: At various stages between the fourth and thirteenth centuries AD, large numbers of people were forced to flee their homes in the war-torn Yellow River valley to seek refuge in southern China. These war refugees came to be known as Kejia - a Hakka word meaning "strangers" or "guests." When the savage Mongol hordes swept across China in the thirteenth century, many Hakka fled to the south to escape the carnage.

CUSTOMS

As part of the careful preservation of their language, when a non-Hakka woman marries into a Hakka family she is required to learn the Hakka language. In the past, many Hakka mothers killed their female babies. "Sooner than sell their daughters into slavery or concubinage, Hakka mothers prefer to kill them soon after birth." The Hakka never practiced footbinding like other Chinese.

RELIGION

Since the advent of Communism most Hakka could accurately be described as nonreligious. Aspects of animism and shamanism are found among some of the more remote Hakka locations.

CHRISTIANITY

Rev. T. H. Hamburg and Rudolf Lechler were the first missionaries sent out by the Basel Mission. They arrived in China in 1846 to commence work among the Hakka. They experienced great success, and by 1922 the Hakka Christians

numbered 30,000. Today, most of the estimated 150,000 Hakka Christians in China are located in southern Guangdong. In the 1800s the Taiping leader Chung Wang, a Hakka, pleaded for missionaries to have patience with his people. "You have had the Gospel for upwards of 1,800 years; we only, as it were, eight days. Your knowledge of it ought to be correct and extensive, ours must necessarily be limited and imperfect. You must therefore bear with us for the present, and we will gradually improve. We are determined to uproot idolatry, and plant Christianity in its place."

50 Largest UNREACHED People Groups

Transform-World: Christ's Missional Challenge - The Last and the Least



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Han Chinese, Xiang of China



People Name	Han Chinese, Xiang
Country	China
10/40 Window	Yes
Population	35,580,000
World Population	35,684,000
Language	Chinese, Xiang
Religion	Ethnic Religions
Bible	Questionable Need
Online Audio NT	No
Jesus Film	Yes
Audio Recordings	Yes
Christ Followers	Less than 2 %
Status	Unreached
Progress Level	1.2

"Therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest."

LOCATION

Approximately 35 million speakers of Xiang Chinese -- or Hunanese -- live in China. The majority are located in Hunan Province. Others inhabit 20 counties of western Sichuan and parts of northern Guangxi and northern Guangdong provinces.

IDENTITY

The Xiang are traditionally acknowledged as the most stubborn and proud of all Chinese peoples. "The people themselves are the most clannish and conservative to be found in the whole empire, and have succeeded in keeping their province practically free from invasion by foreigners and even foreign ideas."

LANGUAGE

Xiang is a distinct Chinese language in transition. It is exposed to Mandarin from several directions. Hunanese women once possessed their own writing system. It was taught by women to women and could not be read by men.

HISTORY

The People's Republic of China (1949-): The Communists seized control of China in 1949. Initial euphoria among the people soon vanished as famine, economic mismanagement, and the suppression of all opposition became the norm. The darkest period came between 1966 and 1976 when millions of innocent people were butchered in the name of progress. After Mao's death in 1976 a power struggle

ensued. Deng Xiaoping, who stood alone with an agenda of economic reforms, took power and China gradually reopened to the outside world. A demonstration held in Tiananmen Square, Beijing, to demand political reform was forcefully broken up by the army on 4 June 1989. Fears that China would revert to the excesses of the 1960s and 1970s proved unfounded, however, and China continued to open up and become a thriving part of the world community throughout the 1990s.

CUSTOMS

In 1911 the Xiang were described as "the best haters and best fighters in China. Long after the rest of the empire was open to missionary activity, Hunan kept its gates firmly closed against the foreigner." The Xiang are renowned for their theaters and opera.

RELIGION

Recently there has been an upsurge in religious interest in Hunan, as people seek to fill the spiritual void in their hearts. "A monastery in Hunan has witnessed tens of thousands of pilgrims arriving to worship the three 'gods' of Communist China - Chairman Mao, Zhou Enlai and Zhu De. This pilgrimage has set alarm bells ringing in the local government over the revival of superstition."

CHRISTIANITY

In 1861 Welsh missionary Griffith John met a Hunan military mandarin, who "boasted of the glory and martial courage of the Hunan men,

and said there was no danger of their ever believing in Jesus or of His religion taking root there." The pride of the Xiang has made them the most unreached of all Han Chinese peoples. Today only 80,000 of the Xiang are Christians. The entire Christian population of Hunan is numbered at no more than 120,000. Because of internal strife, the Hunan church has been described as a "disaster area."

50 Largest UNREACHED People Groups

Transform-World: Christ's Missional Challenge - The Last and the Least



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Hui of China



People Name	Hui
Country	China
10/40 Window	Yes
Population	12,487,000
World Population	12,617,000
Language	Chinese, Mandarin
Religion	Islam
Bible	Complete
Online Audio NT	Yes
Jesus Film	Yes
Audio Recordings	Yes
Christ Followers	Less than 2 %
Status	Unreached
Progress Level	1.1

"Therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest."

LOCATION

The Hui are the third largest minority group in China. Approximately 10 million Hui live scattered throughout almost every part of China. Remarkably, Hui reportedly live in 2,310 of the 2,369 counties and municipalities in China. More than 200,000 Hui also live in the surrounding countries of Myanmar, Taiwan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, and Thailand. In these countries they are known by different names, including Dungan, Panthay, and Khotan. The majority of Hui in China inhabit the Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, a barren wasteland established in 1958 in north central China.

IDENTITY

The Hui are an official minority of China. Their high cheekbones and round eyes give many Hui a very different appearance from the Han Chinese.

LANGUAGE

The Hui speak standard Mandarin; although, in some locations, Persian and Arabic words have been added to their vocabulary.

HISTORY

By the middle of the seventh century, Arab and Persian traders and merchants traveled to China in search of riches. In addition, in the thirteenth century the Mongols turned people into mobile armies during their Central Asian conquests and sent them to China. These civilians were expected to settle down at various locations to farm while maintaining combat readiness. As

artisans, scholars, officials, and religious leaders, they spread throughout China. These people are the ancestors of today's Hui. One of the worst cases of genocide in history took place against the Hui in Yunnan from 1855 to 1873. One million Hui people were massacred.

CUSTOMS

The Hui are forbidden to eat pork, but that prohibition is often overlooked by calling the meat "mutton." A Chinese joke is that "One Muslim traveling will grow fat; two on a journey will grow thin." The Hui are renowned as sharp businessmen. A Chinese proverb from the 1800s states, "A Chinese awake is not the equal of a Hui sleeping."

RELIGION

Almost all Hui are Sunni Muslims. They worship in thousands of mosques throughout China. Islam first came to China via Abu Waggas, one of Mohammed's contemporaries. He preached in southern China and had the Beacon Tower built in memory of Mohammed in AD 627. In recent years, an increasing number of Hui have traveled to Mecca for the annual Haj pilgrimage.

CHRISTIANITY

Although there are a small number of scattered Hui believers in China, the Hui are probably the largest people group in the world without a single known Christian fellowship group. Mission work among the Hui in Ningxia commenced in 1885. A few Hui converts were numbered among the Hui in Manchuria, Gansu,

and Qinghai by the 1920s. In 1934 an American missionary known as Hai Chun Sheng baptized several Hui Muslim leaders in Qinghai. Recently a mission team secretly distributed 35,000 gospel tracts and cassette tapes to the Hui. A large church has emerged in northern Ningxia, but almost all the believers are Han Chinese, and few of them have a desire to reach out to the Hui. Most Hui have yet to hear the gospel of Christ.

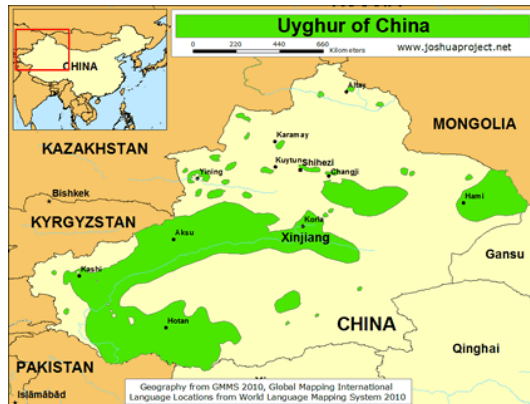
50 Largest UNREACHED People Groups

Transform-World: Christ's Missional Challenge - The Last and the Least



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Uyghur of China



People Name	Uyghur
Country	China
10/40 Window	Yes
Population	10,696,000
World Population	11,051,000
Language	Uyghur
Religion	Islam
Bible	Complete
Online Audio NT	Yes
Jesus Film	Yes
Audio Recordings	Yes
Christ Followers	Less than 2 %
Status	Unreached
Progress Level	1.1

"Therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest."

LOCATION

More than nine million Uyghurs live in the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region in northwest China. In 1876 Eastern Turkestan was invaded by the ruling Manchu army, and its name changed to Xinjiang, which means "new dominion." Since the 1950s millions of Chinese have migrated into Xinjiang and, by their sheer numbers, have put an end to the Uyghur's hope for an independent homeland. Two thousand Uyghur live in Hunan Province. In addition, approximately 20,000 Uyghur have recently migrated to Guangzhou in southern China.

IDENTITY

Before 1921 the various Turkic groups in Xinjiang called themselves by the name of the oasis near which they lived. When Turkic leaders met in Tashkent in 1921, they chose the name Uyghur as the mark of their identity. Uyghur means "unity" or "alliance." Uyghur is a Turkic language, related to Uzbek, Kazak, and Kirgiz. It also contains loanwords from Chinese, Arabic, Persian, Russian, and Mongolian.

LANGUAGE

Uyghur is a Turkic language, related to Uzbek, Kazak, and Kirgiz. It also contains loanwords from Chinese, Arabic, Persian, Russian, and Mongolian.

HISTORY

In the mid-eighth century the Uyghur inhabited part of present-day Mongolia. Around AD 840 they were attacked from the north by the Kirgiz

and fled southwest to their current homeland.

CUSTOMS

Many Uyghur cultivate cotton, grapes, melons, and fruit trees through an ingenious irrigation system which pipes mountain water into the desert oases.

RELIGION

Most Uyghur follow a folk Islam mixed with superstition. Islam is stronger in southern Xinjiang than in the north. Today, although almost all Uyghur confess to be Muslims, few are aware of the time in history when the majority of Uyghur were Christians.

CHRISTIANITY

When Nestorian missionaries first appeared in China in 635 AD, after they had already been working in Central Asia for a century. One of the forerunners of today's Uyghur were the Turkic Keirat tribe. By 1009, 200,000 Keirat had been baptized. During the twelfth and thirteenth centuries "the whole tribe were considered Christian." It has recently been estimated there were as many as eight million Christians in Central Asia. In the fourteenth century Christianity disappeared from among the Uyghur for 500 years, and they converted to Islam. The Swedish Missionary Society recommenced work among the Uyghur in 1892. By the 1930s more than 300 Uyghurs had been converted, primarily in Kashgar. When Abdullah Khan came to Yarkant in 1933 he expelled the missionaries and eliminated the Uyghur believers in a mass

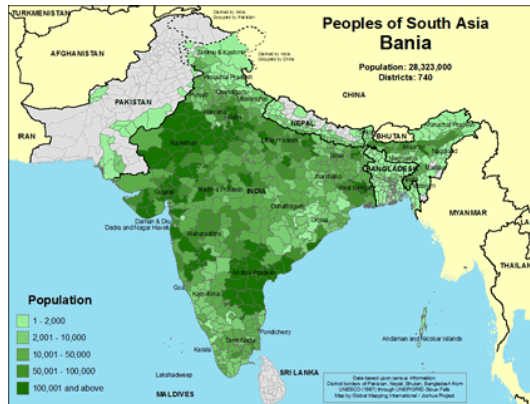
execution. Abdullah claimed, "It is my duty, according to our law, to put you to death, because by your preaching you destroyed the faith of some of us." Despite the presence of many Han Christians in Xinjiang, few have a vision to reach the Uyghurs. One visitor reported, "Many [church] leaders openly acknowledge, without guilt or shame, that they do not have such a burden for these people." One church elder, when asked about evangelizing Uyghurs, "responded by shouting, 'You're crazy!'" Today about 50 known Uyghur Christians meet in two small fellowships in China, although 400 Uyghur believers have recently emerged in neighboring Kazakhstan. Recent reports indicate that many Uyghur in China may be on the verge of accepting Christ.

50 Largest UNREACHED People Groups

Transform-World: Christ's Missional Challenge - The Last and the Least



Bania of India



People Name	Bania
Country	India
10/40 Window	Yes
Population	27,296,000
World Population	27,610,000
Language	Hindi
Religion	Hinduism
Bible	Complete
Online Audio NT	Yes
Jesus Film	Yes
Audio Recordings	Yes
Christ Followers	Less than 2 %
Status	Unreached
Progress Level	1.1

"Therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest."

BACKGROUND

The Vania people are also called Bania or Mahajan. The word Vania is derived from the Sanskrit word "vāṇijya", which means 'trader' in Sanskrit. Bania is an Indian caste consisting generally of moneylenders or merchants, found chiefly in northern and western India; strictly speaking, however, many mercantile communities are not Banias, and, conversely, some Banias are not merchants. In the fourfold division of Indian society, the innumerable Bania subcastes, such as the Agarwala, are classed as members of the Vaishya, or commoner, class.

In religious affiliation they are generally Vaishnavas (worshippers of the Hindu god Vishnu) or Jains and tend to be strict vegetarians, teetotallers, and orthodox in observing ceremonial purity. The Indian leader Mohandas Gandhi belonged to a Gujarati Bania caste. The Vania community has gotras such as Agarwal, Dasora, Dishawal, Kapol, Nagori, Vagada, Modh and Nagar.

Many of these names are based on the names of the place they are from. The Agrawal, though they are settled mainly in North Gujarat, take their name from the Agar Town. The Jharola live in Eastern Gujarat and they come from Jalor of Rajasthan and Maharashtra. The titles used by the Vania are Shah, Shroff, Parikkh, Chokshi, Seth and Gandhi.

The Vania community consists of two religious divisions, namely Vaishnava and Jain. Most of

the groups of Vania are split into Visha meaning twenty and Dasha or ten. These subdivisions are further divided into Ekda and Bagda. The Bagda mostly live in villages, while Ekda live in villages and towns. They have an organization called the Mandal to look after the temples and the community's property.

Business, trade, jewellery-making and agriculture are the traditional occupations of the Vania. Floor painting and folk songs represent the Vania's art and culture. The naming of the newborn ritual is performed by a Jangam priest by putting a thread around the infant's neck.

The Vania are Hindu by religion. They are Vaishnavite and devotees of Shrinathji. A section of them are from the Jain community. The Vania maintain intercommunity linkages with the Brahman, Valand, Soni and other communities through trade and service. The Vania in the state of Maharashtra are mostly the followers of the Lingayat Cult.

PRAYER ITEMS

- * For the salvation of the Vania people and that God may send several Christian workers among them and meet their spiritual and physical needs.
- * Pray for developmental and literacy programs among the people.
- * Ask the Lord of the Harvest to thrust forth laborers into India to share the love of Jesus with each of the tribes.

- * Ask God to raise up prayer teams who will begin breaking up the spiritual soil of India through worship and intercession.
- * Pray that the small number of tribal believers will begin to share the Gospel with their own people.
- * Pray that Christian radio broadcasts, Bibles, and other literature will be made available to each of these groups.
- * Pray that God will begin revealing Himself to these precious people through dreams and visions.
- * Pray for the salvation of key tribal leaders who will boldly declare the Gospel.
- * Ask the Lord to raise up strong local churches among each of these tribes.

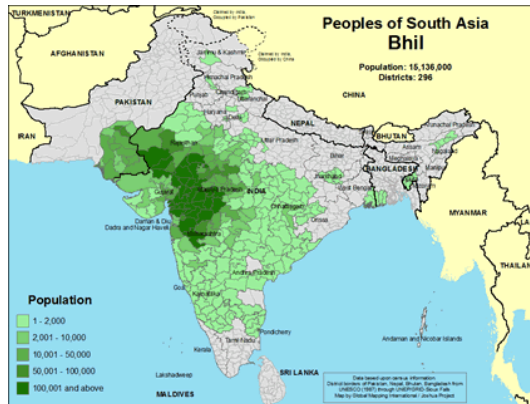
50 Largest UNREACHED People Groups

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Bhil of India



People Name	Bhil
Country	India
10/40 Window	Yes
Population	14,470,000
World Population	14,855,000
Language	Hindi
Religion	Hinduism
Bible	Complete
Online Audio NT	Yes
Jesus Film	Yes
Audio Recordings	Yes
Christ Followers	Less than 2 %
Status	Unreached
Progress Level	1.2

"Therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest."

BACKGROUND

There are two divisions of Bhil: the Central or "pure" Bhil, and the Eastern or part-Rajput Bhil. The Central Bhil live in the mountain regions of India, particularly in the states of Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, and Rajasthan. They are known as the connecting link between the Gujarati and the Rajasthani and are one of the largest tribal communities of India. They speak Bhili, which is an Indo-Aryan language.

Many years ago, Bhil rajas (kings) permitted immigrants from the plains to settle in the hill regions. To safeguard their independence and rule, the Bhil fought against the Moghals, the Maratha, and the British.

Many Bhil are being threatened by the Sardar Sarovar Dam project, which when completed will flood the land where many Bhil currently live. Though re-settlement plans have been discussed, they remain incomplete.

WHAT ARE THEIR LIVES LIKE?

Today, the Bhil primarily work as peasant farmers, field laborers, and village watchmen. With a growth in population, most of their land holdings are small and generally non-productive. The people are experts in handling bows and arrows. In fact, the name "Bhil" was derived from the word billee, which means "bow." For years, the bow has been a characteristic weapon of the tribe, and the men usually carry their bows and arrows with them. The women wear brightly colored clothes. The

city boys are distinctive from other Hindus because they tie rags around their heads, wear earrings, and carry swords or guns.

The Central Bhil are usually shy and love their independence. Festivals, dance, drama, and music are a large part of their culture. The length and enthusiasm for these events is usually directly proportional to the amount of alcohol that is consumed.

The Bhil usually marry within their own classes. If they do marry someone of another class, the person of the lower class must convert to the higher, leaving behind all family ties. This custom is strictly enforced among the tribes.

WHAT ARE THEIR BELIEFS?

Almost all of the Central Bhil practice ethnic religions that have been highly influenced by Hinduism. Shiva is considered the supreme god. Ancestor worship (praying to deceased ancestors) is also quite popular. Shamans (priests) are also called upon to offer sacrifices to the many gods and mud idols.

In spite of their traditional beliefs, there have been interesting manifestations of God's Spirit among the upper caste Bhagat gurus. They now worship light and "the Word," singing prophecies of the future, such as the coming sinless incarnation. At the turn of the century, one guru warned his disciples that there would be a great famine, after which they should look for teachers from the North and West who

would teach them the true way of salvation from a book, free of cost. They would teach about the true God, and about a sinless Incarnation who was born of a virgin. The guru also said that they should worship this sinless, invisible God, turn away from stones and idols, and live blameless lives. A famine occurred in 1899-1900, soon after the guru's death.

WHAT ARE THEIR NEEDS?

There are three segregated classes: the Bhagat Bhil, the ordinary Bhil, and the lowest class-the Christian Bhil. To accept Christ is like becoming an outcast. Much intercession is needed to see their eyes opened to the Truth.

PRAYER ITEMS

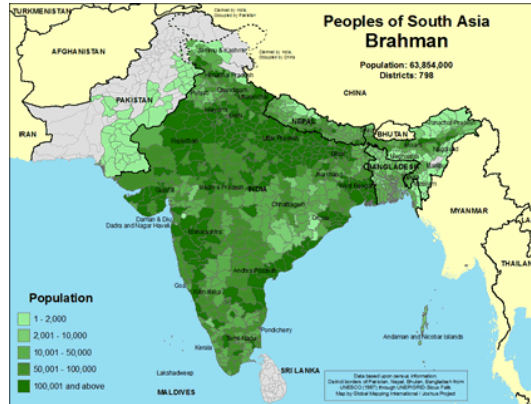
- * Pray that God will raise up prayer teams to break up the soil through worship and intercession.
- * Ask the Lord to call people who are willing to go to India and share Christ with the Bhil.
- * Pray for effectiveness of the Jesus film among them.
- * Ask God to provide open doors for the Bhil believers to share the Gospel with their own people.
- * Ask the Holy Spirit to soften their hearts towards Christians so that they will be receptive to the Gospel.
- * Pray that God will reveal Himself to them through dreams and visions.

50 Largest UNREACHED People Groups

Transform-World: Christ's Missional Challenge - The Last and the Least



Brahman of India



People Name	Brahman
Country	India
10/40 Window	Yes
Population	57,703,000
World Population	62,145,000
Language	Hindi
Religion	Hinduism
Bible	Complete
Online Audio NT	Yes
Jesus Film	Yes
Audio Recordings	Yes
Christ Followers	Less than 2 %
Status	Unreached
Progress Level	1.2

"Therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest."

BACKGROUND

Brahmin is a Hindu Indian caste. The English word brahmin is an anglicised form of the Sanskrit word Brahmana. Brahman refers to the 'Supreme Self' in Hinduism or the first of the gods. Brahmin refers to an individual.

In 1931 (the last Indian census to record caste), Brahmins accounted for 4.32% of the total Indian population. Due to the diversity in religious and cultural traditions and practices, and the Vedic schools which they belong to, Brahmins are further divided into various sub-castes.

Brahmins perform vedic rituals but only a subset of brahmins are involved in priestly duties including teaching and preaching. They have also excelled as educators, law makers, scholars, doctors, warriors, writers, poets, land owners and politicians. Many famous Indians are Brahmins.

The history of the Brahmins is associated with the Vedic religion of early Hinduism, usually referred to as Sanatana Dharma. The Vedas are the primary source for Brahmin practices. Overtime, Brahmins became a powerful and influential group in India and many discriminated against lower castes. However, in modern India some Brahmins claim reverse discrimination.

Brahmins as a caste were engaged in attaining the highest spiritual knowledge (brahavidya)

and adhered to different branches (shakhas) of Vedas. This was described to be a difficult path of discipline of body, mind, and intellect. However, certain persons, though very few in number, were born into other varnas but dedicated themselves to such an austere life that they were also recognized as Brahmins in ancient India (e.g., sage Vishwamitra, a non-brahmin who attained brahavidya, and composed the Gayatri mantra was venerated as "Brahmarishi", not by caste but by title / pre-fix accorded to him by the well-read in general in those days).

WHERE ARE THEY LOCATED?

Brahmins are located throughout India but mainly in the Northern states such as Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh. There are small concentrations in the southern Indian states of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Kerala.

WHAT ARE THEIR LIVES LIKE?

Brahmins are enjoined to offer prayers three times a day as prescribed in the Vedas. Most Brahmins today are vegetarians or lacto-vegetarians. Non-vegetarian Brahmins are mainly those in cooler mountain areas like Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Nepal. In some coastal areas like Bengal, Brahmins are fish eaters.

WHAT ARE THEIR BELIEFS?

Brahmins can be identified by the three Hindu paths of Devotion, Knowledge and Yoga which they espouse in order for a person to achieve

'god realization', the ultimate aim of the Hindu religion. All Brahmin teachings and writings relate to one of these paths. One is free to choose the path depending upon a person's inclination. Brahmins are Vedic priests and they have three compulsory occupations - studying the Vedas, worshiping deities and charitable giving.

PRAYER ITEMS

- * Brahmins are a key community in India who uphold Hinduism. Please pray that the light of the gospel breaks through the Satanic veil that blinds this community.
- * Pray that the true God will reveal Himself to this community and use Brahmins to preach and teach about Jesus Christ.

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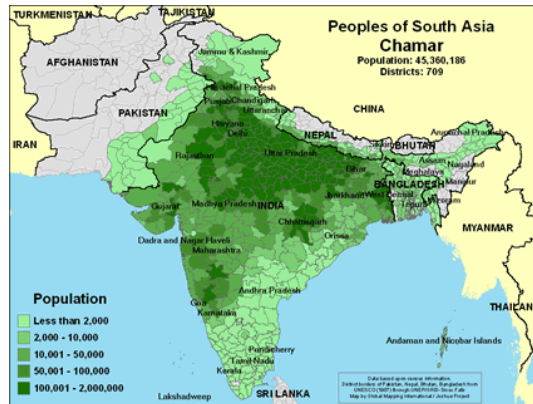
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- <http://www.brahminworld.com/bw8.htm>

50 Largest UNREACHED People Groups

Transform-World: Christ's Missional Challenge - The Last and the Least



Chamar of India



People Name	Chamar
Country	India
10/40 Window	Yes
Population	51,798,000
World Population	52,134,000
Language	Hindi
Religion	Hinduism
Bible	Complete
Online Audio NT	Yes
Jesus Film	Yes
Audio Recordings	Yes
Christ Followers	Less than 2 %
Status	Unreached
Progress Level	1.2

"Therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest."

BACKGROUND

The Chamar people live primarily in India's western states of Maharashtra, Karnataka, and Gujarat. They are considered untouchable, and most of them know nothing else their entire lives. With a population of over 50 million, they are among the largest untouchable, or Dalit communities in the Hindu world.

The Chamar people are also known as Bhambi, Asadaru, Khalpa, Machigar, Lingayat, Mochi and Rohit. They are mostly distributed in Maharashtra, Karnataka and Gujarat.

They are regarded as untouchables or Sudras. To be untouchable, according to Indian-Hindu tradition, is to be undesirable, or unworthy of any sort of consideration or provision by society. This translates into frequent joblessness, lack of education and lifelong poverty. Traditional upper caste members will even avoid an untouchable's shadow.

WHAT ARE THEIR LIVES LIKE?

The Chamar use the Devanagari script and speak Kannada, Gujarati and Hindi along with regional languages. Their main occupation is manufacturing shoes and chappals from finished leather. Besides this, they are engaged in daily-wage labour and petty business. Day labor and petty business are also main sources of income, along with the manufacture of shoes and chappal, an Indian sandal. The origins of the name "chamar" come from their leather work. You can imagine how working with the remains

of dead cows can be viewed in Hindu cultures where the cow is sacred. Women are also involved in agricultural work, animal husbandry and various economic activities. The Bhambi Khalpa community repairs musical instruments like dhol and nagara which are played in the temples during worship.

Their staple cereals are rice and jowar. Men occasionally drink alcohol. The Chamar regard themselves higher than the Mangs and the Mahars.

The Chamar practice monogamy in marriage. Dowry is largely prevalent and is paid in cash and kind. Remarriage is allowed for widowers but not for the widows. The dead body of a bachelor is buried lying on its back with the head facing the south, whereas others are cremated and their mortal remains are immersed in sacred water. Rice balls are offered to the dead and to ancestors on the tenth day after death.

WHAT ARE THEIR BELIEFS?

The Chamar are Hindu. They belong to the Shiva and Bhagvat sects. Their deities are Bahiroba, Janai, Kandova of Jejori and Bhawani of Tuljapur. They follow the spiritual teachings of Ravidas. They recite mythological tales and sing songs from the religious epics. They celebrate the festivals such as Diwali, Panchami, Ganesh Chaturthi, Kartik, Holi and Hannami.

There is a slightly higher degree of

responsiveness to the gospel among the Chamars than among other Dalits. There is a church planting movement underway among Chamars in several districts across India.

PRAYER ITEMS

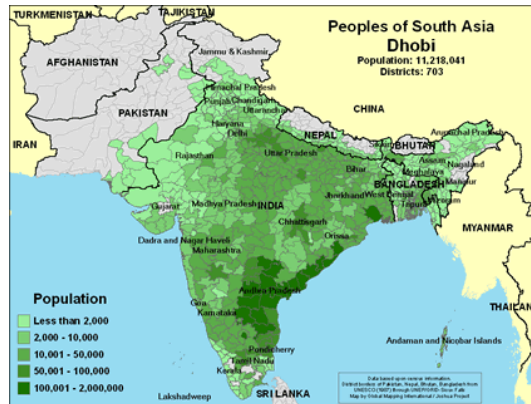
- * For the salvation of the Chamar people and that God may send several Christian workers among them and meet their spiritual and physical needs.
- * For the Chamar people to break through the caste barrier; be accepted and accept other communities.
- * Pray that these Chamar believers will be salt and light to Chamar communities throughout India.
- * Pray that church planting will grow across all Chamar communities.
- * Pray for more workers to enter the Chamar harvest.

50 Largest UNREACHED People Groups

Transform-World: Christ's Missional Challenge - The Last and the Least



Dhobi, Hindu of India



People Name	Dhobi, Hindu
Country	India
10/40 Window	Yes
Population	11,990,000
World Population	12,258,000
Language	Hindi
Religion	Hinduism
Bible	Complete
Online Audio NT	Yes
Jesus Film	Yes
Audio Recordings	Yes
Christ Followers	Less than 2 %
Status	Unreached
Progress Level	1.2

"Therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest."

BACKGROUND

The old Indian man slowly straightens up from his bowed position as his young grandson waits impatiently. It is the first time the boy has been allowed to accompany the older boys and men to the river, and he is eager to begin. But first they must bow to the washing stone. As their ancestors before them, they earn their meager living by washing clothes for the higher castes. They are Dhobis, one of India's Dalit communities, formerly known as "untouchables." Their diet is mostly vegetables and grains, with an occasional bit of meat.

When a Dhobi girl marries, her dowry usually contains just a few items, but almost always an iron. After the men wash the customers' clothes, the women iron them and keep the money they earn to pay for household expenses. Mothers teach the girls to iron at an early age, and boys help their fathers by washing the smaller articles of clothing and by delivering packages of clean clothes to their owners.

Most of the Dhobis follow popular Hinduism and worship local gods as well as the washing stones. The vast majority of these Dalits remain Hindu, but they have contact with other communities.

WHERE ARE THEY LOCATED?

Regarding their location, K. S. Singh says, "... the majority of them are traditionally washermen widely distributed in the states of Punjab, Uttar

Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal, Assam, Tripura, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Maharashtra and in the union territories of Chandigarh, Delhi and Daman and Diu. They are a large community reported to be distributed in 203 districts of India and as having 164 segments. While the majority of them are Hindu, there are Muslim Dhobi too in Delhi, Gujarat, Bihar and Chandigarh. In Assam, Orissa, Tripura, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Delhi, the Dhobi are notified as a scheduled caste."

WHAT ARE THEIR LIVES LIKE?

Singh also gives a glance into their social customs: "Marriages are negotiated by the parents when a boy and girl attain adulthood. The practice of child marriage, which was not infrequent till the recent past, has now virtually disappeared. Vermilion, bindi and glass bangles are the marriage symbols for women. Divorce is not allowed in their society; however, widows and widowers can remarry. Junior sororate and junior levirate are also permitted. Both nuclear and extended families have been reported among them. Male children are given equal shares in the family property. The naming ceremony for both male and female children, and tonsure (mundan) for male children are the rituals performed in childhood. The dead are cremated; in case of the death of a child, the corpse is buried. Obsequies are performed on the thirteenth day after a death."

WHAT ARE THEIR BELIEFS?

They worship Hindu gods such as Rama, Krishna, Hanuman and Shiva. They observe festivals such as Lohri, Holi, Diwali, Dussehra and Janmash-tami.

PRAYER ITEMS

- * Pray that the Dhobi people will hear the gospel and discover that Jesus Christ can wash away their sins.
- * Pray that believers will tactfully share gospel recordings and play Christian radio broadcasts for Dhobi Hindus.
- * Pray that the Holy Spirit will give faith to the Dhobis.

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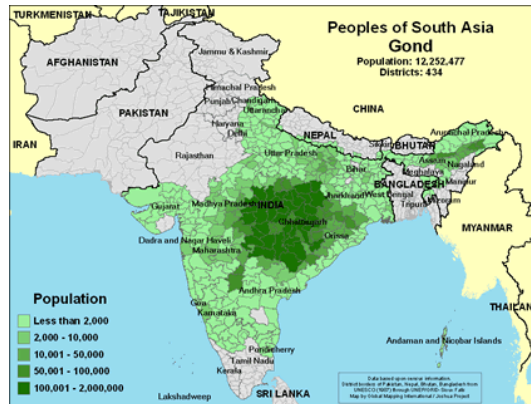
50 Largest UNREACHED People Groups

Transform-World: Christ's Missional Challenge - The Last and the Least



Photo Source: COMIBAM / Sepal

Gond of India



People Name	Gond
Country	India
10/40 Window	Yes
Population	13,480,000
World Population	13,486,000
Language	Hindi
Religion	Hinduism
Bible	Complete
Online Audio NT	Yes
Jesus Film	Yes
Audio Recordings	Yes
Christ Followers	Less than 2 %
Status	Unreached
Progress Level	1.2

"Therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest."

BACKGROUND

A crude gate on the mud road, the wooden poles on both the sides and the beam across it stands high enough for any one to enter. There are remains of bundles and ropes hung on it. Among them you may find a new bundle of shrinking animal skin. If you see these before a village, you can be sure: you are entering a Gondi village.

Gonds celebrate their legacy every year during the Dasara. On that occasion, all the living heirs of the crown in each generation are honored by carrying them on a pallak (royal cart carried on shoulders).

WHAT ARE THEIR LIVES LIKE?

Gonds are agriculturists and choose to live on the riverbeds close to forests. Most of them possess agricultural land. Those who have a good portion of the land cultivate rice, javar (cereals) and green dal (pulses). Tending goats and cattle are also common. Poorer Gonds work in the fields of the richer Gonds. There is not much work available for them except in farming seasons. If at all there is any work, men get about Rs. 25 and women Rs.20 as a day's wage. They love hunting and wild meats are their favorites.

Southern Gonds live in clusters. Each village will have 25 to 30 huts and is surrounded by their fields. Villages will be two to four kilometers away from one another. From one village to another or to the near by town, they travel by

bullock-carts. All farmers offer sacrifices at the end of each harvest. The size of the yield determines the size of the animal offered. A good harvest may demand a goat and poorer, a chicken. Pigs are also sacrificed for a moderate harvest. For them, monsoon not only brings showers but also sicknesses.

Girls are married of between the age of 13 and 15. Marriages will be in summer. A girl and a boy in love, running away is an accepted custom. Once they come back, the Panchayat meet together to discuss the terms and conditions of the marriage. Marriages are also arranged by the parents. Depending up on the financial conditions of the families the bride groom's parents have to give the bride's parents some amount of money.

Among the Southern Gond tribes, there are seven clans. Each clan has gods numbering from one to seven. They maintain their identity and distinguish one clan from another based on the number of gods each has. People of the same clan can not get married. When one meet someone, he asks, how many gods the other person has in his clan. This is how they know whether they belong to the same clan or not. Clans with the same number of gods will not get married together. This is observed strictly. If the financial condition permits, one is allowed to have more than one wife.

WHAT ARE THEIR BELIEFS?

They believe that evil spirits are the causes for

sicknesses. Sacrifices are believed to be powerful to keep away these evil spirits. Perumal, the high-priest, responsible for three or four villages together, offers these sacrifices for every village. The sacrifice will be followed by a social dinner. The sacrificial goat has to give permission for the sacrifice by nodding its head! The people will wait till the animal does it.

The sacrifice is witnessed by the whole of the village. But the dinner made by cooking the animal will be enjoyed only by the men. All the men gather at the riverside to prepare the dinner. White toddy from palm or the country liquor called, black toddy may supplement the diner. Drinking, in general, is not just the right of men. The sacrifice animal's skin is stuffed with hay and hung on the village gate. This is to frighten the evil spirits and give courage to the villagers. The Southern Gonds prefer witch doctors even when a Public Health Centre is accessible. They will have to carry a chicken along. Gonds think that enemies' witchcraft brings them ill health. Chanted herbs or water is given by the witch doctor as remedies.

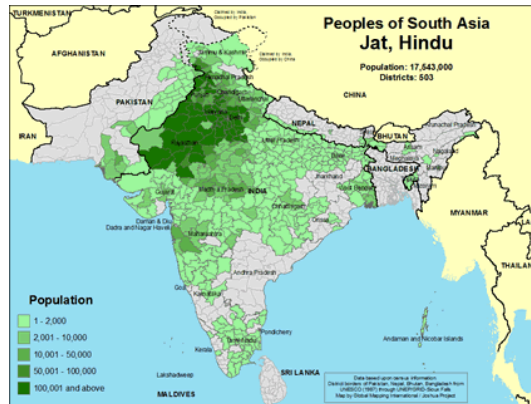
50 Largest UNREACHED People Groups

Transform-World: Christ's Missional Challenge - The Last and the Least



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Jat, Hindu of India



People Name	Jat, Hindu
Country	India
10/40 Window	Yes
Population	17,234,000
World Population	17,307,000
Language	Hindi
Religion	Hinduism
Bible	Complete
Online Audio NT	Yes
Jesus Film	Yes
Audio Recordings	Yes
Christ Followers	Less than 2 %
Status	Unreached
Progress Level	1.2

"Therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest."

BACKGROUND

The Jats are not a homogeneous ethnic group living in a particular area and speaking a single language. Rather, they are a people scattered around the world among several ethnic groups, yet retain their own identity. This distinction is often based on occupation and heritage.

There are different opinions as to the origin of the Jats, but most seem to recognize them to be of Indo-Aryan descent. There is also a theory suggesting that they may be the predecessors of Gypsies. Whatever their origin, in the eighteenth century, the Jats became a force that could not be ignored.

WHAT ARE THEIR LIVES LIKE?

Overall, the Jats have a very good self image. "Men may come and men may go, but I go on forever," is a well known Jat proverb. They are brave, hardworking people who possess both the desire and ability to rule. It has been said that no Jat wants to be ruled. Rather, he desires to have power over a group, if not over an area.

Known for their military prowess, many Jats served as fighters in the Persian army and later were recruited into the British-India army during World War I. Earlier, a Jat who did not have a horse was looked down upon by his peers. Today, the Jats are well read, and some occupy high positions in academic and technical arenas.

Conservative by nature, the Jats rarely marry people from other ethnic groups. Great pride is

placed in their ancestry. In fact, all the Jats in a particular village consider themselves to be the descendants of the man whom they believe founded it by the power of the sword. Physically, the Jats are taller and heavier than most of their neighbors. Because of their larger build, their reputation for violence, and the fact that they control much of the land and village income, they are generally feared.

WHAT ARE THEIR BELIEFS?

Most Jats are either Muslims, Hindus, or Sikhs. (Sikhism is a monotheistic religion that combines elements of Hinduism and Islam.) The Jats living in Pakistan, Russia, and Ukraine are primarily Muslim; while the great majority of the Jats in India are Hindu.

The Muslim Jats are Sunnis of the Hanafi school, but are known to have a strong tradition of worshipping many local saints. The Hindu Jats adhere to the traditional practices, as well as a wide variety of additional beliefs and practices. Until recent times, the Sikh Jats seemed to be the least meticulous in their observance of Sikh traditions, leaning more towards Hinduism. Regardless of their religious affiliation, all Jats observe many ceremonies, especially rites of passage such as circumcision and initiation into adulthood.

WHAT ARE THEIR NEEDS?

The Jats who live in India and Pakistan need clean drinking water and proper health care facilities. Christian medical teams and

humanitarian aid workers are needed to work among them and show them God's love in practical ways.

Most of the Jat believers live in India. Sadly, this only represents a tiny proportion of the entire Jat population in that area. Missionaries, Christian broadcasts, and evangelistic literature are needed to effectively reach the Jats with the Light of the Gospel. Most importantly, they need people who will begin to intercede for them, tearing down the strongholds that are keeping them in spiritual bondage. Only then will their hearts be prepared to receive the Good News as it is presented to them.

PRAYER ITEMS

- * Ask the Lord of the harvest to send forth additional laborers into Pakistan, India, Russia, and Ukraine to work among the Jats.
- * Pray that Christian doctors, nurses, and aid workers will have opportunities to share the love of Jesus with the Jats.
- * Ask God to save key Jat leaders who will boldly proclaim the Gospel to their own people.
- * Pray that the Lord Jesus will reveal Himself to the Jats through dreams and visions.
- * Pray that churches and missions organizations will accept the challenge of adopting and reaching the Jats.
- * Ask God to raise up teams of intercessors who will faithfully stand in the gap for the Jats.
- * Ask the Lord to bring forth strong churches among the Jats for the glory of His name!

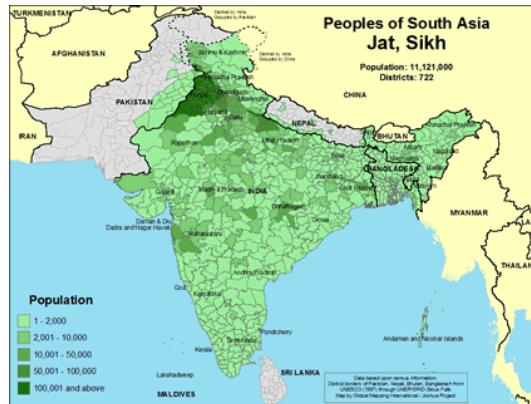
50 Largest UNREACHED People Groups

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Photo Source: COMIBAM / Sepal

Jat, Sikh of India



People Name	Jat, Sikh
Country	India
10/40 Window	Yes
Population	11,025,000
World Population	11,049,000
Language	Punjabi, Western
Religion	Other / Small
Bible	New Testament
Online Audio NT	No
Jesus Film	Yes
Audio Recordings	Yes
Christ Followers	Less than 2 %
Status	Unreached
Progress Level	1.1

"Therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest."

BACKGROUND

The Jats are immersed in several ethnic groups who retain an identity often based on occupation and heritage. The word "Jat" is from the Arabic word "jatta" referring to the inhabitants of what is now much of Pakistan and Northwest India. They arrived in the sub-continent as invaders, yet did not establish ruling dynasties. They were presumably Indo-Iranian who in the course of time they mixed with other invaders and older Indian inhabitants. They are found in central Baluchistan province of Pakistan where they are called Jatt.

The greatest concentrations of Jats are found in districts of Punjab and Haryana. They make up to one third of the population in Mirpur (Kashmir), Gujranwala Multan, Muzaffargarh, Manipuri, Bahawalpur, Patkiala, Faridkot (Punjab) Rohtak and Mahendragarh (Haryana) A popular occupation among them is farming. A small percentage are traders and laborers.

WHERE ARE THEY LOCATED?

The Jat are located all over India and some surrounding countries. The largest concentration is in the Punjab Region, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.

WHAT ARE THEIR LIVES LIKE?

A man cannot take a wife from his own section. For a wedding, a square enclosure is made known as Chaonari and a fire sacrifice is performed. The couple walk seven times around

the Chaonari with their right hand inward. Widow remarriage is allowed but cannot marry her younger brother-in-law or near relatives of her deceased husband. The dead are cremated except children under seven, who are buried.

When a man dies, his widow goes around his body seven times in the reverse direction of the one during marriage, indicating the undoing of marriage and breaks few of her bangles. An important occasion for display among them is a ceremony which is done among wealthy families when the head of the family or his wife dies, or when a daughter is married. The person who does the ceremony is highly respected and his opinion is given weight is caste disputes.

They eat unleavened bread (roti) and curry, seasonal vegetables, ghee and milk. Girls are tattooed before marriage. Women are fond of jewelry and wear bangles made of ivory, lac (a resinous material) or clay but never glass.

K. S. Singh says about their everyday life: "Settled cultivation is the main source of livelihood for the Jat Sikh, and the surplus agricultural produce is sold through middlemen (artya), with whom the farmers have creditor—debtor relations. Though they staunchly adhere to the tenets of Sikhism, many of them visit Hindu pilgrimage centres. On festive occasions, their men perform the bhangra while females perform the gidda dance. They traditionally accept food and wate from all other Sikh and Hindu communities except the scheduled

castes. They share crematoria with other communities. Intercommunity marriages are extremely rare. The community has benefited by various developmental programmes. They evince an interest in formal education and some of them attain higher education. They favour both indigenous and modern medicines and avail themselves of hospital facilities. With an extensive network of irrigation canals, tube-wells and the acceptance of improved agricultural know-how like tractors, chemical fertilizers, insecticides, high-yielding seeds, and financial support extended by banks and other institutions, the community's agricultural expertise has received enormous impetus."

WHAT ARE THEIR BELIEFS?

The Jat have special ceremonies during the Dussera and Baisakhi festivals.

PRAYER ITEMS

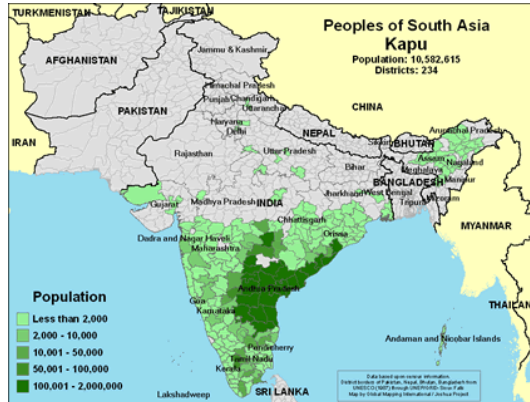
- * Ask the Lord to call people who are willing to go to India and Nepal and share Christ with these tribes.
- * Pray that the Holy Spirit will soften their hearts towards the Gospel.
- * Ask God to call out prayer teams to break up the soil through worship and intercession.
- * Ask the Lord to raise up a triumphant Church among the Jat for the glory of His name!

50 Largest UNREACHED People Groups

Transform-World: Christ's Missional Challenge - The Last and the Least



Kapu of India



People Name	Kapu
Country	India
10/40 Window	Yes
Population	14,958,000
World Population	14,958,000
Language	Telugu
Religion	Hinduism
Bible	Complete
Online Audio NT	Yes
Jesus Film	Yes
Audio Recordings	Yes
Christ Followers	Less than 2 %
Status	Unreached
Progress Level	1.2

"Therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest."

BACKGROUND

The word Kapu or Kaapu, in Telugu, means protector. They are also referred to by their caste title Naidu, which means leader.

Kapus were inhabitants of the Andhra region, people who migrated from the north, cleared forests for agriculture and built settlements. They are the descendants of the Kaampu tribe, an Indo-Aryan tribe, which migrated from Kampilya, Mithila and Ayodhya. These were ancient cities situated in the Gangetic Plains of North India spread across UP and Bihar. The Migration seems to have occurred 2500 years ago, which coincides with the rise of the first Andhra Kingdom, Satavahanas. This migrant tribe initially settled along the banks of the Godavari river, cleared forests and built Settlements and Towns.

The Kapus were primarily a military/agrarian community who took up military service and participated in cultivation during peace time. Consequently the Kapu subcastes also evolved based on occupation. Kapus who engaged in trade were referred to as Balija. Balijas who took up military service and protected trading caravans were called Balija Nayakulu or Balija Naidu.

Modern day Kapus have banded together to fight for their political rights in the caste system. They have also organized agricultural unions to protect their way of life.

WHERE ARE THEY LOCATED?

They are found primarily in the southern Indian state of Andhra Pradesh, where they make up about one-quarter of the population. The Kapu community in Andhra Pradesh is predominantly concentrated in the coastal districts, North Telangana and Rayalaseema regions of Andhra Pradesh. They are also found in large numbers in Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, and Orissa.

WHAT ARE THEIR LIVES LIKE?

A significant number of Kapus have today diversified into industry, arts and academia. However, substantial segments of the population are still farmers. They are similar to farming peoples in neighboring Karnataka, Maharashtra, Tamilnadu, Orissa Rajasthan and also Madhya Pradesh.

WHAT ARE THEIR BELIEFS?

Kapu are primarily Hindu. They also live among many Muslims.

WHAT ARE THEIR NEEDS?

Missionary activity in the Andhra Pradesh region has seen spouts of success in winning the population to Christ. In 1710, a Roman Catholic missionary established one of the first mission stations in the region and nearly 300 people came to faith. Various Protestant missions groups arrived some two hundred years later. Today, 30 major denominations are represented in the state. The Church at large, however, has struggled long and hard against nominalism. Of

the 33 tribal groups in Andhra Pradesh, 16 have yet to be evangelized.

PRAYER ITEMS

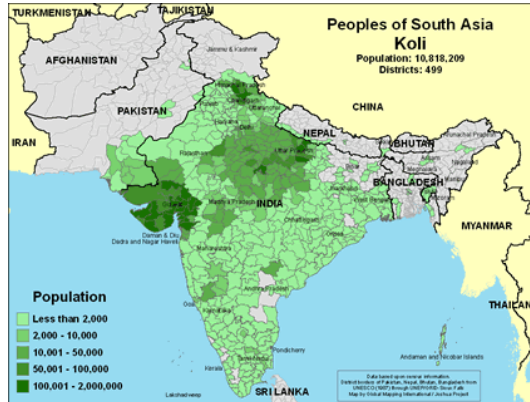
- * That missionaries will be called to the Kapu.
- * That the spiritual and physical needs of the Kapu will be met by Christian leaders.
- * That God will open the minds and hearts of the Kapu to the love of Christ.

50 Largest UNREACHED People Groups

Transform-World: Christ's Missional Challenge - The Last and the Least



Koli of India



People Name	Koli
Country	India
10/40 Window	Yes
Population	12,389,000
World Population	12,429,000
Language	Gujarati
Religion	Hinduism
Bible	Complete
Online Audio NT	Yes
Jesus Film	Yes
Audio Recordings	Yes
Christ Followers	Less than 2 %
Status	Unreached
Progress Level	1.2

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"Therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest."

BACKGROUND

The term Koli means fisherman, according to legend the Koli claim to be descendents from the Black Dwarf that came forth from the body of King Vena. Numbering more than 12 million they are one of the largest communities of western India. The Koli constitute of a number of communities with various occupations and cultural identities while still remaining Koli. As their name implies fishing is common, other occupations are laborers, agriculturists, water carriers, boatman and animal husbandry, but there is also Koli that have advanced themselves. As they are a large percentage of the population in Gujarat there are those within their people that have advanced education and placed themselves well within society and government, but the majority live within the lower strata of society.

WHERE ARE THEY LOCATED?

K. S. Singh says of their location: "The Koli are found in almost every village in the plains of Gujarat and in many villages in Saurashtra and Kutch. At one level, they formed an aristocrat stratum with the Rajput with whom they had hypergamous relationships. There is historical evidence to show the rise of the Koli chieftains from the fifteenth century onwards, who succeeded in establishing a considerable number of small kingdoms all over Gujarat by the eighteenth century. At another level, they are peasants, landholders, tenants, fishermen, ordinary workers and labourers. They are variously known in central Gujarat, from where

they migrated, as Baraiya, Dharala, Khant, Kotwal, Pagi, Patella, Talapada, Thakarada and Thakor. The bulk of the Koli population is characterized by hierarchy, with the relatively advanced population living at one end and the backward among them living along with the tribal population in the highlands of the south."

WHAT ARE THEIR LIVES LIKE?

The Koli live mostly in the villages and towns of Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh. They live the simple life of agriculturalists, but as technology has entered into the life of most people they are also aware of the life available in the city and have experienced a few of the material benefits that can be obtained.

WHAT ARE THEIR BELIEFS?

Nearly all of Koli are Hindu while a very few will practice Islam. Both nuclear and extended families are common among them and the eldest son inherits the father's authority, the Koli cremate their dead and practice death pollution for eleven days. The Koli worship Guar Mati and Holi Mata among other deities of Hinduism, they also believe in ghosts and spirits. Depending on the region they will celebrate Namiya festival associated with fishing as well as Karbha, Bahan and other common festivals. A Brahmin priest will officiate at religious activities as well as rituals associated with the cycles of life.

PRAYER ITEMS

* Ask God that workers will be sent to every

district and village.

- * Pray that God will raise up Koli evangelists that will have a heart to reach their own.
- * Pray that God will send film teams that will present the life and death of Jesus.
- * Pray that the God who has set eternity in their hearts will prepare their hearts for the Gospel.

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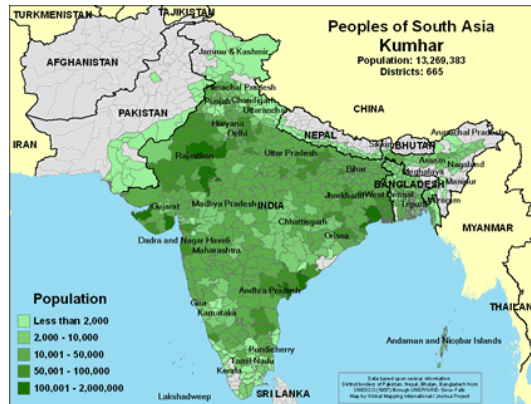
50 Largest UNREACHED People Groups

Transform-World: Christ's Missional Challenge - The Last and the Least



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Kumhar of India



People Name	Kumhar
Country	India
10/40 Window	Yes
Population	14,487,000
World Population	14,813,000
Language	Hindi
Religion	Hinduism
Bible	Complete
Online Audio NT	Yes
Jesus Film	Yes
Audio Recordings	Yes
Christ Followers	Less than 2 %
Status	Unreached
Progress Level	1.1

"Therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest."

BACKGROUND

Per old Indian mythology the Kumhar are offspring of Lord Brahma (Prajapati). This is why in some places in India the Kumhar use Prajapati / Prajapat as a surname according to Indian caste system. Ancient Indian culture cannot be deciphered without acknowledging Kumhar.

K. S. Singh describes the group as follows: "The term kumhar is derived from the Sanskrit word kumbhakra, meaning a maker of pots. They are known by different names in different states, such as Kusuvan in Kerala and Tamil Nadu, Kulal in the coastal districts of Karnataka and Kerala, Kumbar in the entire region of Karnataka, Kummara in Andhra Pradesh and Kumar in Assam. They are distributed in most of the states of the country and speak different languages in different states. Ethnographers like Riskey, Crooke, Enthoven, Russell and Hiralal and Ibbetson, have written extensively on the Kumhar. A comparison of their accounts to the present situation reveals considerable occupational diversification, the melting away of subgroups and an increasing identity consciousness across states, culminating in national level associations. The Kumhar are an integral part of society, who supplied, and continue to do so though to a lesser extent, earthen pots to the village communities, and in return receive a fixed annual remuneration in the traditional patron—client nexus. More than this, however, they have an important role in the life-cycle rituals of other communities. 'The potters of Madras', Stuart wrote, 'outside the

Tamil country and Malabar, are called Kummara in Telugu, Kumbaro in Oriya, and Kumbara in Canarese, all these names being corrupted forms of the Sanskrit word Kumbhakara, pot-maker (ku, earth)' (Thurston 1909)."

WHERE ARE THEY LOCATED?

The Kumhar can be found throughout India by different surnames: Verma, Kumhar, Prajapat, Prajapati and Kumawat.

WHAT ARE THEIR LIVES LIKE?

The Kumhar's livelihood is making earthen pots. It is very difficult for a Kumhar artisan to maintain his existence with kumbhkala.

They claim to be the first inventors of the wheel / cycle. The Kumhar use it to make earthen utensils. The main profession of this cast is to make earthen products. Historically their main way of earning income has been earthen products and agriculture. They are very honest people and make their livelihood by hard work.

WHAT ARE THEIR BELIEFS?

The Kumhar are generally Hindu and pray to the Lord Shiva, Goddess Mother (Mata). They believe in God, highly spiritual, loveable, honest and hard working. In general the Kumhar are loving people.

WHAT ARE THEIR NEEDS?

The Kumhar need education and support for their kumbhkala.

PRAYER ITEMS

- * Ask the Lord of the Harvest to thrust forth laborers into India to share the love of Jesus with each of the tribes.
- * Ask God to raise up prayer teams who will begin breaking up the spiritual soil of India through worship and intercession.
- * Pray that the small number of tribal believers will begin to share the Gospel with their own people.
- * Pray that Christian radio broadcasts, Bibles, and other literature will be made available to each of these groups.
- * Pray that God will begin revealing Himself to these precious people through dreams and visions.
- * Pray for the salvation of key tribal leaders who will boldly declare the Gospel.
- * Ask the Lord to raise up strong local churches among each of these tribes.

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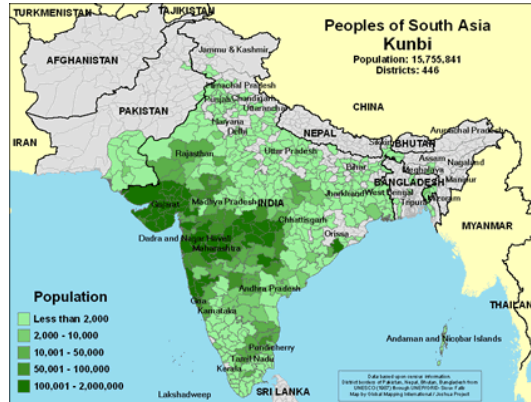
50 Largest UNREACHED People Groups

Transform-World: Christ's Missional Challenge - The Last and the Least



Photo Source: COMIBAM / Sepal

Kunbi of India



People Name	Kunbi
Country	India
10/40 Window	Yes
Population	16,030,000
World Population	16,042,000
Language	Gujarati
Religion	Hinduism
Bible	Complete
Online Audio NT	Yes
Jesus Film	Yes
Audio Recordings	Yes
Christ Followers	Less than 2 %
Status	Unreached
Progress Level	1.2

"Therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest."

BACKGROUND

The Kunbi (alternate names of Reddi and Desai) are a prominent community of Karnataka. They can also be found in Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Pondicherry, Karnataka, Kerala, Orissa and Maharashtra. However, traditionally the Reddy belong to the fourth of the Hindu Varnas, Sudra. One section of the Reddy is called Kapu which means guardian.

Alternate names: Kapu, Akutota, Desai, Dommari, Guruda, Illela, Kuruva, Musugu, Nadi Taram, Panta, Sajjana, Renati, etc.

Regarding the origin of their name, K. S. Singh says, "There are several versions regarding the origin of the name Kunbi. It may have be derived from the Hindi word kunba meaning large family; or from the words kun meaning who and bi meaning seed denoting the people who germinate seeds; or from the word kutumbin meaning cultivator family or household; or from kulambi meaning husbandmen."

WHERE ARE THEY LOCATED?

The Kunbi live in the states of Goa, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra.

WHAT ARE THEIR LIVES LIKE?

The majority of the Kunbi communities are non-vegetarian, and all the communities take rice as their staple cereals. Jowar, wheat, bajra and ragi are the other cereals for them.

The Kunbi grow vegetables. The Badhai, Basor, Chamar and Lohar assist them in their agricultural work. Some of them work in government service and business.

The Kunbi community have social divisions such as clans, lineage, subcastes and sects. These social divisions regulate marital alliances. They speak the Kannada and Telugu languages.

Among the Kunbi, cross-cousin marriages of both types are allowed. Widow remarriage is not permitted. Being a dominant community, the Reddy have been primarily landlords and landholders. Social control is regulated through traditional caste and village councils.

The traditional occupation of most of the Reddy groups is settled cultivation, followed by animal husbandry and labor. Both men and women smoke a homemade cheroot (chutta) which results a high incidence of mouth and throat cancer.

K. S. Singh describes their traditions: "They observe birth pollution for twenty-one days. On the sixth day after childbirth they perform satti or shasthi ppoja and on the twenty-first day, the naming ceremony is held. The marriage ceremony is performed at the groom's residence and the important rituals associated with marriage are haldi, manglashtaka, the exchange of garlands, circumambulation of the sacred fire and the tying of mangalsutra around the bride's neck. The dead are buried."

WHAT ARE THEIR BELIEFS?

They are Hindu by faith and worship many deities. They worship Mahavir, Hanumanji and Matamai as their village deities. Their main festivals are Ugadi, Akshade and Dussehra. They play bhajans and kirtans.

PRAYER ITEMS

- * For the salvation of the Kunbi people and that God may send several Christian workers to work among them and meet their spiritual and physical needs.
- * Pray for the Kunbi Christians to reach out to their own people.
- * Pray that their men and women may give up smoking.
- * Ask God to raise up prayer teams who will begin breaking up the spiritual soil of India through worship and intercession.
- * Pray that God will begin revealing Himself to these precious people through dreams and visions.
- * Pray for the salvation of key tribal leaders who will boldly declare the Gospel.
- * Ask the Lord to raise up strong local churches among each of these tribes.

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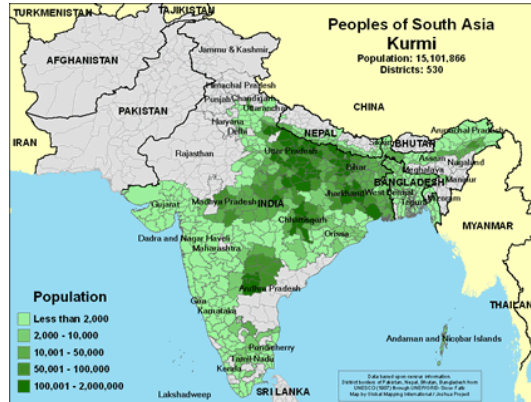
Singh, K. S. 1999. India's Communities, Oxford University Press USA. p. 1897

50 Largest UNREACHED People Groups

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Kurmi of India



People Name	Kurmi
Country	India
10/40 Window	Yes
Population	17,328,000
World Population	17,620,000
Language	Hindi
Religion	Hinduism
Bible	Complete
Online Audio NT	Yes
Jesus Film	Yes
Audio Recordings	Yes
Christ Followers	Less than 2 %
Status	Unreached
Progress Level	1.1

"Therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest."

BACKGROUND

Kurmi is the name given to a Hindu caste in India. The caste system in India is a pattern of social stratification associated with Hinduism. The word "kurmi" literally means the "I cans" or the "I am ables". The Kurmi are also known as Kunbi. The Kurmi are believed to be descendants of some of the earliest Aryan immigrants to India and come from the Kshatriyas (warrior caste) who became farmers. Kurmi are known in India as the chief agricultural caste.

The word "kurmi" is related to the word karmi derived from the word "karma" (action or merit). Defining caste by karma instead of lineage and birth was a major change of defining caste instead of that based on birth lineage and ancestry linked to the Vedas (ancient Hindu scriptures) and espoused by Brahmins (priestly caste).

Historical writers say that the relationship between the Kshatriyas (warrior caste) and the Brahmins became strained. Consequently Brahmins started keeping the Vedas a secret from the Kshatriyas. A Vedic Kshatriya was a defender of the faith and righteous order. However, some Kshatriyas, influenced by Buddha and Mahavira, decided they did not need Vedic scriptures for supreme spiritual self mastery or to define their lineage or caste. Kshatriyas in India's northern Empires adopted Buddhism and Jainism.

WHERE ARE THEY LOCATED?

The Kurmis are found throughout India, from Punjab to Bengal in the east as well as southern India. The Barwar community of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar are descendants of the Kurmi.

WHAT ARE THEIR LIVES LIKE?

Modern Kurmi are relatively prosperous and educated. Their lifestyle is associated with farming and trading. Due to their agricultural link, the Kurmi are viewed as one of the 'backward' or lower castes. Some Kurmi have formed a national movement in the northern and eastern Indian regions for advocacy purposes.

K. S. Singh describes some of their traditions as follows: "Marriages among the Kurmi are negotiated and contracted within the subgroup and outside the lineage. In villages, some child marriages reportedly take place, but adult marriage is the norm. Sons inherit their father's property equally but the eldest son succeeds his father's titles and responsibilities. Tonsure (mundan) and feeding of cereals (annaprashan) are the rituals performed in childhood, while the adolescent boys go through the rite of wearing the sacred thread (janeu). Their marriage rituals are performed at the bride's home. The dead are cremated and the mortal remains are disposed of in water."

WHAT ARE THEIR BELIEFS?

Kurmis are Hindus. Buddhists and Jains can be found amongst them too.

WHAT ARE THEIR NEEDS?

The Kurmi need the salvation offered by God. They need Jesus Christ. A key issue for the Kurmi is their desire to be recognised by other castes as belonging to the warrior caste of Kshatriya.

PRAYER ITEMS

- * Pray that the Kurmi may realize that Jesus is their only hope for salvation and any lasting status.
- * The Lion of Judah is offering the Kurmi the right to be a special people, royal priests and holy conquerors of the Almighty.
- * Pray that the Kurmi as a whole heed this call and give their hearts in a positive response.

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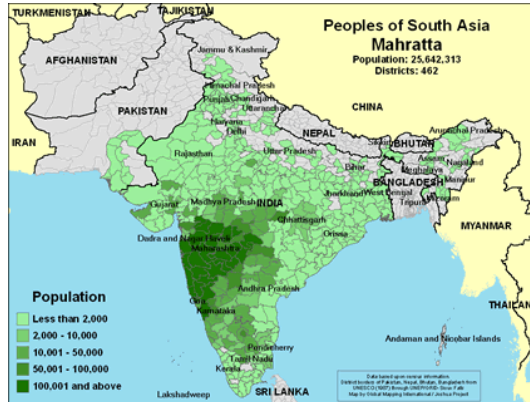
50 Largest UNREACHED People Groups

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Mahratta of India



People Name	Mahratta
Country	India
10/40 Window	Yes
Population	27,442,000
World Population	27,447,000
Language	Marathi
Religion	Hinduism
Bible	Complete
Online Audio NT	Yes
Jesus Film	Yes
Audio Recordings	Yes
Christ Followers	Less than 2 %
Status	Unreached
Progress Level	1.1

"Therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest."

BACKGROUND

They are proud Kshatriya people from Maharashtra mainly speaking Marathi. They are considered to be one among the marital races of India like the Rajputs and Sikhs. They usually worship Shiva as their family gods, and consider Shivaji as their leader, and fiercely defend their culture, language and history.

WHERE ARE THEY LOCATED?

They are located across Marathwaada, some are also found along borders with Karnataka.

WHAT ARE THEIR LIVES LIKE?

They mostly belong to the upper echelons of a rural society. Mainly 'kunbi(farmer)' by class, almost all rural Maratha families own land and cultivate crops. The lands are usually big enough to support both cash crops and food crops.

As to their traditional customs, K. S. Singh says, "There are fourteen gotras among the Brahman and Kayastha, namely Atri, Kapil, Kashyap, Sandilya, Kandinya, Kaushik, Garge, Jamudanga, Nityananda, Bahroavya, Bhdrdwaj, Masty, Vasistha, Bhisnuruddha. These gotras maintain social hierarchy, help regulate marriage alliances and indicate ancestry. They practise cross-cousin marriage and acquire spouses through negotiation, by mutual consent or courtship. They practise monogamy as the form of marriage. The marriage symbols for women are the sacred pendant (mangalsutra), green glass bangles, bindi and toe-rings. The rule of residence after marriage is patrilocal. Divorce is

permissible and either spouse can seek it with judicial approval on the grounds of maladjustment or any other cognizable reasons. Remarriage of widows, widowers, male and female divorcees is permissible. Sons and daughters inherit parental property equally but the eldest son succeeds as the head of the family. They observe pre-delivery rituals (dohare jivan) in four stages in the third month, fifth month (at the father-in-law's house), seventh month (at the father's house) and in the ninth month (at the father's house). The first cereal-feeding ceremony (annaprasan) for a male child is conducted at the age of tenth months. Only the Brahman observe the thread-wearing ceremony (janeu) between the age of eight to twelve years. Their marriage rituals are performed according to vedic traditions at the bride's house. The rituals observed are blessing (ashirbad), saptapadi, songs of mangalastak and prijojan. The dead are cremated and pollution is observed for fourteen days."

WHAT ARE THEIR BELIEFS?

They are liberal compared to other Indian groups. Arranged marriage is not strictly enforced, and a boy can marry a girl of his choice as long as she is a Brahmin or a Maratha. Marathas, like all other Hindus worship many deities, and usually rever their land and Earth as their mother. Marathas are a little tolerant towards other cultures. But as they consider themselves as upper caste, they usually look down upon people they consider as not their equal.

PRAYER ITEMS

- * Ask the Lord of the Harvest to thrust forth laborers into India to share the love of Jesus with each of the tribes.
- * Ask God to raise up prayer teams who will begin breaking up the spiritual soil of India through worship and intercession.
- * Pray that the small number of tribal believers will begin to share the Gospel with their own people.
- * Pray that Christian radio broadcasts, Bibles, and other literature will be made available to each of these groups.
- * Pray that God will begin revealing Himself to these precious people through dreams and visions.
- * Pray for the salvation of key tribal leaders who will boldly declare the Gospel.
- * Ask the Lord to raise up strong local churches among each of these tribes.

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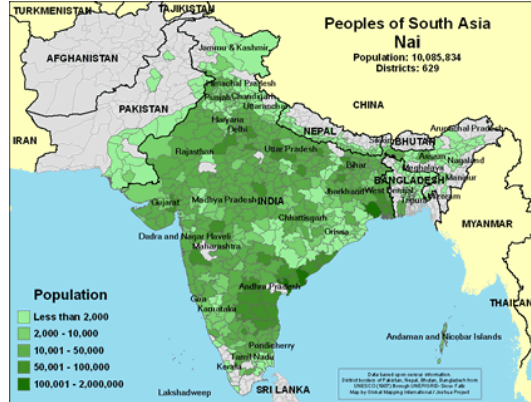
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50 Largest UNREACHED People Groups

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Nai of India



People Name	Nai
Country	India
10/40 Window	Yes
Population	11,121,000
World Population	11,272,000
Language	Hindi
Religion	Hinduism
Bible	Complete
Online Audio NT	Yes
Jesus Film	Yes
Audio Recordings	Yes
Christ Followers	Less than 2 %
Status	Unreached
Progress Level	1.1

"Therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest."

BACKGROUND

Of the five major castes in India (Brahman, Kshatriya, Vaishya, Shudra and Harijans), the 'Nai' are a sub-caste of the Shudra. The Shudra are just above the Harijan or the 'Untouchable' caste.

K. S. Singh has the following to say about their identity and the origin of their name: "Crooke (1896) mentions that Nai is the corrupt form of shapitri (one who bathes). On the other hand, Rose (1919) mentions that nai is either a corrupt form of the Sanskrit word napika, meaning one who deans nails, or it is derived from the word nahna meaning a person who acts at will or does not refuse to act. However, it is claimed that the name could have been derived from the word nyai (justice) also as the Nai are considered to be good judges. The Nai also believe that they originated from the navel of Lord Shiva to cut and clean the nails of Parvati."

WHERE ARE THEY LOCATED?

The Nai are located throughout India. Large numbers are in Delhi, Haryana, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. Each Indian region has a different name for the Nai. They are called Raja in Punjab, Kuleen in Himachal Pradesh, Khawas in Rajasthan, Sen Samaj or Napit in Haryana and Nai-Thakur or Savita Samaj in Delhi. Muslim Nai in India are called Hajjam.

WHAT ARE THEIR LIVES LIKE?

The Nai are associated with the barber profession. As they did traditionally, the Nai

groom clients, such as cutting hair and nails and provide minor medical services like extracting teeth and setting sprains right. They also perform duties in connection with marriage, matchmaking and celebrations. Nai women, called 'Naun', are hairdressers, henna artists and midwives. The Nai are quite people, which is important to their trade. A large-scale occupational change is taking place with many Nai taking up other trades and professions in modern India.

The diet of the Nai usually consists of wheat, rice, lentil, maize and some seasonal fruit. For those eating meat the occasional fish, mutton or chicken and eggs are part of the menu. Beef is not eaten.

The literacy rate of the Nai is low. Many leave school due to poverty or from a lack of schools or colleges nearby.

The traditional extended family is still common. Sons inherit equal shares in the family property and the eldest succeeds as head of the family. Nai women are secondary in status to males.

A caste council (panchayat) maintains social control over the community.

WHAT ARE THEIR BELIEFS?

The Nai are Hindus. They give special prominence to their regional deities. The Nai believe in evil spirits who, along with local deities, are believed to cause trouble and

diseases. Community exorcists-cum-witch doctors are common.

WHAT ARE THEIR NEEDS?

The Nai need to advance economically. They need increased access to education, particularly for females. They also need accessible medical facilities.

PRAYER ITEMS

The Nai need to know Jesus and His gospel. They need to be mentally freed from being second-class citizens due to their caste ranking. They need to know that they repent and be the children of God, become part of a special nation serving God instead of man.

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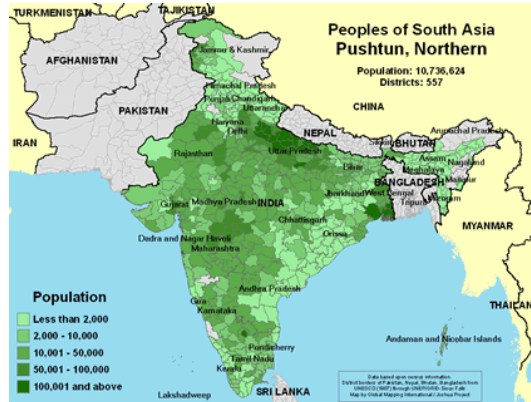
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Photo Source: George Gavrus

Pashtun, Northern of India



People Name	Pashtun, Northern
Country	India
10/40 Window	Yes
Population	11,198,000
World Population	47,089,000
Language	Urdu
Religion	Islam
Bible	Complete
Online Audio NT	Yes
Jesus Film	Yes
Audio Recordings	Yes
Christ Followers	Less than 2 %
Status	Unreached
Progress Level	1.1

"Therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest."

BACKGROUND

The Pashtun, or Pushtun, are a race of warriors who live primarily in Afghanistan and Pakistan. They consist of about sixty tribes, each with its own territory. Although their origin is unclear, their legends say that they are the descendants of Afghana, grandson of King Saul. However, most scholars believe that they probably arose from ancient Aryans intermingling with subsequent invaders.

The Pashtun have played an important role in the history of their region. From their community have come Muslim rulers, administrators, and soldiers. While many of them have moved out of the highlands in search of an easier life in the plains, their mountainous homeland continues to be their citadel of strength and freedom.

The Pashtun are said to be elegant, colorfully attired, hospitable, considerate, fierce in hatred, and kind in friendship. Though very dedicated to their religious beliefs, they are also fond of pleasure. They are known for their marksmanship and their love of honor.

WHAT ARE THEIR LIVES LIKE?

Most of the Pashtun live in southern and central Asia. Their homes lie along a chain of barren, rugged mountains (the Indus and the Hindu Kush) and the Syistan Plateau of Iran.

At the core of Pashtun society is the extended family. Each family group owns its land and lives

in a fortified residence called a qala. Every qala is divided into two areas: a general living area and the private living quarters. A high wall in the middle separates the two areas.

Distinctive tribal customs and traditions also form an integral part of Pashtun society. The true essence of their culture can be seen in the "code of ethics" that they live by. This unwritten code is called Pushtunwali ("the way of the Pushtun"), and is close to the heart of every Pashtun.

The Pashtun tribes range from the highly educated who live in cities to tent-dwelling nomads. Although their societies are based on tribal traditions, the Pashtun who live in cities or villages have a different attitude towards social status than do the nomads. This is because the villages are made up of both Pashtun and non-Pashtun peoples. In most cases, the Pashtun are the landowners.

Members of the wealthier Pashtun families will occasionally farm or tend the animals but they will not engage in any other occupation within the village. The men usually perform the more difficult tasks outside the home, while the women are responsible for the things within the home.

WHAT ARE THEIR BELIEFS?

The majority of Pashtun are Sunni Muslims. Islam came to them as a great liberating and unifying force, freeing them from the cult of

Brahminism and the harshness of Buddhism. For this reason, their underlying faith and steadfast devotion to Islam are very strong.

WHAT ARE THEIR NEEDS?

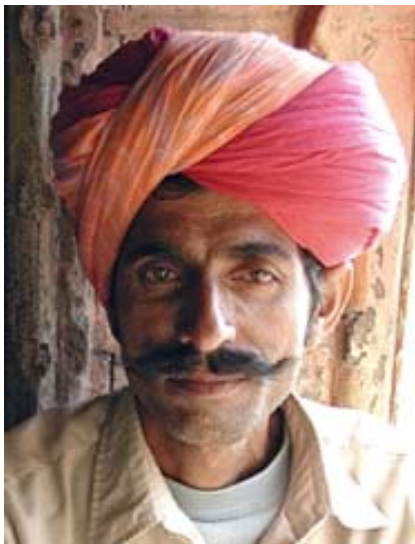
Many of the Pashtun are extremely poor and live in unsanitary conditions caused mainly by poor water supply). A large number of the adults are also illiterate. The need for qualified medical teams and school teachers is great.

PRAYER ITEMS

- * Ask God to raise up prayer teams that will break up the soil through worship and intercession.
- * Ask God to grant wisdom and favor to the mission agencies that are focusing on the Pashtuns.
- * Pray for the Pashtun children who grow up in fear and hatred of outsiders.
- * Ask God to encourage and protect the small number of Pashtun believers.
- * Pray that God will provide greater peace and freedom to live and work among the Pashtun.
- * Pray that God will reveal Himself to these precious people through dreams and visions.
- * Ask the Holy Spirit to soften their hearts towards Christians so that they will be receptive to the Gospel.
- * Ask the Lord to raise up strong local churches among the Pashtun.

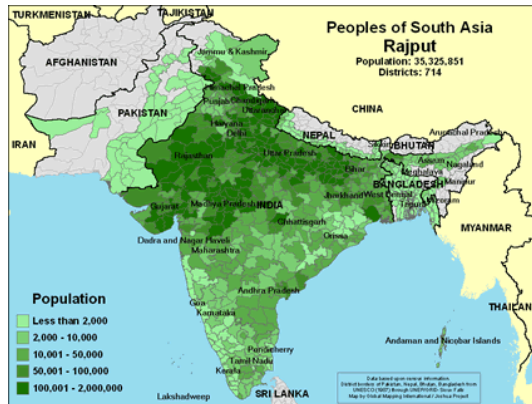
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Rajput of India



People Name	Rajput
Country	India
10/40 Window	Yes
Population	43,350,000
World Population	43,450,000
Language	Hindi
Religion	Hinduism
Bible	Complete
Online Audio NT	Yes
Jesus Film	Yes
Audio Recordings	Yes
Christ Followers	Less than 2 %
Status	Unreached
Progress Level	1.2

"Therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest."

OVERVIEW

The name Rajput is derived from the Sanskrit word rajputra, meaning son of a ruler. The Rajputra constitutes a class of nobility. The Rajput clans emerged as a dominant community in north and western India in the colonial period. The economic data suggests that the majority of Rajput are landowners. A large number of communities have migrated to their present habitat and this has made them one of the most mobile groups. K. S. Singh explains: "The name Rajput is derived from the Sanskrit word rajputra, meaning son of a ruler. In the Vedas, the term occurs as a synonym of rajanya in the sense of Kshatriya, meaning one who is the scion of one endowed with a kingdom. The word has been used with different connotations by different authors. In Kautilya Arthashastra, it implies son of a king, while in Sanskrit classics, such as Kalidas's Maiavikagnimitra and Asvaghosha's Saundarananda it is used for nobles. Again, the word, rajputra was used for rajanyas as well as for the Kshatriyas, in general, but subsequently a difference appeared between the usage of the words rajputra and kshatriya. The Rajputra constitutes a class of nobility, whereas the Kshatriya were a social group, a varna category or a cluster of communities associated with political power. With the fluctuating fortune of the Rajputra in the early medieval period, they were relegated to the status of the Kshatriya, thus the two names became interchangeable. In the north-west, the Rajput were drawn from all ranks, including the lower ones. In the Chachanama, a

Rajput is described as a horseman. The Rajtarangini describes a Rajput as a soldier also. From the eighth century onwards, the term Rajputra came to signify the Rajput community as we understand it today."

MINISTRY OBSTACLES

High caste communities find it especially difficult to humble themselves enough to accept God's free gift.

OUTREACH IDEAS

Sustained prayer and dedicated workers are needed.

PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWERS OF CHRIST

Pray for the small group of Christian believers among the Hindu Rajput, that they will be united in love around the truth of Scripture. Pray they live a life of love, just as Christ loved them and gave Himself up for them.

PRAY FOR THE PEOPLE GROUP

- * Ask the Lord of the Harvest to thrust forth laborers into India to share the love of Jesus with each of the tribes.
- * Ask God to raise up prayer teams who will begin breaking up the spiritual soil of India through worship and intercession.
- * Pray that Christian radio broadcasts, Bibles, and other literature will be made available to each of these groups.
- * Pray that God will begin revealing Himself to these precious people through dreams and visions.

- * Pray for the salvation of key tribal leaders who will boldly declare the Gospel.
- * Ask the Lord to raise up strong local churches among each of these tribes.

SCRIPTURE FOCUS

"Tell of His glory among the nations, His wonderful deeds among all the peoples. For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised." 1 Chronicles 16:24-25.

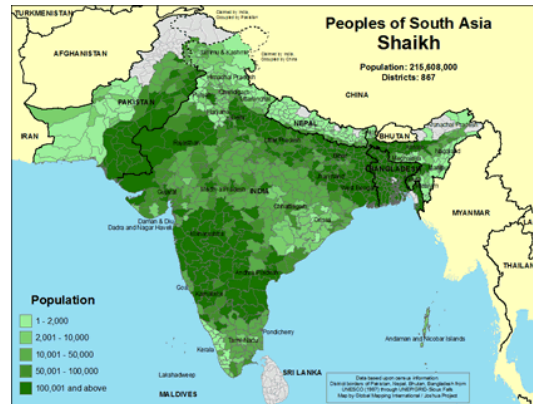
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Shaikh of India



People Name	Shaikh
Country	India
10/40 Window	Yes
Population	76,868,000
World Population	217,393,000
Language	Urdu
Religion	Islam
Bible	Complete
Online Audio NT	Yes
Jesus Film	Yes
Audio Recordings	Yes
Christ Followers	Less than 2 %
Status	Unreached
Progress Level	1.1

"Therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest."

BACKGROUND

Islam arrived in the area now known as Pakistan in 711 CE when a Muslim Arab Army conquered the northwestern part of Indus Valley from Kashmir to the Arabian Sea. Technocrats, bureaucrats, soldiers, traders, scientists, architects, teachers, theologians and sufis flocked from the rest of the Arab & Muslim world, to the Islamic Sultanate in South Asia and settled permanently.

The descendants of these Arabs usually go by the title of Shaikh and also known in Pakistan as Muslim Khatri. The Shaikhs of Pakistan, however, claim pre-islamic ancestry. They are a sub-group of the Zamindar group or qoum, traditionally associated with farming, which is one of the two groups making up the Pakistani Punjabis (the other group is the Moeens group or quom, who are traditionally artisans). Shaikh is also a term that is usually attributed to the leaders or elders of Arabian social groups. Other variants of this term are Sheik, Shaykh, Shaikh, Cheikh, Šeih, Šejh, Seyh.

After the advent of Islam in South Asia, some high caste (Brahmins, Muslim Rajputs and Khatri) converted to Islam in the Punjab region and adopted this title. They are known as Punjabi Shaikh (Punjabi). Majority of the Punjabi Shaikhs are urbanized and detached from the traditional agricultural ancestry. However, a few families also cultivate their own land in the western districts of Punjab. The main professions of the urban Punjabi Shaikhs are

business and public service, and are stereotyped for their reputation for business acumen. The Khawaja Shaikh, with their sub-division the Chiniotis and the Qanungoh Shaikh are two such communities.

The Sikh Shaikhs living in villages at the Indian border adjoining Pakistan were remnants of the Shaikhs who chose to stay after the Independence of Pakistan in 1947, embracing Sikhism as their religion. They are famous for their lori and dhool a traditional Indian drum.

WHAT ARE THEIR LIVES LIKE?

The Shaikhs are not bound by one particular profession. The Shaikh can be broadly grouped into five communities. Three of these communities are the Siddiks, Farukis and Abbasi who are often descendents of Arab immigrants. The other two are the Chistis and Kuraishis communities who tend to be mainly from converts to Islam. Consequently, the Shaikhs profess Islam and have both Sunni and Shia traditions among them. In Nepal they speak Nepali and either Urdu, Bhojpuri or Maithili in their communities. They are not vegetarian and their common food is rice, mutton and vegetables. Common surnames are Mondal, Siddiqui, Usmani, Faroqui and Sheikh.

WHAT ARE THEIR NEEDS?

There has been much ministry activity among the Shaikh in India but few works in Nepal. Pray that this largest group of Nepali Muslims will find the truth of the Prophet Isa! There is a lot

of potential for gospel growth within the Shaikh community because of relatively few social divisions.

PRAYER ITEMS

- * Ask the Lord of the Harvest to send forth missionaries to live among the Shaikh.
- * Ask God to raise up prayer teams who will begin breaking up the soil through intercession.
- * Pray that God will begin revealing Himself to the Shaikh through dreams and visions.
- * Ask the Lord to raise up strong local churches among the Shaikh.

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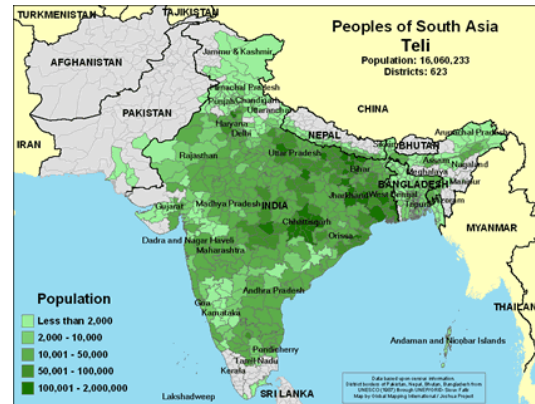
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50 Largest UNREACHED People Groups

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Teli of India



People Name	Teli
Country	India
10/40 Window	Yes
Population	17,171,000
World Population	17,654,000
Language	Hindi
Religion	Hinduism
Bible	Complete
Online Audio NT	Yes
Jesus Film	Yes
Audio Recordings	Yes
Christ Followers	Less than 2 %
Status	Unreached
Progress Level	1.2

"Therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest."

BACKGROUND

The Teli of India are described by K. S. Singh: "A community which derives its name from the Sanskrit word talika or taila used for the oil extracted from sesame and mustard, thus alluding to their traditional occupation. Risley (1891) opines that they must have been recruited from different clans of Hindu society, because 'oil is used by all Hindus for domestic and ceremonial purposes, and its manufacture could only be carried on by men whose social purity was beyond dispute'. However, Crooke (1896) comments that the northern India Teli have no idea of purity attached and it is probably not too much to say that the reverse is the fact. On the other hand, Ibbetson (1916), while describing the Punjab Teli points out that 'the Teli is of low social standing, perhaps about the same as that of the Julaha, with whom he is often associated, and he is hardly less turbulent and troublesome than the latter'. Enthoven's (1922) description of the Teli of the Deccan and Konkan region, who were recruited for the purpose of making oil, traces their origin to the Maratha. Mythological origin of the Teli is traced to Lord Shiva who created them to destroy five demons. However, their legend says that the first Teli was created by Shiva to rub him with oil. They are distributed in one hundred and twenty-one districts of the country. The majority of the Teli in different states are non-vegetarian but they commonly consume wheat, rice, and jowar as main cereals. In all they have one hundred and forty-five segments. Risley (1891) mentions a number of

subcastes and sections among the Teli inhabiting Chota-nagpur, Bihar, Bengal and Orissa."

WHAT ARE THEIR LIVES LIKE?

They follow community endogamy and subgroup exogamy. Vermilion, glass bangles, bindi and toe-rings are marriage symbols for women. The life-cycle rituals at birth, marriage and death are performed as per the Hindu customs. In rural areas, a few amongst them own some land. Oil-pressing was their traditional occupation which has now been given up. They are now engaged in trade and business. The Teli are Hindu. Traditionally they accept kachcha and cooked food served by the Brahman, and pucca food from the Brahman, Thakur and Vaisya communities. They have a favourable attitude towards government programmes and avail the facilities of education, medicare system, family planning, mass communication and ration distribution.

WHAT ARE THEIR BELIEFS?

The Teli may have little concept of a loving creator God who has made provision for the forgiveness of sin and for an abundant life.

WHAT ARE THEIR NEEDS?

Several teams of workers will be needed for this large community that speaks many languages. Pray for workers.

There are a few followers of Christ among the Teli community, pray they will hunger to learn

of Christ, and follow Him wholeheartedly.

"The time is coming to gather all nations and tongues. And they shall come and see My glory." Isaiah 66:18.

PRAYER ITEMS

- * Pray the Teli community will be able to properly provide for their families, and will have good schools available for their children.
- * Pray for their material well-being as well as for their spiritual needs.
- * Ask the Lord of the Harvest to send forth missionaries to live among the Teli.
- * Ask God to raise up prayer teams who will begin breaking up the soil through intercession.
- * Pray that God will begin revealing Himself to the Teli through dreams and visions.
- * Ask the Lord to raise up strong local churches among the Teli.

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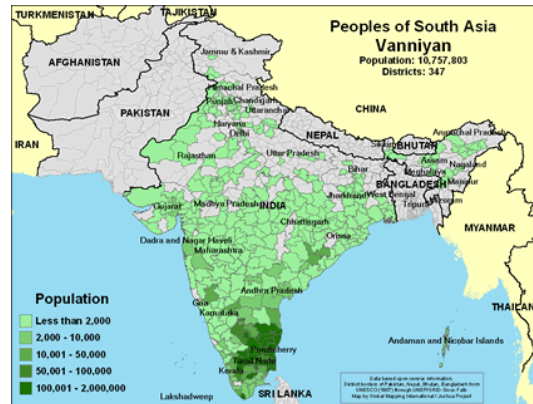
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Vanniyans of India



People Name	Vanniyans
Country	India
10/40 Window	Yes
Population	11,614,000
World Population	11,614,000
Language	Tamil
Religion	Hinduism
Bible	Complete
Online Audio NT	Yes
Jesus Film	Yes
Audio Recordings	Yes
Christ Followers	Less than 2 %
Status	Unreached
Progress Level	1.2

"Therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest."

BACKGROUND

The term Vanniyars (Vanniyans) and Padayatchi has been used interchangeably because of the same historical origin they claim. They trace their ancestry from the five sons of Veera Vanniyar or Rudra Vanniya Maharaja who assumed leadership of the country after having freed the earth from Vatapi and Mahi by destroying these two Brahma-worshipping Asuras. It was believed that armed horsemen sprung from flames as a result of the Yagam, or sacrifice by yogic powers performed by Jambuva Mahamuni or Sambu/Jambu Maharishi as requested by gods and lords so as to put an end to the garrisoning of the Earth by the two Asuras. The horsemen were named VanniRaya. In reality, Vanniyars are descendants the medieval Pallava Kings who ruled Andhra and northern Tamilnadu with their capital at Kanchipuram. Padayatchis and Vanniyars have minor differences as Padayatchi is a class within the Vanniyar castes.

WHERE ARE THEY LOCATED?

Most Vanniyars in India are in the three adjacent southern states of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh, mostly concentrated in the area where these three states intersect. Among the lower castes in the Tamil Nadu, they are the most populous and they are one of the very earliest caste to be socially well organized. Today they are the most politically mobilized and well-informed caste in the Tamil Nadu.

There were several waves of Tamil dispersals from India and Sri Lanka creating what is known as Tamil diaspora. Many Vanniyars migrated to South Africa, Malaysia, Singapore, Seychelles, Mauritius and Fiji and the next generation Vanniyars use variant titles such as Govendar, Naicker and Padayatchi amongst themselves.

WHAT ARE THEIR LIVES LIKE?

The Vanniyars are officially classed belonging to the feudal caste of Vanniakula Kshatriya in Tamil Nadu. There are 92 different names or sub caste/sub titles given for Vannia Kula Kshatriya community. The members of the Vanniyar caste are known by several names depending on location and status. They may be referred to as Padayatchi, Gounder, Naicker or Nayagar, Reddiar, Kander/Kandar, Palli and many other titles in Tamil Nadu, Vanniar Gounder, Reddiar, Padayatchi etc in pondicherry, in Karnataka they are called Tigala / Thigala, or Thigilaru with a common suffix of Gowda, Hebbar or Hebbe and Nayakar. In Andhra Pradesh, Vanniars are usually known as Palli, Agnikula Kshatriya, Vanniyakula Kshatriya, Vanne Kapu or Vanne Reddy. In Kerala, they are called Vaniya pillai, Vaniya nair and Reddiar.

WHAT ARE THEIR BELIEFS?

The overwhelming majority of Vanniyars are Hindu. Rather than believing in one god, they believe in a multitude of gods. Hinduism is sometimes described as "a conglomeration of distinct intellectual or philosophical points of view, rather than a rigid common set of beliefs."

PRAYER ITEMS

- *Pray that God will raise up prayer teams to break up the soil through worship and intercession.
- *Ask the Lord to call people who are willing to go to India and share Christ with the Bhil.
- *Ask the Holy Spirit to soften their hearts towards Christians so that they will be receptive to the Gospel.

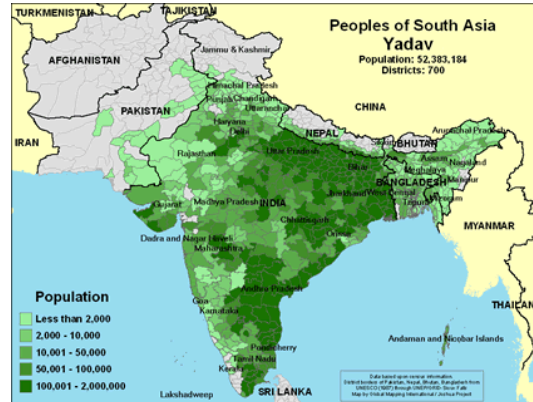
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Photo Source: God Loves Yadav

Yadav of India



People Name	Yadav
Country	India
10/40 Window	Yes
Population	56,900,000
World Population	58,171,000
Language	Hindi
Religion	Hinduism
Bible	Complete
Online Audio NT	Yes
Jesus Film	Yes
Audio Recordings	Yes
Christ Followers	Less than 2 %
Status	Unreached
Progress Level	1.1

"Therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest."

BACKGROUND

Before the Yadav were called Ahir. The name Ahir is derived from 'Abhira' which is a immigrant tribe found in the inscriptions and Hindu sacred books. The Abhira appear to have been one of the immigrant tribes from Central Asia. They are spoken of as robbers and foreigners. They claim connection to god Krishna since he was a herdsman. In most places they don't use the name Ahir anymore and the most common name is Yadav or Yadava.

It's easy to find out who a Yadav is. Just ask them their name and they will tell you their first name followed by their title what is always Yadav.

The Yadav are a caste comprising of milkmen, cowherds, cattle breeders and laborers. Their traditional occupation is animal husbandry and selling its products. The Yadav consist of both landowning and landless people. Some Yadav are businessmen, teachers, doctors, engineers and political leaders. Especially in the last 3 decennia they have become politically powerful in the states Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. They are very influential and are a major challenge to the political supremacy of the Brahmans.

WHERE ARE THEY LOCATED?

They are living almost all over India and in South-Nepal. The highest concentration is in the states Uttar Pradesh and Bihar (North-India) but also in east, west and south India there are many Yadavs living.

Those living in the North of India speak languages of the Indo-Aryan family. The Yadav of the South speak Dravidian languages. 23 languages have more than one hundred thousand speakers. 7 languages have even more than one million speaker (24 million Yadav people have Hindi as their primary language).

WHAT ARE THEIR LIVES LIKE?

The Yadav live in joint families. Most of them are vegetarian but many start eating fish, mutton, chicken and sometimes pork, but not beef. Child labor is common among them.

WHAT ARE THEIR BELIEFS?

The Yadav participate in the local traditional and socio-religious festivals. They have expertise in oral traditions and group singing in praise of the god Vishnu, Krishna or one of the many other gods that they worship. Similarly, they are good in musical dance, wrestling and mock-fighting with swords. Boys are favored for formal education. They are known to have more faith in astrology and talismans rather than in the services of a doctor. They often pray to Singaji for the protection of their cattle from disease and often give thank offerings of butter, unripe mangoes and sugar.

WHAT ARE THEIR NEEDS?

They are in need to hear about the way of salvation. Most of the Yadav die never hearing the Name of Jesus once in a lifetime! But also life, lifestyle and living standard are

changing all over the nation. The next generation will need to get other kinds of jobs. To get those jobs they need education but proper education is missing in many places (especially in the villages) More than 12 million Yadav live in Bihar (more than 10 % of the population). Every year Bihar knows major floods, killing hundreds of people, leaving millions homeless... They are badly in need for Christian relief workers who can give them more than food, clothes and medicines.

PRAYER ITEMS

- * For the salvation of the Yadav people.
- * Pray for short and long term workers / teams to come and pioneer new ministries among the Yadav.
- * For new focused evangelism and church planting ministries.
- * For literacy and community development work.
- * For Christian social workers eradicating alcoholism and superstitious beliefs.
- * Christian workers to meet their spiritual and physical needs.
- * For the practice of child labor to end among the Yadav people.
- * For education to be made available to girls as well to the boys.

50 Largest UNREACHED People Groups

Transform-World: Christ's Missional Challenge - The Last and the Least



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Java Pesisir Lor of Indonesia



People Name	Java Pesisir Lor
Country	Indonesia
10/40 Window	Yes
Population	33,999,000
World Population	33,999,000
Language	Javanese
Religion	Islam
Bible	Complete
Online Audio NT	Yes
Jesus Film	Yes
Audio Recordings	Yes
Christ Followers	Less than 2 %
Status	Unreached
Progress Level	1.2

"Therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest."

BACKGROUND

The "Jawa Pesisir Lor" people are a distinctive Muslim Javanese ethnic group. They inhabit the villages, towns and cities which stretch south from the North Java Sea to the mountains and hills that span two-thirds of the length of the island of Java. This ethnic group has more in common with the Islamic Malay-speaking traders and seafarers of other Indonesian coastal areas than with their Hindu-mystic Javanese cousins to the south. They are less emotionally reserved and can be direct and assertive.

WHAT ARE THEIR LIVES LIKE?

Although the majority of the Jawa Pesisir Lor people are farmers, fishermen, or both, the trend is for them to seek training for an increasing variety of urban and rural occupations throughout Indonesia.

The Pesisir Lor diet consists of a variety of rice and soybean-cake dishes, including vegetables and an occasional egg or bit of meat, always cooked with spices and served with either tea or coffee. Arabic clothing style and drama forms are the current rage. Pesisir "batik" cloth is an explosion of bright colors.

The Pesisir Lor people's preferred musical instruments are cymbals, drums and two stringed musical instruments, rather than the traditional five-tone Javanese "gamelan". Reading the Qur'an and practicing martial arts take precedence over shadow plays and courtly

dances. One-story bamboo-framed homes and modern brick homes are build side by side, both constructed with red tiled roofs.

WHAT ARE THEIR BELIEFS?

Nearly all the Pesisir Lor people profess the Sunni Islamic faith, but Sufi mystical beliefs are widely practiced. Orthodox "santri" Muslims seek divine favor through the mediating spirit of Sheik Abdul Kadir Jaelani and the public reading of his holy book, Manaqib. In contrast, mystic "abangan" Javanese perform the "Selamatan Rasulan" religious ritual to seek the blessings of not only the prophet Mohammed, but also numerous saints, spirits and deities.

Most orthodox Javanese seek to practice the nine guidelines laid down by Sunan Ja'far and Sunan Kalijaga, two of the nine original Islamic missionaries who brought Islam to the north coast of Java and whose graves there are venerated to this day. These nine guidelines include: religious law, reality, mysticism, wisdom, confession of faith, ritual prayers, alms, fasting and pilgrimage. Year around groups of the Javanese Pesisir Lor people travel to these graves beseeching the ancient spirits for health, salvation and sustenance.

WHAT ARE THEIR NEEDS?

The Pesisir Lor need better access to underground water sources and a better system of dams and irrigation. More large-scale industry needs to be developed throughout the area in order to provide a greater variety of

work opportunities for the poor masses. Current channels for many of their industrial and commercial products are not adequate.

PRAYER ITEMS

- * Pray against the spirits of Islam, Hindu-Buddhism, and spiritism that are over the Javanese.
- * Ask the Lord to raise up missionaries to share Christ with the Javanese.
- * Pray that God will raise up prayer teams to go and break up the soil through worship and intercession.
- * Ask God to grant favor and to the missions agencies that are targeting the Javanese.
- * Pray for the Javanese that are being forced to leave their homeland.
- * Ask God to reveal Himself to the Javanese through dreams and visions.
- * Ask the Holy Spirit to soften their hearts towards Christians so that they will be receptive to the Gospel.
- * Pray that God will open the hearts of Indonesia's governmental leaders to the Gospel.
- * Ask the Lord to raise up strong local churches among the Javanese.

50 Largest UNREACHED People Groups

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Sunda of Indonesia



People Name	Sunda
Country	Indonesia
10/40 Window	Yes
Population	32,969,000
World Population	32,969,000
Language	Sunda
Religion	Islam
Bible	Complete
Online Audio NT	Yes
Jesus Film	Yes
Audio Recordings	Yes
Christ Followers	Less than 2 %
Status	Unreached
Progress Level	1.2

"Therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest."

BACKGROUND

The Sunda are the largest unreached people group in Indonesia; their homeland is in the province of West Java. The area inhabited by the Sunda is called "Sunda Land". The Sunda live near the Javanese, Banten, Betawi and the coastal Javanese of Kulon. The Sunda are also called Priangan or Parahyangan.

WHAT ARE THEIR LIVES LIKE?

For many generations, the Sunda have lived in West Java. Traditionally, the Sunda have been farmers, both for their own needs and for commerce. Due to the fertility of the land, West Java is a great area for farming and plantations. This area has long been known as the "rice basket" of Indonesia. In addition to growing rice, there are also tea plantations, particularly in the mountainous areas. Secondary crops and fruits also grow well and abundantly. The Sunda are famous for their friendliness. They are similar to the Javanese, particularly in the way they dress and the way they farm. The Sunda people place more emphasis on family and openness, whereas the Javanese tend to be more formal and hierarchical. Another difference from the Javanese is that Sundanese have a stronger devotion to Islam. Sundanese people believe that having a Sundanese character (kasundaan) is the best path of life. This character can be summed up as cageur (healthy), bageur (good), beneur (right), singeur (introspective) and pinteur (intelligent). This type of character has been pursued by people of western Java since the days of the Kingdom Salakanagara (130-362

AD). Although they live on the island of Java, the Sunda do not consider where they live to be "Java", but "tatar Sunda" (the land of Sunda), with its own culture. Someone who moves from West Java to Central Java or East Java is said to have moved "to Java." Industrial development and large housing projects have begun to change the Sunda way of life. Many Sunda no longer work as farmers. Many hold influential positions in the government, while others have become competent business people. In Sunda society, there are three authorities with strong influence: (1) the Muslim religious leaders such as teachers, preachers, or worship leaders; (2) the local government officials such as the regent and the regent's staff; (3) the shamans with supernatural abilities and the martial arts teachers.

WHAT ARE THEIR BELIEFS?

Almost all Sunda are Muslims. In many areas, Islam is mixed with Sunda traditional customs. The Sunda seek to protect their harmony with the natural world. They do this through traditional ceremonies for spiritual life and through group work for mutual assistance. In the legend of Lutung Kasarung, there is a belief that God incarnated himself in the world to protect humankind. This incarnation is called the dewata (gods and goddesses).

WHAT ARE THEIR NEEDS?

Statistical data on the inhabitants of West Java shows a high poverty rate. Because of this, the Sunda need help and guidance to raise their

standard of living. This can be done by better development of human resources through education and training. There is also a need for agricultural investment and modernization. Another area needing improvement is the development of small to medium-sized businesses.

PRAYER ITEMS

- * Pray against the spiritual principalities and powers that have kept the Sundanese bound for many generations.
- * Ask the Lord to raise up people who understand the Muslim culture and who can effectively share Christ with the Sundanese.
- * Pray that God will send Christian teachers to influence Sundanese children with the Gospel.
- * Ask God to strengthen, encourage, and protect the few Sundanese Christians.
- * Pray that God will raise up qualified linguists to complete translation of the Bible into the Sunda language.
- * Ask the Holy Spirit to soften the hearts of the Sundanese towards Christians so that they will be receptive to the Gospel.
- * Pray that God will open the hearts of Indonesia's governmental leaders to the Gospel.
- * Ask the Lord to raise up a strong local church among the Sundanese.

50 Largest UNREACHED People Groups

Transform-World: Christ's Missional Challenge - The Last and the Least



Photo Source: Travlr

Azerbaijani, Azeri Turk of Iran



People Name	Azerbaijani, Azeri Turk
Country	Iran
10/40 Window	Yes
Population	14,816,000
World Population	17,621,000
Language	Azerbaijani, South
Religion	Islam
Bible	None
Online Audio NT	No
Jesus Film	No
Audio Recordings	Yes
Christ Followers	Less than 2 %
Status	Unreached
Progress Level	1.1

"Therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest."

BACKGROUND

The presence of Muslims, particularly Turks, in various parts of Europe goes as far back in time as historical Islam. The Turks originated in what is now called Turan. Turan lies between the Caspian Sea and the Mongolian Desert. The Turks arrived in Antolia, Turkey (Asia Minor) in the eleventh century as conquering warriors. By the year 1299, the Ottoman Dynasty began ruling over what would soon become a vast empire. Over twenty states fell under the Ottoman rule, including present day Hungary, Yugoslavia, Southern Russia, Iran, Iraq, Syria, Egypt, Libya, and Saudi Arabia. This huge empire lasted until Turkey became a republic in 1923.

WHAT ARE THEIR LIVES LIKE?

The Turks have a deep sense of nationalistic pride and love for their country. They are a very sincere people who place a high value on honor. They rely strongly on group solidarity, or trust in one's own group. Such groups would include one's village, family, friends, or schoolmates.

Turks are also a very sensitive people. For example, they do not appreciate the criticisms that Westerners sometimes write about them or about their past brutal ways. Their sensitivity can be clearly seen by comparing two proverbs of a similar theme. In the United States, a well-known proverb says, "Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me." The Turkish proverb says, "The hurt of a stick dies away, but words hurt forever."

Relaxation is of the utmost importance to a Turk. Coffee houses are places where men meet to talk politics, business, or to gossip. At any time of day, a Turk may be seen sitting in a garden, in a coffeehouse, or in his favorite scenic spot, enjoying the view around him, playing an instrument, or meditating.

WHAT ARE THEIR BELIEFS?

The Turks are predominantly Muslims, believing in one God (Allah), and an eternal heaven and hell. However, Turks also have many ethnic beliefs and superstitions as well. For example, they believe that men have the power to curse others by giving them the "evil eye." They believe that one is protected against such a curse by wearing blue beads, which the evil eye cannot face. Another way to avoid this cursing glare is to spit in a fire and pray to Allah.

WHAT ARE THEIR NEEDS?

All fifteen groups of Turks living outside of Turkey have Christian resources available to them in their language. They also have missions agencies that are currently working among them. In the West, they are surrounded by a "Christian" atmosphere and environment. Sadly, however, all of these groups remain 99% Muslim.

The Islamic religion is very difficult to penetrate. Under Islamic law, the penalty for a change of faith is death. The Turks who are living in Christian countries desperately need to see Christianity lived out--believers who will

demonstrate the love of God towards them. How else will they understand that abundant life is found in Christ alone?

It is God's will for the Muslim Turks to come to know Him, for He "...is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." (II Peter 3:9) Prayer alone has the power to break through the strongholds of Islam. Intercessors are needed to daily stand in the gap and pray for the salvation of the Turkish people.

PRAYER ITEMS

- * Take authority over the spiritual principalities and powers that are keeping the Turks bound.
- * Ask the Lord to send people to work among the Turks who can effectively minister the Gospel to Muslims.
- * Pray that Turks living in Christian countries will be evangelized and then share the Gospel with their own people.
- * Ask God to strengthen, encourage, and protect the small number of Turks who have become Christians.
- * Pray that God will give the missions agencies strategies for reaching the Turks.
- * Ask the Holy Spirit to soften their hearts towards Christians so that they will be receptive to the Gospel.
- * Pray that God will call faithful intercessors to stand in the gap for the Turkish people.
- * Ask the Lord to raise up strong local churches among the Turks.

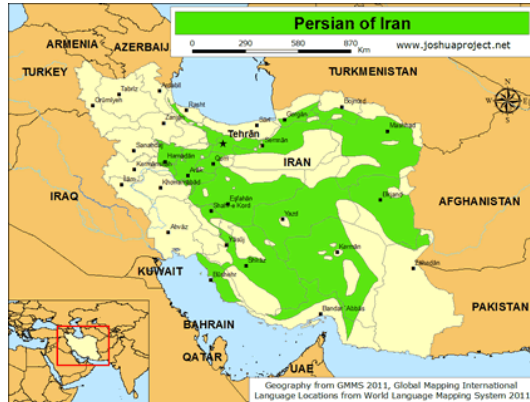
50 Largest UNREACHED People Groups

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Persian of Iran



People Name	Persian
Country	Iran
10/40 Window	Yes
Population	29,036,000
World Population	33,025,000
Language	Farsi, Western
Religion	Islam
Bible	Complete
Online Audio NT	Yes
Jesus Film	Yes
Audio Recordings	Yes
Christ Followers	Less than 2 %
Status	Unreached
Progress Level	1.2

"Therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest."

BACKGROUND

By definition, Persians (also known as Iranians) are an ethnic group classified primarily by language and secondly by location. The Persian language, called Farsi, is part of the Indo-Iranian language family, and is the official language of Iran. Dari, the language of the elite in Afghanistan, is a dialect of modern Persian.

Around 1000 B.C., Persian groups began to settle in the territory that is now Iran. Loosely associated Persian tribes became a more cohesive political unit under the Achaemenian dynasty. Their unity soon made them the dominant ethnic group in the region.

For 1,200 years, Persia maintained a culture that became increasingly more complex and rigid. This laid the foundation for a successful Arabian conquest in the seventh century A.D. It was not until the Islamic revolution of 1979 that massive changes came both to Iran and to the Persian people.

WHAT ARE THEIR LIVES LIKE?

In the Middle East, about half of the Persians are farmers who depend heavily on primitive methods of artificial irrigation. They also make crafts such as hand woven items, rugs, and pottery. The production of oil has also provided numerous jobs for the Persians. In fact, many of the Persians who live abroad work in this field.

Urban Persians are more or less divided into five well-defined social classes. The lowest class is

made up of former villagers who flocked to the towns between the late 1950's and the early 1970's. These unskilled laborers live in densely populated communities located on the outskirts of larger cities. This class forms a majority of the local market craftsmen. At the top of the strata are real estate investors, merchants, and other commercial and industrial businessmen. The priests and other clergymen make up a class known as the ulama.

WHAT ARE THEIR BELIEFS?

Prior to the Arab invasions, the Persian religion was Zoroastrianism. This religion taught that there was an eternal struggle between the forces of good and evil. Shiite Islam became the national religion of Iran in the sixteenth century, at which time the ulama (clergy) began playing an important role in both the social and political lives of the people.

Today, most Persians are Shia Muslims of the Ithna Ashari branch, and are radical in their adherence to Islamic laws and principles.

WHAT ARE THEIR NEEDS?

The Islamic world is extremely difficult to penetrate with the Gospel. Fundamental Muslims are very outspoken, even militant, against Christianity. Much prayer is needed to break down the barriers separating them from the Truth.

The Bible and other resources are available in Farsi, yet very little progress has been made

among the Persians. Today, there are only a few missions agencies targeting them, and the number of conversions to Christianity has been small.

PRAYER ITEMS

- * Pray for the harvest of the Persian people, which is strong in the Lord's heart.
- * Pray for a way for churches to meet legally and for religious freedom in their country.
- * Pray for the believers in Iran, that they would be safe and grow in their relationship with Jesus.
- * Pray the Lord would meet Persians in supernatural ways where missionaries cannot go.

50 Largest UNREACHED People Groups

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Arab, Iraqi of Iraq



People Name	Arab, Iraqi
Country	Iraq
10/40 Window	Yes
Population	16,337,000
World Population	18,106,000
Language	Arabic, Mesopotamian S
Religion	Islam
Bible	None
Online Audio NT	No
Jesus Film	Yes
Audio Recordings	Yes
Christ Followers	Less than 2 %
Status	Unreached
Progress Level	1.2

"Therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest."

BACKGROUND

The Iraqi Arabs descended from a people group cluster called the Levant Arabs. The Levant Arabs originally settled all over the Arabian Peninsula and later migrated to North Africa. They are spread from Israel to Kuwait and as far east as Iran. "Levant" is a broad term that includes several groups of Arabs: the Iraqi, Jordanian, Palestinian, Arabic Jewish, Chaldean, and Syrian Arabs.

WHAT ARE THEIR LIVES LIKE?

Although the Iraqi Arabs have settled in towns or villages, they have held on to their tribal affiliations. Their fortress-like villages can be easily defended. Each house has windows on all sides and is built facing the outside of the village. All goods and persons passing through town are strictly controlled.

Social life is extremely important to Arabs. They like to share a daily coffee time by sitting on the floor and drinking coffee from cups without handles. Their diet basically consists of wheat bread and porridge made with boiled meat or chicken. Village farmers raise wheat, barley, rice, vegetables, coffee, melons, dates, cattle, sheep, and pomegranates. Domestic animals are kept to supply milk and eggs.

In the past, all marriages were arranged by the parents; however, it is becoming more acceptable for young people to choose their own mates. Young girls are considered ready for marriage by age nine.

WHAT ARE THEIR BELIEFS?

Almost all of the Levant Arabs are Muslims. Islam is a religion of works that is based on five basic "pillars." (1) A Muslim must affirm that "there is no god but Allah, and Mohammed is his prophet." (2) He must pray five times a day while facing Mecca. (3) He must give generously. (4) He must fast during Ramadan, the ninth month of the Muslim year. (5) He must try to make at least one pilgrimage to Mecca in his lifetime.

Islam has greatly influenced the lives of the Levant Arabs. To preserve their people, they are only allowed to marry those inside their own group. Levant Arab society is patrilineal, which means that inheritances are passed down through the males. In this system, boys inherit more than girls. Since children are considered a family's greatest asset, females are valued for their ability to bear children.

WHAT ARE THEIR NEEDS?

The greatest spiritual need that must be met among the Iraqi Arabs is training for evangelistic workers, church planters, children's workers, and pastors. Praise God that Bibles and Christian literature have already been printed. Now they must be distributed, and the Word of God must be taught.

PRAYER ITEMS

* Pray that the Iraqi Arab Christians would be protected from harm and persecution.

- * Pray for Christian workers from nearby countries who are making initial plans for church planting and church planter training in Iraq.
- * Ask God to give wisdom to the new government in Iraq and open their hearts to the Gospel.
- * Ask God to change the spiritual climate over Iraq.

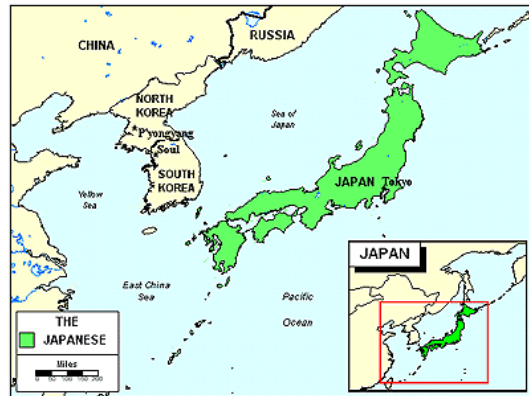
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Japanese of Japan



People Name	Japanese
Country	Japan
10/40 Window	Yes
Population	122,353,000
World Population	126,208,000
Language	Japanese
Religion	Buddhism
Bible	Complete
Online Audio NT	Yes
Jesus Film	Yes
Audio Recordings	Yes
Christ Followers	Less than 2 %
Status	Unreached
Progress Level	1.2

"Therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest."

BACKGROUND

Japan is a large group of islands located between the North Pacific Ocean and the Sea of Japan. The five main islands are Honshu, Hokkaido, Kyushu, Shikoku, and Okinawa. Honshu contains the capital, Tokyo, as well as many major industrial areas.

Racially, culturally, and ethnically, the Japanese are one of the most homogenous people groups in the world. They identify themselves in terms of biological heritage, birth in Japan, a shared culture, and a common language (Japanese). One group, the burakunin, speaks a unique Japanese dialect. Society considers them undesirable outcasts-"untouchables."

WHAT ARE THEIR LIVES LIKE?

Sixty percent of the Japanese live in nuclear families, while slightly over one-fifth live in extended family units, or ie. The ie consists of a three-generation household of grandparents, parents, and children. Japanese couples are free to choose their own marriage partners; however, many marriages are still arranged. The divorce rate is one quarter of that in the United States.

Japan's economy is based on a competitive market/private enterprise system. Many families farm as a secondary occupation. Typically, the wife tends to the farm while the husband works full-time in a business or industry. Rice remains the principal crop, though its production is strictly controlled. Other

sources of income include livestock production, fishing, shipbuilding, foreign trade, scientific research and technology development.

Many men, women, and children enjoy wearing Western clothing for their daily activities; however, traditional costumes are worn during special religious ceremonies or festivals. Japanese women are also often seen wearing their traditional silk Kimonos.

WHAT ARE THEIR BELIEFS?

Shintoism is the native religion of Japan. It is rooted in animism (belief that non-living objects have spirits). Its many gods or spirits are known as kami. Buddhism was introduced to Japan in the sixth century. Today, most Japanese claim to be both Shintoist and Buddhist.

Traditions of Shintoism, Buddhism, Confucianism, and Taoism have all contributed to Japanese religious principles: ancestor worship; a belief in religious continuity of the family; a close tie between the nation and religion; a free exchange of ideas among religious systems; and religious practices centered on the use of prayer meditation, amulets, and purification.

WHAT ARE THEIR NEEDS?

Many Japanese are indifferent and skeptical of established religion. On the outside, they seem to have few needs. However, many of them have become obsessed with materialistic pleasures, careers, and possessions. Their

greatest need is to be introduced to the Father through His Son, Jesus.

PRAYER ITEMS

- * Ask the Lord to call laborers to go to Japan and share Christ with the Japanese.
- * Pray that Christian businessmen will have open doors to share the Gospel with the Japanese.
- * Ask the Holy Spirit to soften the hearts of the Japanese toward Christians so that they will be receptive to the Gospel.
- * Pray that Japanese Christians will have opportunities to share the love of Jesus with their families and friends.
- * Pray that Christian radio and television broadcasts will be effective in reaching the Japanese.
- * Pray that God will raise up teams of intercessors to stand in the gap for these precious people.
- * Ask the Lord to raise up strong local churches among the Japanese.

50 Largest UNREACHED People Groups

Transform-World: Christ's Missional Challenge - The Last and the Least



Korean of Korea, North



People Name	Korean
Country	Korea, North
10/40 Window	Yes
Population	24,355,000
World Population	77,108,000
Language	Korean
Religion	Non-Religious
Bible	Complete
Online Audio NT	No
Jesus Film	Yes
Audio Recordings	Yes
Christ Followers	Less than 2 %
Status	Unreached
Progress Level	1.2

"Therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest."

BACKGROUND

The Koreans of North and South Korea share distinctive Mongolian features and are believed to have descended from a single racial group. Korean is the national language of both countries. Many Korean words have Chinese roots due to centuries of diplomatic relations. The Korean writing system uses 26 phonetic symbols.

Officially, the North Korean Constitution gives political power to the people. However, real political power belongs to the Communist Party. The constitution guarantees such rights as freedom of the press, religion, and speech; however, the 23.6 million Korean in North Korea have very little freedom in those areas. For instance, all radio and television broadcasts are strictly controlled by the Korean Central Broadcast Committee. All privately owned radios are "preset" to the government frequency. Current news is often withheld from the public, or even altered. The people often do not learn of news events until weeks, months, or even years after they occurred.

WHAT ARE THEIR LIVES LIKE?

Before the 1900's, Korea was an agricultural society with strong family ties. Almost all the people lived in small villages and worked on farms. However, since the late 1940's, the Communists have taken steps to industrialize the country. Today, most urban North Korean work in factories, while those in rural areas continue working on farms.

Arranged marriages are still popular in rural villages. However, a growing number of urban Korean now choose their own mates. Marital bonds have been so strong in the past that divorce was infrequent-even unthinkable. Today, however, the divorce rate among the educated urban Korean is steadily increasing; divorce is no longer a disgrace.

Education for the Korean is free and mandatory for the first 11 years. (This includes a year of preschool.) Students must have Communist Party approval to continue their education after the tenth grade. During their summer vacations, students must work for the state.

In North Korea, the government controls all aspects of Korean life. Most forms of entertainment are supported and controlled by the government. Even the work of artists is restricted. Anything that conflicts with Communist principles is forbidden.

WHAT ARE THEIR BELIEFS?

A mixture of Confucian thought, Buddhism, and shamanism (belief in an unseen world of gods, demons, and ancestral spirits) were previously dominant among the Korean, but have been officially repressed since 1945. The former North Korean ruler, Kim Il Sung, was held in high regard and worshipped by the Korean. He was presented as omniscient and omnipresent. The regime under Kim Jong Il was as oppressive as the former.

The Korean believe that deceased family members remain within the family circle, in spiritual form. For this reason, the most important concern of the family is to produce a male heir to carry on the family line. He is called on to perform ancestral rituals in the household and at the family grave site.

WHAT ARE THEIR NEEDS?

After severe flooding in North Korea, there has been an acute food shortage in many areas. Some people have even been forced to eat grass and roots to survive. They need to be introduced to the One who is able to supply all of their needs.

PRAYER ITEMS

- * Pray that laws in North Korea that restrict the preaching of the Gospel will be changed.
- * Ask God to create an openness to Christianity within the hearts of the Korean.
- * Pray that the doors of North Korea will soon be open to Christian missionaries.
- * Pray that God will send His Spirit to convict the Korean of their need for the Savior.
- * Ask the Lord to protect, strengthen, and encourage the small number of Korean Christians.
- * Pray that God will give these believers opportunities to share the love of Jesus with their own people.
- * Ask God to raise up strong local churches among the Korean of North Korea.

50 Largest UNREACHED People Groups

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Arab, Moroccan of Morocco



People Name	Arab, Moroccan
Country	Morocco
10/40 Window	Yes
Population	13,622,000
World Population	16,083,000
Language	Arabic, Moroccan Spoke
Religion	Islam
Bible	New Testament
Online Audio NT	No
Jesus Film	Yes
Audio Recordings	Yes
Christ Followers	Less than 2 %
Status	Unreached
Progress Level	1.1

"Therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest."

BACKGROUND

The ancestors of the Moroccan Arabs originated in the Arabian Desert. From there, they gradually immigrated into northern Africa. Over time, the Arabs have become somewhat intermingled with the Berbers, and this has influenced their way of life. Nevertheless, the two groups have remained distinct.

Socially, there are two contrasting groups of Moroccan Arab: those living in the cities and those in the rural areas. Most of the city-dwellers descended from the Moors; whereas, the rural-dwellers are considered "Arabized Berbers." Among the rural Arab, several classes have formed, which include nobles (alleged descendants of Mohammed), large landowners, peasants, and tenant farmers. The Moroccan Arab live mainly in the north and west portions of Morocco. However, they prefer living in the more fertile regions near the Mediterranean Sea. The Moroccan Arab make up less than half of the country's population. Their language is called Maghribi.

WHAT ARE THEIR LIVES LIKE?

Most Moroccan Arab are rural peasants. Therefore, farming has become their way of life. Because the Arab are fond of grains, they produce and consume large amounts of barley, wheat, and cereals. In areas where water is plentiful, they grow other staples such as tomatoes, potatoes, beans, and peas. An abundance of grapes, olives, oranges, peaches, and pears are also grown.

Most of the rural peasants raise chickens, goats, and sheep. This supplemental food source provides milk, eggs, butter, and meat. Although they do very little hunting and fishing, trade with other tribes has flourished.

The coastal areas of the Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea are becoming increasingly more urbanized. However, many Moroccan Arab still live in small towns and villages. A few live in expensive villas, while most live in slums. The towns are devoted mainly to commerce. Rural towns are surrounded by walls with towers and fortified gates. The homes, which line the narrow streets, are usually rectangular and made of adobe and stone. They typically have interior courtyards and flat roofs. In the mountain villages, homes are rectangular with a framework of poles, walls of earth or dry stones, and thatched roofs. These homes are portable and can easily be moved during nomadic seasons.

Whether in towns or villages, the women and men have distinct jobs. In the villages, men work the fields, herd the animals, and provide protection, while the women do housework and care for the children. Village women have a few agricultural tasks as well: milking the cows, goats, and sheep, and making butter. In the cities, women never work outside their homes. Traditional roles exist, but are being influenced by western culture.

WHAT ARE THEIR BELIEFS?

Virtually all of the Moroccan Arab in this region are Muslim. They adhere to the Koran and observe the five basic "pillars" of Islam, which include affirming that there is no god but Allah, and Mohammed is his prophet; praying five times a day while facing Mecca; giving alms generously; fasting during Ramadan, the ninth month of the Muslim year; and trying to make at least one pilgrimage to Mecca.

WHAT ARE THEIR NEEDS?

According to Islamic law, Muslims who profess faith in Jesus Christ can be put to death. Perhaps this explains why few of the Moroccan Arab in this region are Christian. They are in need of continuous prayer in order to break the strongholds that are keeping them bound.

PRAYER ITEMS

- * Pray the Lord will grant wisdom and favor to missions agencies engaging the Moroccan Arab.
- * Ask God to give the Moroccan Arab believers boldness to share the love of Christ with their friends and families.
- * Pray that the Lord will begin to reveal Himself to these people through dreams and visions.
- * Ask the Holy Spirit to soften the hearts of the Moroccan Arab toward Christians so that they will be receptive to the Gospel.
- * Pray that God will call forth teams of intercessors who will faithfully stand in the gap for the Moroccan Arab.
- * Ask the Lord to raise up strong local churches among the Moroccan Arab of Morocco.

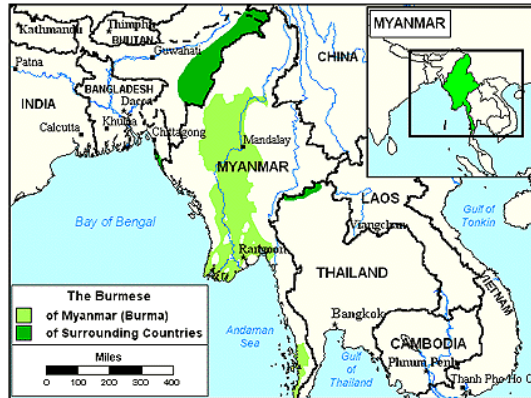
50 Largest UNREACHED People Groups

Transform-World: Christ's Missional Challenge - The Last and the Least



Photo Source: COMIBAM / Sepal

Burmese of Myanmar (Burma)



People Name	Burmese
Country	Myanmar (Burma)
10/40 Window	Yes
Population	27,153,000
World Population	27,714,000
Language	Burmese
Religion	Buddhism
Bible	Complete
Online Audio NT	Yes
Jesus Film	Yes
Audio Recordings	Yes
Christ Followers	Less than 2 %
Status	Unreached
Progress Level	1.2

"Therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest."

BACKGROUND

The Burmese originated in the hills of Tibet, and they speak a Sino-Tibetan language called Bama (Burmese). Today, they are the political, economic and religious leaders of Myanmar, formerly known as Burma. They inhabit the country's central delta plains, an extremely fertile area that was formed by the Irrawaddy and Salween Rivers. This is the most economically important region in the country.

Myanmar has had a long history of coups, wars, and rebellions. Ethnic divisions and political unrest have been common since the first Burman kingdom in the eleventh century. Today, the Burmese military maintains forcible control over the ethnic groups who want equal importance in the government and in commerce. In May of 1994, over 17 battles occurred in Shan State alone. The military promises cease-fire; but at the slightest note of rebellion, they attack violently. Consequently, the Burmese have lived in a constant state of instability, defense, bitterness, and fear.

WHAT ARE THEIR LIVES LIKE?

Rice is the basic means of economic support for the Burmese. Each day, entire families including mothers, babies, toddlers, and old people go out into the fields to work. Oxen and water buffaloes are used to draw the heavy wooden plows; very little modern equipment is used.

The Burmese farmers live in villages among trees, along roads, or near rivers. Houses are

built entirely of wood and usually have only one room. Mats are placed out to sleep on at night, then rolled up or stacked away during the day. All activities take place on the dirt floors. Therefore, it is extremely impolite to enter a Burmese house wearing shoes.

The Burmese do not recognize clans or lineages. Marriages are monogamous, and rarely arranged by the parents. Young couples are encouraged to live together and only marry after the girl becomes pregnant. Newlyweds generally live with the brides' parents for the first few two or three years after marriage. They will then set up their own homes.

WHAT ARE THEIR BELIEFS?

The Burmese are predominantly Buddhists. The traditional goal in Buddhism is to seek the middle path to nirvana, or ultimate peace. The Burmese have mixed these Buddhist beliefs with their own animistic beliefs (belief that non-living objects have spirits).

Their animistic beliefs center around inherently evil spirits called nats. The Burmese spend their lives trying to appease the nats so that they will be protected from any other evil spirits that may seek to harm them. All Burmese homes have altars for the spirits, as well as a statue of Buddha. Sadly, the farmers spend more in a year on their religion than on education, health, and clothing for their families.

The Burmese, like other Buddhists, believe that

death is not a threat to one who has done good deeds. Instead, death is simply a "passing" from one life to another. They believe that "rebirth" is determined by the accumulated good or bad deeds done in the previous life. Therefore, those who have earned less merit are reborn as demons, ghosts, animals, or inhabitants of hell.

WHAT ARE THEIR NEEDS?

Although things have improved slightly over the past year, Myanmar remains a nation in deep crisis. The harsh military regime refuses to relinquish governmental control to the rightfully elected leader, and a bloody civil war continues to devastate the nation.

PRAYER ITEMS

- * Ask the Lord to call people who are willing to go to Myanmar and share the love of Christ with the Burmese.
- * Pray that Jesus will begin to reveal Himself to the Burmese through dreams and visions.
- * Ask God to use the Burmese believers to share the Gospel with their own people.
- * Ask God to raise up prayer teams who will be faithfully interceding for these precious people.
- * Pray for the effectiveness of the Jesus film among the Burmese.
- * Ask the Holy Spirit to soften the hearts of the Burmese towards Christians so that they will be receptive to the Gospel.
- * Pray that strong local churches will be raised up among the Burmese.

50 Largest UNREACHED People Groups

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Hausa of Nigeria



People Name	Hausa
Country	Nigeria
10/40 Window	Yes
Population	26,041,000
World Population	35,396,000
Language	Hausa
Religion	Islam
Bible	Complete
Online Audio NT	Yes
Jesus Film	Yes
Audio Recordings	Yes
Christ Followers	Less than 2 %
Status	Unreached
Progress Level	1.2

"Therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest."

BACKGROUND

The country of Nigeria is located on the western bulge of Africa, with its coast on the Gulf of Guinea. Nigeria has a total population of over 162 million people; over 30 million of them are the Hausa. In fact, the Hausa are the largest ethnic group in all of West Africa. Thirty percent of all Hausa can be found in the north and northwest regions of Nigeria, an area known as "Hausaland."

Although English is recognized as the country's official language, Hausa, the native language of the Hausa people, is rapidly becoming the chief language of northern Nigeria.

WHAT ARE THEIR LIVES LIKE?

Seventy percent of the Hausa live in rural farm villages with populations that may range from 2,000 to 12,000. Their homes are generally made of grass or dried mud with thatched roofs. Only the "well-to-do" can be found living in modern homes or apartment buildings in the city. Most of the Hausa are farmers, herdsmen, or traders. Cocoa, peanuts, palm oil, cotton, and rubber are grown for sale or trade, while corn, rice, beans, and yams are grown for consumption. The farmers depend heavily on nearby cities for trade opportunities. Most of the villagers cannot survive solely as farmers or herdsmen, but must also hold factory jobs to adequately provide for their families.

In comparison to some other African tribes, the Hausa have reasonable standards of health care,

diet, shelter, electricity, and education. However, life for the Hausa is still very difficult. For example, nearly one-third of the people are unemployed, and only about half of the population can read and write. The average life expectancy of a Nigerian is only 56 years.

Within the Hausa's social structure, individuals are classified as either being commoners or chiefs, depending on which profession they hold and the amount of wealth they possess. In marriage relationships, close relatives, preferably cousins, are chosen as partners. Marriages are arranged, and ceremonies last for weeks. Everyone is to appear happy except the bride. In the village compounds, each wife has her own hut where she and her young children sleep. Often the husband has his own hut where the wives takes turns spending the night.

WHAT ARE THEIR BELIEFS?

By 1500, Islam had been introduced to the Hausa by traders. Many of the urban Hausa embraced it right away, in hopes of enhancing their businesses. However, the villagers were not as receptive to this new religion.

In the "holy wars" of 1804 and 1808, the Hausa were conquered by the Fulani, their strongly Islamic neighbors. They were made slaves until the early 1900's. At that time, many of the villagers were either forced or bribed into becoming Muslim. They adopted some of Islam's basic outward behaviors and rituals, but did not "sell out" as many of the urban Hausa

did. For that reason, many of the rural Hausa today are only superficially Muslim.

WHAT ARE THEIR NEEDS?

The Hausa culture is strongly linked to Islam, which makes it difficult to reach this people group with the Gospel. There is a lot of prejudice against the Christians of southern Nigeria, and there has been intense persecution of the Christian Hausa.

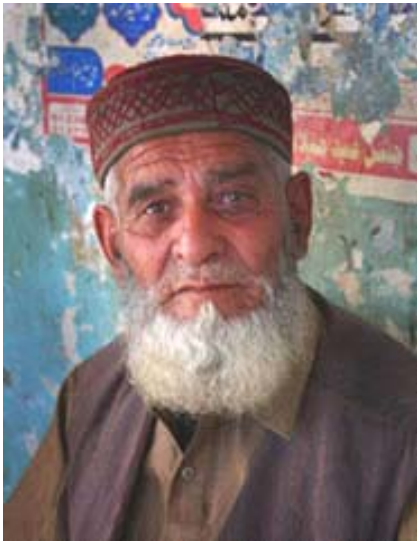
Because Islam has been carried throughout West Africa by Hausa traders and priests, nearly everyone expects a Hausa to be Muslim. This could be one of the main reasons why the Hausa stay so resistant to the Gospel and have difficulty leaving their Islamic faith.

PRAYER ITEMS

- * Pray for the Maguzawa Hausa as they take the Gospel to the Muslim Hausa.
- * Pray that Christian converts would be bold in the face of family pressure and persecution.
- * Ask the Lord to raise up loving Christians who are willing to share Christ with the Hausa.
- * Pray that God will open the hearts of the Hausa to the Gospel.
- * Ask God to encourage and protect the small number of Hausa believers.
- * A recent drought in Nigeria has been a tremendous hardship for the Hausa. Pray that God will supply drinking water for the people and animals, and rain water for their crops.
- * Pray that a church will be raised up among the Hausa.

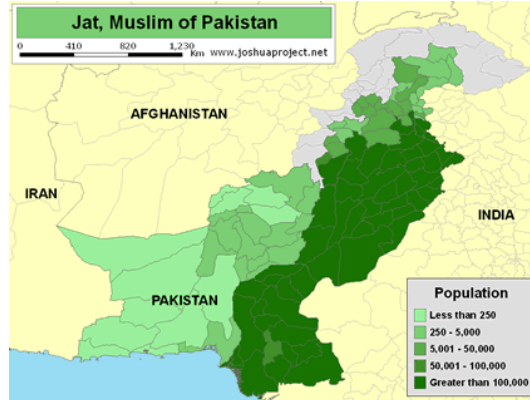
50 Largest UNREACHED People Groups

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Jat, Muslim of Pakistan



People Name	Jat, Muslim
Country	Pakistan
10/40 Window	Yes
Population	29,768,000
World Population	30,185,000
Language	Punjabi, Western
Religion	Islam
Bible	New Testament
Online Audio NT	No
Jesus Film	Yes
Audio Recordings	Yes
Christ Followers	Less than 2 %
Status	Unreached
Progress Level	1.1

"Therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest."

BACKGROUND

The Jat people are a historical Indo-Aryan tribal group native to the Punjab region. The Jats rose to prominence following the 1669 Jat uprising against Mughal rule, and they ruled various princely states throughout the 18th century. After 1858, under the British Raj, the Jats were known for their service in the Indian Army, being categorized as a "martial race" by the British, specifically in the Jat Regiment, the Punjab Regiment and the Sikh Regiment.

The Jats apparently formed during the early medieval period following the collapse of the Kushan Empire. They are assumed to be the product of admixture of Indo-Scythian elements to local Indo-Aryan groups.

According to earlier censuses, the Jat people accounted for approximately one-quarter of the entire Sindhi-Punjabi speaking area, making it the "largest single socially distinctive group" in the region. Jat people are considered a forward class in all the states of India with those of Punjabi or Haryana origin.

The Jat people are one of the most prosperous groups in India on a per-capita basis (Punjab, Haryana, and Gujarat are the wealthiest of Indian states). Haryana has the largest number of rural crorepatis (similar to "millionaires") in India, all of whom are Jats.

Traditionally Jats have dominated as the political class in Haryana and Punjab. A number

of Jat people belonging to the political classes have produced many political leaders, including the 6th Prime Minister of India, Prime Minister Chaudhary Charan Singh.

A large number of the Jat Muslim people live in Pakistan and have dominant roles in public life in the Punjab and Pakistan in general. In addition to the Punjab, Jat communities are also found in Pakistani-administered Kashmir, in Sindh, particularly the Indus delta and among Seraiki-speaking communities in southern Punjab, the Kachhi region of Balochistan and the Dera Ismail Khan District of the North West Frontier Province.

WHAT ARE THEIR LIVES LIKE?

The life and culture of Jats is full of diversity and approaches most closely to that ascribed to the traditional Central Asian colonists of South Asia. The Jat lifestyle was designed to foster a martial spirit. Whenever they lost their kingdoms, Jats retired to the country-side and became landed barons and landlords with their swords girded round their waists. They would draw the sword out of the scabbard at the command of their panchayat to fight with the invaders.

Jat people have a history of being brave and ready fighters. They are fiercely independent in character and value their self respect more than anything, which is why they offered heavy resistance against any foreign force that treated them unjustly. They are known for their pride, bravery and readiness to sacrifice their lives in

battle for their people and kinsmen. They are much more democratic in their village governments. They have less reverence for hereditary right and a preference for elected headmen.

Sikh and Muslim Jat people from the Punjab mostly speak Punjabi and its various dialects (such as Maajhi, Malwi, Doabi, Saraiki, Pothohari, and Jhangochi).

The Jat people are required to marry within their community. The joint family system was popular amongst the Jats and large families use to share the same house and hearth. With the advancement of modern civilization, as people are becoming less dependent upon and less tolerant towards each other, the joint family system is going out of vogue. It was still prevalent in the less advanced areas in the 1930s. Jat marriage ceremonies are traditionally conducted in accordance with Vedic rituals. The Jats are required to marry within their community. Widow marriage is not only permitted and practiced but is also a social obligation.

WHAT ARE THEIR BELIEFS?

The census in 1931 in India recorded population on the basis of ethnicity. In 1925, the population of Jats was around nine million in South Asia and was made up of followers of three major religions: Hinduism, Islam and Sikhism. Today there is a small group of adherents to Christianity, especially Jats living in the UK.

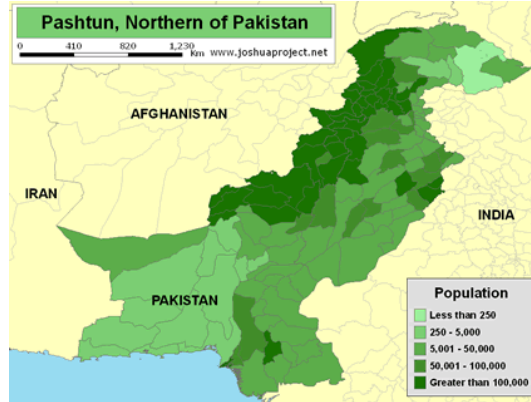
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Photo Source: George Gavrus

Pashtun, Northern of Pakistan



People Name	Pashtun, Northern
Country	Pakistan
10/40 Window	Yes
Population	22,915,000
World Population	47,089,000
Language	Pashto, Northern
Religion	Islam
Bible	Complete
Online Audio NT	No
Jesus Film	Yes
Audio Recordings	Yes
Christ Followers	Less than 2 %
Status	Unreached
Progress Level	1.1

"Therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest."

BACKGROUND

The Pashtun, or Pushtun, are a race of warriors who live primarily in Afghanistan and Pakistan. They consist of about sixty tribes, each with its own territory. Although their origin is unclear, their legends say that they are the descendants of Afghana, grandson of King Saul. However, most scholars believe that they probably arose from ancient Aryans intermingling with subsequent invaders.

The Pashtun have played an important role in the history of their region. From their community have come Muslim rulers, administrators, and soldiers. While many of them have moved out of the highlands in search of an easier life in the plains, their mountainous homeland continues to be their citadel of strength and freedom.

The Pashtun are said to be elegant, colorfully attired, hospitable, considerate, fierce in hatred, and kind in friendship. Though very dedicated to their religious beliefs, they are also fond of pleasure. They are known for their marksmanship and their love of honor.

WHAT ARE THEIR LIVES LIKE?

Most of the Pashtun live in southern and central Asia. Their homes lie along a chain of barren, rugged mountains (the Indus and the Hindu Kush) and the Syistan Plateau of Iran.

At the core of Pashtun society is the extended family. Each family group owns its land and lives

in a fortified residence called a qala. Every qala is divided into two areas: a general living area and the private living quarters. A high wall in the middle separates the two areas.

Distinctive tribal customs and traditions also form an integral part of Pashtun society. The true essence of their culture can be seen in the "code of ethics" that they live by. This unwritten code is called Pushtunwali ("the way of the Pushtun"), and is close to the heart of every Pashtun.

The Pashtun tribes range from the highly educated who live in cities to tent-dwelling nomads. Although their societies are based on tribal traditions, the Pashtun who live in cities or villages have a different attitude towards social status than do the nomads. This is because the villages are made up of both Pashtun and non-Pashtun peoples. In most cases, the Pashtun are the landowners.

Members of the wealthier Pashtun families will occasionally farm or tend the animals but they will not engage in any other occupation within the village. The men usually perform the more difficult tasks outside the home, while the women are responsible for the things within the home.

WHAT ARE THEIR BELIEFS?

The majority of Pashtun are Sunni Muslims. Islam came to them as a great liberating and unifying force, freeing them from the cult of

Brahminism and the harshness of Buddhism. For this reason, their underlying faith and steadfast devotion to Islam are very strong.

WHAT ARE THEIR NEEDS?

Many of the Pashtun are extremely poor and live in unsanitary conditions caused mainly by poor water supply). A large number of the adults are also illiterate. The need for qualified medical teams and school teachers is great.

PRAYER ITEMS

- * Ask God to raise up prayer teams that will break up the soil through worship and intercession.
- * Ask God to grant wisdom and favor to the mission agencies that are focusing on the Pashtuns.
- * Pray for the Pashtun children who grow up in fear and hatred of outsiders.
- * Ask God to encourage and protect the small number of Pashtun believers.
- * Pray that God will provide greater peace and freedom to live and work among the Pashtun.
- * Pray that God will reveal Himself to these precious people through dreams and visions.
- * Ask the Holy Spirit to soften their hearts towards Christians so that they will be receptive to the Gospel.
- * Ask the Lord to raise up strong local churches among the Pashtun.

50 Largest UNREACHED People Groups

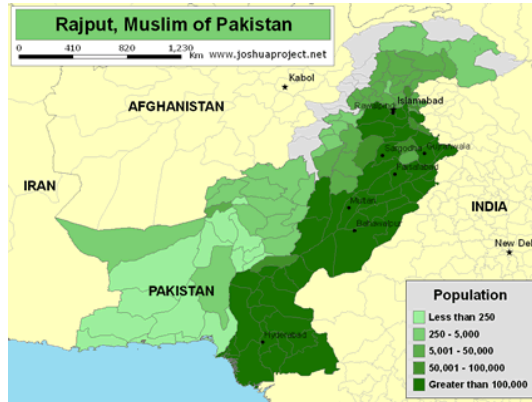
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Rajput, Muslim of Pakistan



Photo Source: COMIBAM / Sepal



People Name	Rajput, Muslim
Country	Pakistan
10/40 Window	Yes
Population	15,577,000
World Population	18,089,000
Language	Punjabi, Western
Religion	Islam
Bible	New Testament
Online Audio NT	No
Jesus Film	Yes
Audio Recordings	Yes
Christ Followers	Less than 2 %
Status	Unreached
Progress Level	1.1

"Therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest."

OVERVIEW

The name Rajput is derived from the Sanskrit word rajputra, meaning son of a ruler. The Rajputra constitutes a class of nobility. The Rajput clans emerged as a dominant community in north and western India in the colonial period. The economic data suggests that the majority of Rajput are landowners. A large number of communities have migrated to their present habitat and this has made them one of the most mobile groups. K. S. Singh explains: "The name Rajput is derived from the Sanskrit word rajputra, meaning son of a ruler. In the Vedas, the term occurs as a synonym of rajanya in the sense of Kshatriya, meaning one who is the scion of one endowed with a kingdom. The word has been used with different connotations by different authors. In Kautilya Arthashastra, it implies son of a king, while in Sanskrit classics, such as Kalidas's Maiavikagnimitra and Asvaghosha's Saundarananda it is used for nobles. Again, the word, rajputra was used for rajanyas as well as for the Kshatriyas, in general, but subsequently a difference appeared between the usage of the words rajputra and kshatriya. The Rajputra constitutes a class of nobility, whereas the Kshatriya were a social group, a varna category or a cluster of communities associated with political power. With the fluctuating fortune of the Rajputra in the early medieval period, they were relegated to the status of the Kshatriya, thus the two names became interchangeable. In the north-west, the Rajput were drawn from all ranks, including the lower ones. In the Chachanama, a

Rajput is described as a horseman. The Rajtarangini describes a Rajput as a soldier also. From the eighth century onwards, the term Rajputra came to signify the Rajput community as we understand it today."

MINISTRY OBSTACLES

High caste communities find it especially difficult to humble themselves enough to accept God's free gift.

OUTREACH IDEAS

Sustained prayer and dedicated workers are needed.

PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWERS OF CHRIST

Pray for the small group of Christian believers among the Hindu Rajput, that they will be united in love around the truth of Scripture. Pray they live a life of love, just as Christ loved them and gave Himself up for them.

SCRIPTURE FOCUS

"Tell of His glory among the nations, His wonderful deeds among all the peoples. For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised." 1 Chronicles 16:24-25.

PRAY FOR THE PEOPLE GROUP

* Ask the Lord of the Harvest to thrust forth laborers into India to share the love of Jesus with each of the tribes.
* Ask God to raise up prayer teams who will begin breaking up the spiritual soil of India through worship and intercession.

* Pray that Christian radio broadcasts, Bibles, and other literature will be made available to each of these groups.
* Pray that God will begin revealing Himself to these precious people through dreams and visions.
* Pray for the salvation of key tribal leaders who will boldly declare the Gospel.
* Ask the Lord to raise up strong local churches among each of these tribes.

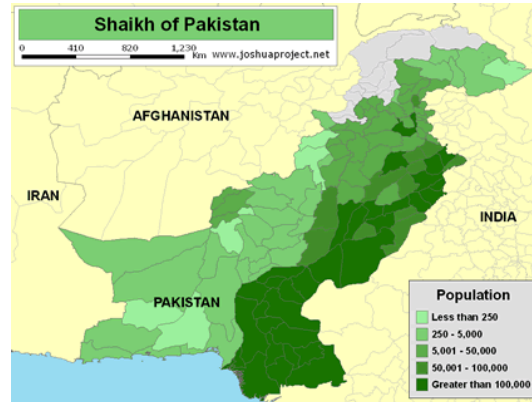
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Shaikh of Pakistan



People Name	Shaikh
Country	Pakistan
10/40 Window	Yes
Population	11,581,000
World Population	217,393,000
Language	Sindhi
Religion	Islam
Bible	Complete
Online Audio NT	No
Jesus Film	Yes
Audio Recordings	Yes
Christ Followers	Less than 2 %
Status	Unreached
Progress Level	1.1

"Therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest."

BACKGROUND

Islam arrived in the area now known as Pakistan in 711 CE when a Muslim Arab Army conquered the northwestern part of Indus Valley from Kashmir to the Arabian Sea. Technocrats, bureaucrats, soldiers, traders, scientists, architects, teachers, theologians and sufis flocked from the rest of the Arab & Muslim world, to the Islamic Sultanate in South Asia and settled permanently.

The descendants of these Arabs usually go by the title of Shaikh and also known in Pakistan as Muslim Khatri. The Shaikhs of Pakistan, however, claim pre-islamic ancestry. They are a sub-group of the Zamindar group or qoum, traditionally associated with farming, which is one of the two groups making up the Pakistani Punjabis (the other group is the Moeens group or quom, who are traditionally artisans). Shaikh is also a term that is usually attributed to the leaders or elders of Arabian social groups. Other variants of this term are Sheik, Shaykh, Shaikh, Cheikh, Šeih, Šejh, Seyh.

After the advent of Islam in South Asia, some high caste (Brahmins, Muslim Rajputs and Khatri) converted to Islam in the Punjab region and adopted this title. They are known as Punjabi Shaikh (Punjabi). Majority of the Punjabi Shaikhs are urbanized and detached from the traditional agricultural ancestry. However, a few families also cultivate their own land in the western districts of Punjab. The main professions of the urban Punjabi Shaikhs are

business and public service, and are stereotyped for their reputation for business acumen. The Khawaja Shaikh, with their sub-division the Chiniotis and the Qanungoh Shaikh are two such communities.

The Sikh Shaikhs living in villages at the Indian border adjoining Pakistan were remnants of the Shaikhs who chose to stay after the Independence of Pakistan in 1947, embracing Sikhism as their religion. They are famous for their lori and dhool a traditional Indian drum.

WHAT ARE THEIR LIVES LIKE?

The Shaikhs are not bound by one particular profession. The Shaikh can be broadly grouped into five communities. Three of these communities are the Siddiks, Farukis and Abbasi who are often descendants of Arab immigrants. The other two are the Chistis and Kuraishis communities who tend to be mainly from converts to Islam. Consequently, the Shaikhs profess Islam and have both Sunni and Shia traditions among them. In Nepal they speak Nepali and either Urdu, Bhojpuri or Maithili in their communities. They are not vegetarian and their common food is rice, mutton and vegetables. Common surnames are Mondal, Siddiqui, Usmani, Faroqui and Sheikh.

WHAT ARE THEIR NEEDS?

There has been much ministry activity among the Shaikh in India but few works in Nepal. Pray that this largest group of Nepali Muslims will find the truth of the Prophet Isa! There is a lot

of potential for gospel growth within the Shaikh community because of relatively few social divisions.

PRAYER ITEMS

- * Ask the Lord of the Harvest to send forth missionaries to live among the Shaikh.
- * Ask God to raise up prayer teams who will begin breaking up the soil through intercession.
- * Pray that God will begin revealing Himself to the Shaikh through dreams and visions.
- * Ask the Lord to raise up strong local churches among the Shaikh.

REFERENCES

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50 Largest UNREACHED People Groups

Transform-World: Christ's Missional Challenge - The Last and the Least



Photo Source: Galen Frysjer

Arab, Saudi - Najdi of Saudi Arabia



People Name	Arab, Saudi - Najdi
Country	Saudi Arabia
10/40 Window	Yes
Population	11,969,000
World Population	15,306,000
Language	Arabic, Najdi Spoken
Religion	Islam
Bible	None
Online Audio NT	No
Jesus Film	No
Audio Recordings	Yes
Christ Followers	Less than 2 %
Status	Unreached
Progress Level	1.2

"Therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest."

BACKGROUND

The traditional homeland of the Bedouin Arab is the Arabian Desert; however, some Bedouin groups have migrated north into the Negev Desert region. Jordan was one of the first lands to be inhabited by the Bedouin, and today many Bedouin still live there, primarily raising sheep and goats.

The Bedouin fall into two basic social classes. One class is known as the "true" Bedouin, and they live as nomadic shepherds. The other group has embraced farming and is known as the fellahin. The fellahin lead a more settled life on the edge of the desert. In contrast, the "true" Bedouin have been known for raiding any caravans that cross their paths while journeying across barren deserts. They move into the desert during the rainy winter seasons and back to the desert's edge during the hot, dry summers. They speak Badawi, or as it is more commonly called, Bedouin Arabic.

WHAT ARE THEIR LIVES LIKE?

The Bedouin Arab have a relatively harsh existence. The nomads have no permanent homes, but live in portable, black tents made from woven, goat hair. The tents are divided by a decorative partition called a gata. Half of the tent is for the women, children, cooking utensils, and storage. The other half contains a fireplace and is used for entertaining. The women do most of the work, while the men socialize and make plans for the group.

The material culture of the Bedouin is limited. Their tents are their main possessions, and animals are very important for their nomadic lifestyle. Camels are their main means of transportation, while sheep and goats are bought and sold.

Dairy products are the main food source for the Bedouin. Milk from camels and goats is made into yogurt and butter. Most of their meals consist of a bowl of milk, yogurt, or rice. Round loaves of unleavened bread are served when available. Dates, which can be found in desert oases, are eaten for dessert. Meat is only served on special occasions such as marriage feasts, ceremonial events, or when guests are present.

Although the Bedouin once considered it degrading to have manual labor jobs, this has changed somewhat in recent years. Due to the need for better health conditions, more money, and better living conditions, some have accepted wage-paying jobs. However, most of them still despise this type of work.

WHAT ARE THEIR BELIEFS?

Almost all of the Bedouin in Jordan are Sunni Muslims. Islam is based on the teachings of the prophet, Mohammed. The Koran ("holy book" of Islam) was supposedly given to Mohammed by the angel Gabriel.

Islam has greatly influenced the lives of the Bedouin. For example, to preserve their people, the Bedouin are only allowed to marry those

inside their own group. Also, the society is patrilineal, which means that inheritances are passed down through the males.

WHAT ARE THEIR NEEDS?

According to Islamic law, a Muslim who professes faith in Jesus Christ could be put to death. Perhaps this explains why there are only a few known Bedouin believers in Jordan at the present time.

Evangelization efforts among the Bedouin are challenging due to the harsh and unsettled nature of their lifestyle. Missionaries who are able to endure the severe conditions of the Negev Desert are needed.

PRAYER ITEMS

- * Ask the Lord to call people eager to reach out and share the love of Christ with them.
- * Pray that God will raise up faithful intercessors who will stand in the gap for the Bedouin.
- * Ask God to strengthen, encourage, and protect the few known Christian Bedouin.
- * Pray their traditional Muslim culture will soften, creating open doors for the Gospel to be preached among them.
- * Ask the Holy Spirit to open the hearts of the Bedouin Arab towards Christians so that they will be receptive to the Gospel.
- * Pray that God will reveal Himself to them through dreams and visions.
- * Ask the Lord to raise up strong local churches among the Bedouin.

50 Largest UNREACHED People Groups

Transform-World: Christ's Missional Challenge - The Last and the Least



Copyright © Operation China, Paul Hattaway

Han Chinese, Holo of Taiwan



People Name	Han Chinese, Holo
Country	Taiwan
10/40 Window	Yes
Population	13,338,000
World Population	53,668,000
Language	Chinese, Min Nan
Religion	Ethnic Religions
Bible	Complete
Online Audio NT	No
Jesus Film	Yes
Audio Recordings	Yes
Christ Followers	Less than 2 %
Status	Unreached
Progress Level	1.2

"Therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest."

BACKGROUND

The Han Chinese are the largest ethnic group in the world. Although the vast majority of them live in mainland China, many have immigrated to other countries, and today they reside in nearly every nation of the world.

Most Han Chinese speak one of the many Chinese dialects, which include Mandarin, Cantonese, and Hokkien. Although the dialects are similar, the speakers of one Chinese dialect cannot understand the speakers of another.

WHAT ARE THEIR LIVES LIKE?

The Diaspora Han Chinese continue to live primarily in cities. In a number of countries, particularly the westernized nations, many of them are businessmen. Their businesses range from small shops to international corporations. They live in a wide variety of houses, ranging from small apartments to costly mansions.

Many of the Han Chinese who live outside of China have maintained their culture and language to varying degrees, depending on the country in which they live. Except for those in Thailand, the Han Chinese continue to speak their various Chinese dialects. In most countries, the Diaspora Han Chinese have also continued living by their traditional Chinese customs, especially those regarding marriage and the family. One of the primary reasons they have kept their own languages and customs is because they have a deeply ingrained belief in the superiority of their culture.

The Han Chinese are known for their politeness and will go to great lengths to avoid disputes. However, once a dispute begins it is very difficult to stop because the Chinese place a high value on "saving face." Giving ground in an open dispute would cause them to lose face—something the Chinese try to avoid at all costs.

WHAT ARE THEIR BELIEFS?

The Diaspora Han Chinese have generally maintained their traditional Chinese religion, which is characterized by a blending of philosophies. It has added elements of Buddhism, Confucianism, and Taoism over the course of time. Their beliefs are centered around the concept of maintaining harmony.

The Han Chinese are very superstitious, consulting horoscopes in an attempt to determine what course of action will promote harmony and bring good luck. They also believe in a pantheon of spirits who inhabit the earth. The spirits of their ancestors supposedly roam the earth, and if treated properly, are benign and bring good luck. Ghosts are believed to exist as the spirits of people who are angry at the circumstances of their death; these spirits are said to be malicious and capricious. Deities are supposedly the souls of people who lived especially virtuous lives. They are believed to have spiritual powers that can be used to benefit those who worship them.

Although the Han Chinese still claim adherence

to these beliefs, they seem to have little effect on their everyday lives. In fact, many of them are non-religious in practice.

WHAT ARE THEIR NEEDS?

The Han Chinese suffer from great spiritual needs. Many of their adopted nations are open to the Gospel, and several evangelistic tools are available in their Chinese dialects. Nevertheless, only a few Diaspora Han Chinese in Laos, Nepal, Tanzania, and Thailand have converted to Christianity. They remain in bondage to superstition and false religion. These precious people need loving Christians to introduce them to the One who can truly set them free.

PRAYER ITEMS

- * Pray that the Lord will grant favor to the missions agencies that are focusing on the Diaspora Han Chinese.
- * Ask the Holy Spirit to soften the hearts of the Han Chinese towards the Gospel message.
- * Pray that the small number of Han Chinese believers will begin to share the love of Jesus with their own people.
- * Pray that God will reveal Himself to these precious people through dreams and visions.
- * Pray that Christian broadcasts, evangelical literature, and the Jesus film will be effective tools for reaching the Diaspora Han Chinese.
- * Ask God to use Christian businessmen to boldly share the Gospel with the Han Chinese.
- * Ask the Lord to raise up strong local churches among the Diaspora Han Chinese.

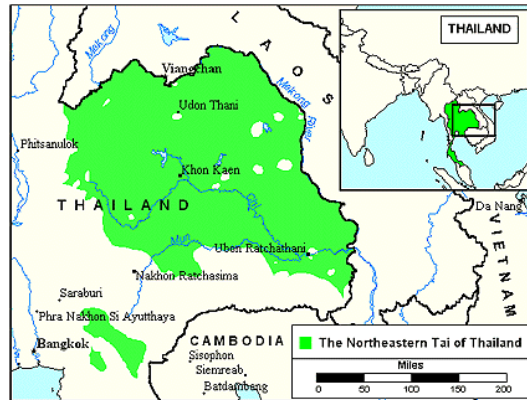
50 Largest UNREACHED People Groups

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Isan, Northeastern Thai of Thailand



People Name	Isan, Northeastern Thai
Country	Thailand
10/40 Window	Yes
Population	18,521,000
World Population	18,624,000
Language	Thai, Northeastern
Religion	Buddhism
Bible	None
Online Audio NT	No
Jesus Film	Yes
Audio Recordings	Yes
Christ Followers	Less than 2 %
Status	Unreached
Progress Level	1.2

"Therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest."

BACKGROUND

The Northeastern Tai, also known as the Lao Isan, are dispersed throughout seventeen provinces in northeastern Thailand. This area makes up nearly one third of Thailand's land area. It is a flat arid plain known as the Khorat plateau with infrequent rainfall and few natural resources. The region is noted for archeological relics and monuments dating back to Khmer influence under the Angkor wat regime.

Many of the present day residents of the Khorat plateau were forcibly relocated to this hostile region over a period of 100 years from the Lan Chang Kingdom in what is now the Peoples Democratic Republic of Laos. Later the people, the region and their language were labeled by Siamese kings as Isan, the Pali word for northeast. Even though this region is now fully incorporated into Thailand and all residents are Thai, the Lao Isan language, diet, ritual and culture continues to thrive among this people.

WHAT ARE THEIR LIVES LIKE?

Most of the Northeastern Tai are farmers dependent on rain-fed agriculture. The major crops are paddy rice, cassava and sugar cane. Like other Tai groups, they also raise cattle. Availability of fresh fruits, vegetables and fish varies with the seasons. Agricultural production remains low, due to the relatively dry climate and the saltiness of the soil. Although agriculture and industry is hindered by the shortage of water and limited transportation infrastructure, the Northeastern Tai are still able

to produce their world famous mud-mee silk.

The Northeastern Tai are well known for their friendliness and openness. They are family and community oriented, which makes them generally non-competitive and easy-going.

Because northeastern Thailand frequently suffers from drought, the people who live there are often thought of as poverty stricken. Yet, the Northeastern Tai have become an urban, industrial labor force, and many of them have found jobs as factory workers in the larger cities and overseas. Although the Northeastern Tai may be more developed economically than the Northern and Central Tai, public education and better communication lines in the northeastern area have brought some measure of improvement in the last generation.

WHAT ARE THEIR BELIEFS?

More than half of the Northeastern Tai are Theravada Buddhist. They follow the teachings of Buddha (the "enlightened one") and seek to eliminate suffering and improve their future by gaining merit in their present lives. Ultimately, they are in pursuit of nirvana, or perfect peace. They believe that merit can be acquired through feeding monks, donating to temples, and frequently worshipping in the temples. Traditionally, young men enter a Buddhist monastery once in their life as a short-term monk to make merit for their parents or family members.

Many of the Northeastern Tai continue to practice their traditional ethnic religions particularly for important rites of passage. They combine Buddhist teachings with folk religious practices, seeking help through the worship of spirits and venerated objects.

WHAT ARE THEIR NEEDS?

Improved nutrition, improved infrastructure, improved industry, local micro-enterprise investments, educational opportunities beyond the primary grades, appropriate technology and fair representation in the central government, biblical communication of the good news of Christ in non-western forms that speak to popular Buddhist values.

PRAYER ITEMS

- * Pray that Northeastern Tai believers will live out their decision to follow Christ in wholistic ways that speak to the Thai Isan worldview.
- * Pray for those producing culturally appropriate materials, art, music, and church styles that provide opportunities to which the Isan may respond.
- * Pray that God will call forth teams of long term missionaries and intercessors who will commit to partner with Isan Christian leaders in strategic ministry. Isan is the region with the fewest missionaries per capita in all of Thailand.
- * Ask the Lord to raise up serving, missional local churches among the Northeastern Tai.

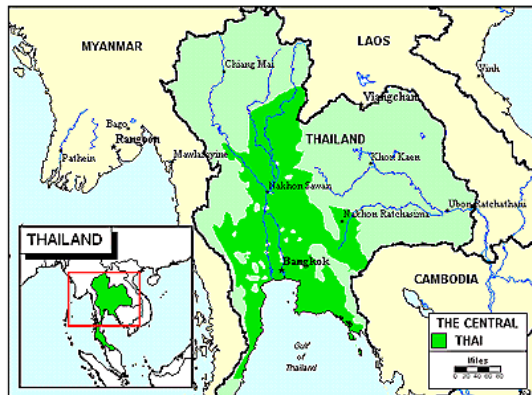
50 Largest UNREACHED People Groups

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Thai, Central of Thailand



People Name	Thai, Central
Country	Thailand
10/40 Window	Yes
Population	20,166,000
World Population	20,758,000
Language	Thai
Religion	Buddhism
Bible	Complete
Online Audio NT	Yes
Jesus Film	Yes
Audio Recordings	Yes
Christ Followers	Less than 2 %
Status	Unreached
Progress Level	1.2

"Therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest."

BACKGROUND

The Central Tai, or Siamese, live on the country's rich central plain. The area, which includes the capital city of Bangkok, is watered by the Chao Phraya River. The Central Tai, who represent more than a third of the population, call themselves the Khon Thai, meaning "the free people".

Centuries ago the Tai lived north of Yangtzejiang in China. Relentless pressure by the Chinese gradually forced them southward. They conquered many peoples and cultures as they sought a new homeland, but by the 10th century they had settled in Central Thailand.

WHAT ARE THEIR LIVES LIKE?

The Central Tai are unusually polite, respectful, and hospitable people. Their children are brought up to respect those of a higher rank, with additional emphasis on independence and self-reliance. The Central Tai seldom use physical punishment to discipline children.

Age is highly respected in Central Tai society. Type of occupation, wealth, and place and type of residence follow age in terms of respect and rank. Rural farmers rank below artisans, merchants, and city government officials; clergy form a separate group. Families are the core of Tai society. In rural areas, the immediate family usually lives, eats, and farms together. A young married couple may live with the bride's family until they can establish their own home.

The wealthiest Tai live in wood-framed homes that are raised off the ground and have plank floors, hard wood or mahogany panels, and tile roofs. The poorest villagers live in bamboo homes with thatched roofs and dirt floors. There are a wide variety of homes in the cities: multi-level cement houses, houses that are attached to or above shops, townhouses, apartment complexes, or wooden houses. The temple and school are prominent features in the villages. Water taxis transport people and cargo on polluted waterways that connect houses and other buildings.

WHAT ARE THEIR BELIEFS?

Theravada Buddhism was introduced in Thailand in 329 B.C. Almost all Tai are devout followers of Buddha ("the enlightened one") and seek to eliminate suffering and improve their future by gaining merit in pursuit of perfect peace, or nirvana. They believe that merit is gained through attending worship services, feeding monks, and donating to temples.

Traditionally, young men enter a Buddhist monastery for three months to study Buddhism. The Tai also attempt to incorporate their Buddhist beliefs with folk animism, a practice in which they seek help through the worship of spirits and objects.

WHAT ARE THEIR NEEDS?

Thailand has serious public health problems. Hepatitis is prevalent and malaria is a problem in rural areas. HIV is epidemic in the cities.

Prostitution is a pressing social problem. Approximately 200,000 to 500,000 prostitutes, usually from poor, rural areas, are forced to sell their bodies to help their families survive. Education and employment opportunities for women are limited, and many women and children lack adequate health care.

Although a number of missions agencies are working among the Central Tai, more help is needed. The Bible, the Jesus film, and audio recordings are all available in the Tai language. However, only a handful of the Central Tai are Christians.

PRAYER ITEMS

- * Ask God to raise prayer teams who will begin breaking up the soil through worship and intercession.
- * Pray that God will grant wisdom and favor to the missions agencies that are currently ministering to the Central Tai.
- * Ask God to send Christian teachers and medical teams to work among the Central Tai.
- * Pray that God will reveal Himself to these precious people through dreams and visions.
- * Ask the Holy Spirit to soften the hearts of the Central Tai towards Christians so that they will be receptive to the Gospel.
- * Ask the Lord to raise up strong local churches among the Central Tai.

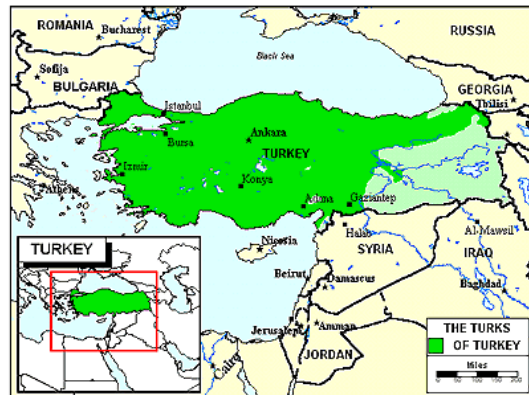
50 Largest UNREACHED People Groups

Transform-World: Christ's Missional Challenge - The Last and the Least



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Turk of Turkey



People Name	Turk
Country	Turkey
10/40 Window	Yes
Population	51,906,000
World Population	57,338,000
Language	Turkish
Religion	Islam
Bible	Complete
Online Audio NT	Yes
Jesus Film	Yes
Audio Recordings	Yes
Christ Followers	Less than 2 %
Status	Unreached
Progress Level	1.1

"Therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest."

BACKGROUND

The Turks originated in Turan, a region that lies between the Caspian Sea and the Mongolian Desert. They arrived in Anatolia, Turkey (Asia Minor) in the eleventh century as conquering warriors. By the year 1299, the Ottoman Dynasty began ruling over what would become a vast empire, greater in area than the Roman Empire, and held the Caliphate lamented by Muslim fundamentalists. Over twenty states fell under Ottoman rule, including Southern Russia, Iran, Iraq, Syria, Egypt, Libya, and Saudi Arabia. This huge empire lasted until Turkey became a republic in 1923.

WHERE ARE THEY LOCATED?

The majority of Turks live in their home country but significant numbers live elsewhere. Several million Turks live in Germany as either guest workers or citizens. Many more live throughout Europe and North America; a significant population lives in disputed Northern Cyprus.

WHAT ARE THEIR LIVES LIKE?

For many of the peasants in Turkey, the clothes they work in, their homemade tools, and their livestock are their only possessions. Those who specialize in export crops or combine farming with a seasonal job, however, may become quite wealthy and even donate money to charities. The peasant communities that are located along the lush coastal plains or the low foothills by the seas usually live comfortable lives as farmers. However, those that live among the salt marshes lead more difficult lives.

Turk men work outside while the women spin yarn, dry fruits and vegetables for winter, prepare meals for their families, care for the children, and do the household chores. They also sometimes help with the men's work. Children help their parents with the outside duties if no school is located in their community. They may ride in ox-drawn grain carts or help make colorful knots in rugs.

Village social life includes picnics, barbecues, and betting on horse races, cock fights, and wrestling matches. Soccer is Turkey's most popular sport. Children enjoy games such as hide-and-seek and follow-the-leader. They also love to hear fairy tales.

Relaxation is of the utmost importance to the Turk. Coffee houses are places where men meet to visit and talk politics or business. In general, the Turks are courteous, gentle people who readily show hospitality to strangers. They are also very patriotic and have a deep sense of nationalistic pride and love for their country.

WHAT ARE THEIR BELIEFS?

One of the unique characteristics of Turkey is that they are a country where Muslims sometimes go and pray in churches and synagogues on special occasions. Judaism and Christianity and their prophets are generally respected by Turks. There might be extremes, as also seen in other religions, but it is generally not approved by the Turkish majority.

PRAYER ITEMS

- * Ask the Lord to call people who are willing to go to the Turks of Aruba and share Christ with them.
- * Pray that churches and missions organizations will accept the challenge of adopting and reaching the Turk.
- * Ask God to give the Turk believers boldness to share the Gospel with their own people.
- * Pray that God will grant wisdom and favor to missions agencies focusing on the Turk.
- * Ask the Lord to save key leaders among the Turks who will boldly declare the Gospel.
- * Pray that God will begin revealing Himself to the Turks through dreams and visions.
- * Ask the Lord to raise up a strong local church among the Turks of Aruba.
- * Pray that many Turks living abroad will be reached with the Gospel and will take it back to Turkey.
- * Pray that Turkey will avoid both ethnic strife (especially with the Kurds) and resurgent Muslim fundamentalism.

50 Largest UNREACHED People Groups

Transform-World: Christ's Missional Challenge - The Last and the Least



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Uzbek, Northern of Uzbekistan



People Name	Uzbek, Northern
Country	Uzbekistan
10/40 Window	Yes
Population	22,301,000
World Population	25,840,000
Language	Uzbek, Northern
Religion	Islam
Bible	New Testament
Online Audio NT	Yes
Jesus Film	Yes
Audio Recordings	Yes
Christ Followers	Less than 2 %
Status	Unreached
Progress Level	1.1

"Therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest."

BACKGROUND

The 20 million Uzbeks are a Turkic people group located primarily in Central Asia. About 15 million of them live in their homeland, present-day Uzbekistan. There are also large Uzbek communities in Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan, as well as small communities in many other nations, including the United States.

The earliest ancestors of the Uzbeks, the Central Asian Turks, aided Genghis Khan in his conquest of Eastern Europe in the 1300's. Eventually, as unity between the Turks and Mongols faded, numerous warring kingdoms were formed. It was from several of these kingdoms that the Uzbeks descended.

By the mid-1800's, most of the Uzbeks had been conquered by the Russians. They lived under czarist rule until the Bolshevik Revolution brought the Communists to power in 1917. The new socialist government forced many of the Uzbek nomads and farmers to live on collective farms. When the Soviet Union broke up in 1991, Uzbekistan became an independent nation.

WHAT ARE THEIR LIVES LIKE?

Traditionally, most Uzbeks were semi-nomadic shepherds; however, today, most of those living in Central Asia either farm or live and work in larger towns and cities. Among those who farm, the principal crop is cotton. Fruits, vegetables, and grains are also grown.

The Uzbek mountain men love to play buzkashi, a wild polo-like game with two teams on horseback. The game, which uses the headless carcass of a goat or calf as the "ball," can be violent and go on for two or three days. The object of the game is to pick up the "ball" and carry it to a goal that may be as far as two miles away. The other team attempts to stop whoever has the animal with any means necessary, even using whips to attack him. Another popular past-time is to hunt wild birds with falcons.

WHAT ARE THEIR BELIEFS?

Most Uzbeks are Sunni Muslims of the Hanafite branch. Like other Muslims, the Uzbeks believe that there is one God, Allah, whose will was revealed through the prophet Mohammed and then recorded in the Koran. Uzbeks are not generally Orthodox Muslims. Many traditional beliefs have been mingled with their Islamic practices. Many of the younger generation are either atheists or non-religious.

WHAT ARE THEIR NEEDS?

Most Uzbeks who have access to the Gospel live in the cities. It is likely that the majority of the rural villages have had no Gospel witness.

Today, Islamic fundamentalists living in the former Soviet regions have begun calling for the strict application of Islamic law, as is practiced in Afghanistan. Now is the time to preach the Gospel to the Uzbeks of this region. There is an unprecedented opportunity to reach their communities with the message of the Cross.

However, much prayer is needed to prevent this door from closing. Additional laborers and Christian resources are also needed. The Uzbeks are the largest people group in Central Asia and are the most resistant to the Gospel. Who will tell them about God's love?

PRAYER ITEMS

- * Pray that Christian Uzbek leaders would unified in their evangelistic activities.
- * Ask the Lord to visit the Uzbek people in visions and dreams, an important part of the Uzbek culture.
- * Pray that new Uzbek Christians would understand God's Word quickly and commit to a local church where they will find strength.
- * Ask God to call forth prayer teams who will begin breaking down the strongholds through worship and intercession.
- * Pray that the Holy Spirit will soften the hearts of the Uzbek Muslims towards Christians.
- * Ask God to grant wisdom and favor to missions agencies focusing on the Uzbeks.
- * Ask the Lord to send additional long term laborers to live among the Uzbeks and share the love of Christ with them.
- * Pray that Christians in other countries start reaching out to their Uzbek neighbors and they would be receptive for Christ's love.
- * Pray for effectiveness of the Jesus film and Christian radio broadcasts that are being aired among the Uzbeks.
- * Pray for God to raise up strong local churches in all these countries among the Uzbeks.

50 Largest UNREACHED People Groups

Transform-World: Christ's Missional Challenge - The Last and the Least



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Arab, Northern Yemeni of Yemen



People Name	Arab, Northern Yemeni
Country	Yemen
10/40 Window	Yes
Population	11,733,000
World Population	11,734,000
Language	Arabic, Sanaani Spoken
Religion	Islam
Bible	None
Online Audio NT	No
Jesus Film	No
Audio Recordings	Yes
Christ Followers	Less than 2 %
Status	Unreached
Progress Level	1.1

"Therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest."

BACKGROUND

Most scholars consider Arabs from the Arabian Peninsula to be the original Arabs. The Arabian culture was developed by tribes of nomads and villagers who lived in the Arabian Desert. It was also from there that Arab migrations began, eventually leading to the expansion of the Arab world.

Today, more than 12 million Yemeni Arab live in the Republic of Yemen, and another 679,000 in the surrounding countries of Somalia, Ethiopia, Sudan, Saudi Arabia, Madagascar, Egypt, the UAE, and Djibouti.

The social structure of the Yemeni Arab consists of four classes of people: the Sayyid, or wealthy (who trace their descent to the grandson of Muhammad), the Qatani, (tribesmen), the Shafi'ite townsmen (merchants, artisans, and craftsmen), and the Akhdam (slaves).

The Yemeni Arab have had a close association with Islam throughout their history; and today, nearly all of the Yemeni Arab (both in the Republic of Yemen, and in the other nations), are Muslims. About half of them are Zaydis Muslims, 40% are Shafi'ites, and 5% are Ismailis.

WHAT ARE THEIR LIVES LIKE?

Yemeni Arab society is tribal in structure with over 1,700 different tribes or clans. These various tribes are ruled by sheiks (Arab chiefs), who often fight with each other.

Today, the majority of the Yemeni Arab in Yemen still live in fortress-like villages that can be easily defended. Each house has windows on all sides and is built facing the outside of the village. All goods and persons passing through town are strictly controlled.

Social life is extremely important to Arabs. They like to share a daily coffee time by sitting on the floor and drinking from cups without handles. Their diet basically consists of wheat bread and porridge made with boiled meat or chicken.

In spite of the fact that Muslims are allowed to have up to four wives, most marriages among the Yemeni Arab are monogamous. In the past, all marriages were arranged by the parents; however, it is becoming more acceptable for young people to choose their own mates. Girls are considered ready for marriage by age nine.

In recent years, many of the nomads of Yemen have settled into mountain villages where they now raise grains, vegetables, coffee, melons, dates, mangoes, and pomegranates. Domestic animals are kept to supply milk and eggs.

WHAT ARE THEIR BELIEFS?

Almost all of the Yemeni Arab are Muslims, and there is little doubt that Islam has influenced their society.

PRAYER ITEMS

* Ask the Lord to send forth servants who are willing to reach out and share the love of Christ

with the Northern Yemeni people.

* Pray that God will raise up faithful intercessors who will stand in the gap for the Yemeni Arabs.

* Ask God to give the Yemeni Arab believers opportunities to share the love of Christ with their own people.


* Pray that their traditional Muslim culture will soften, creating open doors for the Gospel to be preached among them.

* Ask the Holy Spirit to open the hearts of the Arabs towards Christians so that they will be receptive to the Gospel.

* Pray that God will reveal Himself to these Muslims through dreams and visions.

* Ask the Lord to raise up strong local churches among the Yemeni Arab.

50 Largest UNENGAGED Unreached People Groups

- Source: **Finishing the Task**
(Using a subset of International Mission Board data)
- Criteria: Less than 2% Evangelical
Unengaged - No known active church planting occurring
- Profiles: Tan header / footer 
(Mixture of FTT and Joshua Project content)
- Website: <http://www.finishingthetask.com>
- Feedback: info@finishingthetask.com

Top 50 Ethnolinguistic Unengaged, Unreached People Groups By Country

WS=Written Scripture; **OS**=Oral Scripture; **J**=JESUS Film; **R**=Radio; **G**=Gospel Recording

RESOURCE CODE: **C**=Churches; **B**=Believers

WN=Workers Needed (1 Full Time per 50k pop.); **WC**=Workers Confirmed

www.FinishingTheTask.com

FTT#	Country	People Group	Population	Language	Religion	WS	OS	JF	RA	GR	WN	WC
652	Algeria	Mzab	169,024	Tumzabt - (mzb)	Islam	N	N	N	N	Y	3	0
1102	Algeria	Shawiya	1,414,000	Tachawit - (shy)	Islam - Sunni	Y	N	Y	N	Y	28	0
1162	Azerbaijan	Shachsewenen	258,070	South Azerbaijani - (azb)	Islam - Sunni	Y	N	N	N	Y	5	0
26	Bhutan	Gurtu	174,847	Kurtokha - (xkz)	Buddhism	N	N	N	N	N	3	0
1103	China	Aoka	326,655	Xiang Chinese - (hsn)	Other Religions	Y	N	Y	N	Y	6	0
691	China	Bunu	408,303	Bu-Nao Bunu - (bwx)	Other Religions	N	N	N	N	Y	8	0
695	China	Dong, Northern	1,334,742	Northern Dong - (doc)	East Asia Religions	N	N	N	N	N	26	0
48	China	Hongjin Tai	183,491	Tai Hongjin - (tiz)	Other Religions	N	N	N	N	N	3	0
706	China	Miao, Mashan	202,566	Western Mashan Hmong	Other Religions	N	N	N	N	Y	4	0
713	China	Pingdi Yao	1,404,208	Xiang Chinese - (hsn)	Other Religions	Y	N	Y	N	Y	28	0
1107	China	Shui	500,298	Sui - (swi)	Other Religions	N	N	Y	N	Y	10	0
720	China	Zhuang, Guibian	1,109,017	Guibian Zhuang - (zgn)	Other Religions	N	N	Y	N	Y	22	0
1109	Egypt	Ababda	183,692	Sudanese Arabic - (apd)	Islam	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	3	0
1111	Egypt	Domari Gypsy	1,602,492	Domari - (rmt)	Islam - Sunni	N	N	N	N	Y	32	0
1164	Egypt	Helebi Gypsy	572,220	Egyptian Arabic - (arz)	Islam	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	11	0
1110	Egypt	Levantine Bedawi	1,009,013	Eastern Egyptian Bedawi	Islam - Sunni	Y	N	N	N	N	20	0
846	Iran	Afshari	200,000	South Azerbaijani - (azb)	Islam - Shia	Y	N	N	Y	Y	4	0
451	Iraq	Arab, Bedouin	1,532,190	Najdi Arabic - (ars)	Islam	Y	N	N	N	Y	30	0
860	Iraq	Marsh Arab	216,486	Mesopotamian Arabic - (a)	Islam	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	4	0
862	Iraq	Turkmen	406,784	South Azerbaijani - (azb)	Islam - Sunni	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	8	0
864	Italy	Arab, Moroccan	253,362	Moroccan Arabic - (ary)	Islam	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	5	0
463	Kazakhstan	Tatar	250,000	Russian - (rus)	Islam - Sunni	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	5	0
489	Libya	Arab, Sudanese	282,853	Sudanese Arabic - (apd)	Islam	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	5	0
487	Libya	Bedouin, Fezzan	213,065	Libyan Arabic - (ayl)	Islam - Sunni	Y	N	N	N	N	4	0
488	Libya	Berber, Nefusa	178,822	Nafusi - (jbn)	Islam - Sunni	N	N	N	N	N	3	0
1153	Mauritania	Moor	784,063	Hassaniyya - (mey)	Islam - Sunni	N	Y	Y	N	Y	15	0
523	Pakistan	Arab	197,201	Standard Arabic - (arb)	Islam - Sunni	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	3	0
527	Pakistan	Kho	339,759	Khovar - (khw)	Islam	N	N	N	N	Y	6	0
531	Pakistan	Persian	178,950	Western Farsi - (pes)	Islam - Shia	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	3	0
537	Qatar	Arab, Qatari	356,440	Gulf Arabic - (afb)	Islam	Y	N	N	N	Y	7	0
981	Russia	Ingush	361,000	Ingush - (inh)	Islam - Sunni	Y	N	Y	N	N	7	0
986	Russia	Meskhethian Turk	300,000	Turkish - (tur)	Islam - Sunni	Y	N	Y	N	Y	6	0
541	Saudi Arabia	Arab, Bedouin	1,048,165	Najdi Arabic - (ars)	Islam	Y	N	N	N	Y	20	0
553	Saudi Arabia	Arab, Yemeni	500,550	Ta'izzi-Adeni Arabic - (ac)	Islam	Y	N	N	Y	Y	10	0
1132	Saudi Arabia	Bengali	1,623,648	Bengali - (ben)	Islam - Sunni	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	32	0

As of the date of this publication, there are no known full-time workers doing evangelism and church planting within these groups. If you have updated information that any of the groups are now being engaged, please contact us at info@finishingthetask.com

FTT#	Country	People Group	Population	Language	Religion	WS	OS	JF	RA	GR	WN	WC
542	Saudi Arabia	Black African	279,490	Swahili - (swh)	Islam	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	5	0
546	Saudi Arabia	Northern Yemeni	310,844	Sanaani Arabic - (ayn)	Islam	Y	N	N	N	Y	6	0
552	Saudi Arabia	Urdu	1,560,600	Urdu - (urd)	Islam	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	31	0
585	Sudan	Arab, Maghrebi	187,076	Sudanese Arabic - (apd)	Islam	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	3	0
574	Sudan	Gimma	164,543	Sudanese Arabic - (apd)	Islam	Y	N	Y	N	Y	3	0
575	Sudan	Guhayna	1,461,494	Sudanese Arabic - (apd)	Islam	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	29	0
1031	Sudan	Turum	206,723	Koalib - (kib)	Other Religions	Y	N	N	N	Y	4	0
595	Sudan	Yazeed	384,649	Sudanese Arabic - (apd)	Islam	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	7	0
1035	Syria	Alawite	1,775,539	North Levantine Arabic -	Islam - Shia	Y	N	N	Y	Y	35	0
1156	Syria	Arab, Bedouin	634,121	Najdi Arabic - (ars)	Islam	Y	N	N	N	N	12	0
1037	Syria	Arab, Palestinian	441,632	North Levantine Arabic -	Islam	Y	N	N	Y	Y	8	0
1040	Syria	Druze	970,205	North Levantine Arabic -	Islam - Shia	Y	N	N	Y	Y	19	0
609	Tunisia	Arab, Algerian	254,520	Algerian Arabic - (arq)	Islam - Sunni	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	5	0
1064	Turkey	Arab, Levantine	592,152	North Levantine Arabic -	Islam	Y	N	N	Y	Y	11	0
635	Uzbekistan	Meskhetian Turk	168,686	Turkish - (tur)	Islam - Sunni	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	3	0
		50 People Groups	29,468,250									

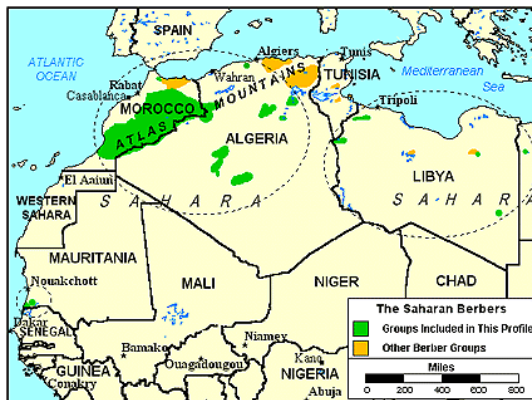
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50 Largest UNENGAGED Unreached People Groups

Transform-World: Christ's Missional Challenge - The Last and the Least



Mzab of Algeria



People Name	Mzab
Country	Algeria
10/40 Window	Yes
Population	169,000
Language	Tumzabt - (mzb)
Religion	Islam
Bible	None
Online Audio NT	No
Jesus Film	No
Audio Recordings	Yes
Christ Followers	Less than 2 %
Status	Unreached
Unengaged	Yes

*"Declare His glory among the nations,
His marvelous works among all the peoples!"*

BACKGROUND

There are about ten million Berbers scattered across the vast regions of Northern Africa. Their tribes stretch from the Siwa Oasis in Egypt to the Atlantic Ocean. It is thought that they once inhabited the entire North African territory, forcing the Negro population to move further southward through the desert. However, the exact origins of the Berbers and how they arrived in North Africa still remain a mystery.

WHAT ARE THEIR LIVES LIKE?

Since the Sahara Desert is a harsh environment, most of the Saharan tribes occupy a number of oases. While there are many similarities between the various Berber groups, their particular lifestyles and quality of life vary according to the region in which they live.

The Berbers call themselves the Imazighen, which means "man of noble origin." Their various languages belong to the Hamito-Semitic language family which includes five major groupings as well as a large number of dialects. Although the Berber languages differ greatly from one another in sound, they only vary slightly in grammar and vocabulary.

The Berbers are often noted for their skills in various crafts. Domestic tasks such as weaving and pottery are the main work of the women. The men specialize in woodworking, metalworking, and, more surprisingly, fine needlework. In regard to labor, the men do most of the farming, while the women are

responsible for milking and gathering.

In nearly every Berber society, each district, and sometimes each community as well, is divided into two opposing factions called sofs. Membership into the sof is hereditary. Among tribes that no longer live in their original environments, the political units are allied with one another in identical divisions of higher levels known as lefs. Bonds of alliance are re-confirmed by traditional forms of hospitality as well as by huge annual feasts to which members invite one another. If warfare occurs, it is almost exclusively between districts of the opposite lef. However, since lefs are primarily defensive rather than offensive alliances, their primary purpose is to preserve peace in a region.

WHAT ARE THEIR BELIEFS?

The majority of Algerians are Muslims. However, other Berber groups such as the Kabyles, Shawiya, Tuareg, and other Saharan Berbers are only nominally Muslim. Their observances of Islamic law are generally lax.

The concept of baraka, or holiness, is highly developed in North Africa. The Berbers believe that many people are endowed with baraka, of which the holiest are the shurifa, or the direct descendants of Mohammed.

Another class of holy people is known as the marabouts. Among some Berbers, the Tuaregs in particular, the marabouts are considered to be different from ordinary men. They are

believed to possess, even after death, the powers of protection and healing.

WHAT ARE THEIR NEEDS?

The quality of life for the Berbers is quite poor. The need for community development projects may provide open doors through which missionaries may enter.

PRAYER ITEMS

- * Ask the Lord to call people who are willing to go to North Africa and share Christ with the Berbers.
- * Pray that God will raise up loving African Christians to reach out to their Muslim neighbors.
- * Ask God to strengthen, encourage, and protect the small number of Berber Christians who are scattered throughout North Africa.
- * Ask the Holy Spirit to soften the hearts of the Saharan Berbers towards Christians so that they will be receptive to the Gospel.
- * Pray that God will raise up faithful intercessors who will stand in the gap for the Saharan Berbers.
- * Ask the Lord to raise up a strong local church among the Berbers of North Africa.

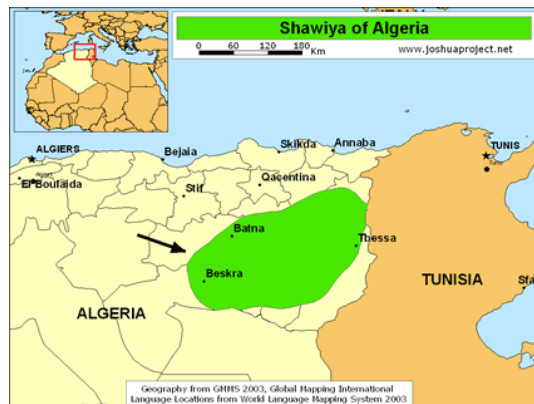
50 Largest UNENGAGED Unreached People Groups

Transform-World: Christ's Missional Challenge - The Last and the Least



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Shawiya of Algeria



People Name	Shawiya
Country	Algeria
10/40 Window	Yes
Population	1,414,000
Language	Tachawit - (shy)
Religion	Islam - Sunni
Bible	Portions
Online Audio NT	No
Jesus Film	Yes
Audio Recordings	Yes
Christ Followers	Less than 2 %
Status	Unreached
Unengaged	Yes

*"Declare His glory among the nations,
His marvelous works among all the peoples!"*

BACKGROUND

The Shawiya (pronounced Shah-wee-ya) is one of the numerous Berber groups in North Africa. The major feature that binds the Shawiya together is their language. Since the 8th century, they have been dominated by the Arabs, who forbade expressions of their language and culture until recent years. They have long been mocked by their countrymen for being simpletons, yet are known for their wisdom.

WHERE ARE THEY LOCATED?

The Shawiya are Berber shepherds living mainly on the Aures Plateau of the Atlas Mountains in northern Algeria and Tunisia. The Africans call this entire region of North Africa Maghrib. The Berber refer to themselves as Imazighen, or "free and noble men."

WHAT ARE THEIR LIVES LIKE?

The original inhabitants of the lowlands of the Sahara Desert were greatly influenced by Arab culture. The Shawiya, however, took refuge in the Atlas Mountains and were able to sustain and preserve their own language, culture, customs, and social organization.

Shawiya villages consist of close-knit, extended family groups, which trace their ancestry through male lineage. Many of the villages are located on the crests of hills. Although they move frequently, the Shawiya never leave the villages unattended. A few people stay behind to guard the granaries and to plant crops.

Traditionally, Berber local government consisted of a jamaa (village council), which included all adult males and legislated according to local custom and law. Arab efforts to modify that system were not very successful, and it has since continued to function alongside the civil government imposed by the state.

In late 1993, after armed Muslims attacked several Berber villages, Berber nationalists proclaimed that they have suffered repression for many years and that the government refuses to recognize Berber identity. In addition, it is reported that the assault by Muslims against the Berber has reached the proportion of full-scale war. There has recently been a series of armed attacks unfolding in the Berber regions of the Kabyle and Shawiya (the town of Batna, in particular).

WHAT ARE THEIR BELIEFS?

After a bitter war, Algeria gained its independence from France and instituted a socialist government. However, independence and the political system that followed have failed dismally. Since independence, the government has zealously encouraged the formation of an Islamic Arab state.

Although they accepted Islam as a new religion, the Berber also maintained their pre-Islamic cultural and ritual traditions. The acceptance of Islam and the adoption of Arabic ways never completely erased Berber culture. Although

they are nominally Sunni Muslims, most Shawiya have little knowledge of the practices of the Koran and other dimensions of Middle Eastern Islam.

WHAT ARE THEIR NEEDS?

After Algeria's independence, Christian missionaries were expelled from the country in several waves. The remaining missionary efforts have since deteriorated. Proselytizing is not allowed, and opposition to the Gospel is intense. As a result, the option of the Gospel has never been fairly presented. Most of Algeria's various peoples, including the Shawiya, remain "unreached" with the Gospel of Jesus.

PRAYER ITEMS

- * Ask the Lord to open the doors of Algeria to the preaching of the Gospel.
- * Ask the Holy Spirit to grant wisdom and favor to any missions agencies focusing on the Shawiya.
- * Ask the Lord Jesus to reveal Himself to the Shawiya through dreams and visions.
- * Pray that God will save key leaders among the Shawiya who will boldly declare the Gospel.
- * Ask God to raise up prayer teams who, through worship and intercession, will begin to break up the soil of the Shawiya hearts to receive the seed of the Gospel.
- * Pray that strong local churches will be raised up among the Shawiya.

50 Largest UNENGAGED Unreached People Groups

Transform-World: Christ's Missional Challenge - The Last and the Least



Photo Source: Travlr

Shachsewenen of Azerbaijan



People Name	Shachsewenen
Country	Azerbaijan
10/40 Window	Yes
Population	258,000
Language	South Azerbaijani - (azb)
Religion	Islam - Sunni
Bible	None
Online Audio NT	No
Jesus Film	No
Audio Recordings	Yes
Christ Followers	Less than 2 %
Status	Unreached
Unengaged	Yes

*"Declare His glory among the nations,
His marvelous works among all the peoples!"*

SUMMARY

Shachsewenen is an alternate name for the Azeri Turks. The term "Azeri" is used formally for these people; however, informally, Azeris and other Turkic speaking populations are colloquially referred to as "Tork" (Turk). Despite some friction in the past, Azerbaijanis came to be "well represented at all levels of political, military, and intellectual hierarchies, as well as the religious hierarchy." The living conditions of Azeris closely resemble that of Persians.

growing availability of the Gospel of Christ.

SCRIPTURE FOCUS

"And the gospel must first be preached to all the nations." Mark 13:10

MINISTRY OBSTACLES

The region of Azerbaijan does not offer easy access to Christian workers.

OUTREACH IDEAS

The Lord is calling many to His name. Perhaps believers will make opportunity to carry the good news of Jesus to the Azeris. Pray the Azeris won't be overlooked by the movement of the Lord's Spirit.

PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWERS OF CHRIST

There are a few believers in Christ among the Azeris at present; pray they will grow both in numbers and in degree of commitment to know and follow Christ. They need prayer support, and they need to fellowship together.

PRAY FOR THE ENTIRE PEOPLE GROUP

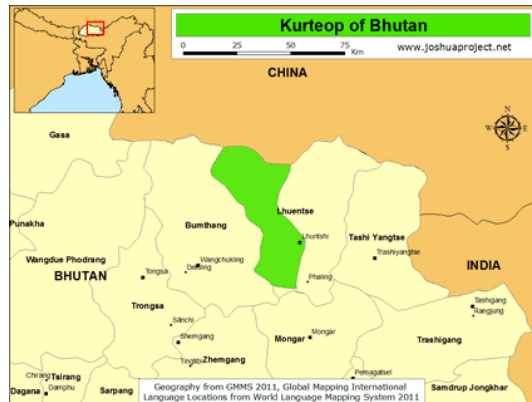
Pray the Azeris will increasingly be drawn to Isa (Jesus) as he is referred to in the Koran. Pray for growing interest in this Man, for a desire to find out more. Pray this interest will be met with a

50 Largest UNENGAGED Unreached People Groups

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Gurtu of Bhutan



People Name	Gurtu
Country	Bhutan
10/40 Window	Yes
Population	175,000
Language	Kurtokha - (xkz)
Religion	Buddhism
Bible	None
Online Audio NT	No
Jesus Film	No
Audio Recordings	No
Christ Followers	Less than 2 %
Status	Unreached
Unengaged	Yes

Photo Source: Galen Frysjer

*"Declare His glory among the nations,
His marvelous works among all the peoples!"*

BACKGROUND

More than 10,000 Kurtop people inhabit areas of northern Bhutan, as far north as the border with China. Lhuntse District is home to the Kurtop. One scholar has given a detailed description of the extent of the Kurtop territory: 'Kurtop is a language of Lhuntse District spoken to the west of the mighty Kurichu [River] all the way to the Tibetan border in the north. The language is known to its speakers by the names Kurtötka and Kurtöbi Zhakê.

WHERE ARE THEY LOCATED?

At the southern end, the Kurtop speaking area begins at the village of Tangmachu, south of which Chocangcakha [Matpa] is spoken. The dialect of Tangmachu, located about 5 kilometers [three miles] south of Lhuntse, as the crow flies, differs somewhat from that of the rest of the language as it is spoken elsewhere in Kurto. The Kurichu River separates the Kurto and the Dzala language areas in the east. In the west the Bumthang area begins as one crosses the mountains via the Rodungla.'

Lhuntse District is extremely isolated. As recently as 1998 one book noted, 'It is very rural and there are fewer than five vehicles, including the ambulance, and not a single petrol station in the whole district. Formerly known as Kurtoe, the region is the ancestral home of Bhutan's royal family. Though geographically in the east, it was culturally identified with central Bhutan, and the high route over Rodang La was a major trade route until the road to Mongar was

completed.'

WHAT ARE THEIR LIVES LIKE?

Regarding the actual township of Lhuntse, it has been reported, 'There is little to see and do here, but the dzong (fort-monastery) is one of the most picturesque in Bhutan. There are a few food shops and food stalls along the road as it enters the town.' Lhuntse is famous in Bhutan for its weaving, embroidery and basket-making. There is no large-scale industry here, but many families earn their livelihood by weaving in their homes.

A two-day walk from Lhuntse up the Kurichu River is the Kurtop village of Dungkhar. Bhutan's royal family, the Wangchuks, trace their ancestry from here. Jigme Namgyal, the father of the first king, was born here in 1825. This fact, understandably, is a cause of great pride among the people in this remote outpost. Although many Westerners seem to believe the myth that the Buddhist peoples of the world live in perfect peace and harmony with one another, this part of Bhutan has witnessed much death and mayhem during repeated Tibetan invasions. The fifth Dalai Lama 'became jealous of the growing influence of the rival Drukpas on his southern border and mounted further invasions into Bhutan in 1648 and 1649. They were repelled, and the Bhutanese captured large amounts of armor, weapons and other spoils.'

WHAT ARE THEIR BELIEFS?

Tibetan Buddhism dominates the lives of all people in this part of Bhutan. It is considered a great honor for a family to send its sons to the monastery for a time. The name of Jesus Christ has rarely been heard in the remote Lhuntse valleys, and there are no known Christians among the Kurtop people.

REFERENCES

Hattaway, Paul, Peoples of the Buddhist World: A Christian Prayer Guide., William Carey 2004, pg. 146.

50 Largest UNENGAGED Unreached People Groups

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Aoka of China



People Name	Aoka
Country	China
10/40 Window	Yes
Population	327,000
Language	Xiang Chinese - (hsn)
Religion	Other Religions
Bible	Questionable Need
Online Audio NT	No
Jesus Film	Yes
Audio Recordings	Yes
Christ Followers	Less than 2 %
Status	Unreached
Unengaged	Yes

*"Declare His glory among the nations,
His marvelous works among all the peoples!"*

IDENTITY

Although they are officially part of the Miao nationality, the Aoka speak a unique Chinese language - a fact they apparently refuse to accept. When linguists visited them and told them that they spoke a form of Chinese, "they claimed that they spoke Miao, because their speech was very different from that of the surrounding Chinese population, and because they wore Miao clothes instead of Chinese clothes."

HISTORY

In the aftermath of Chinese wars against them, the ancestors of the Aoka were launched into an era of migration. Tired of being harassed, they fled across mountain ranges in hope of finding an isolated place where they could be left alone to live their lives. Many of the ethnic groups now known as the Hmu also traveled into Hunan and Guangxi. They may be the ancestors of the Aoka. After centuries of living beside the all-powerful Han Chinese, the Aoka have lost their language and are being speedily assimilated to the Han Chinese language and culture.

CUSTOMS

Aoka communities work together as one to design and build homes for each other. During a crisis, all the people come together to find a solution. In many villages, the Aoka believe the stove is the center of their home and they are afraid to offend the "spirit of the stove". They are forbidden to place their feet or shoes on the

stove, and at night they must remove all pots and pans from it: not to do so is believed to bring a curse to the family.

RELIGION

Some Aoka believe there was once a ladder connecting heaven to the earth. A long time ago the ladder was broken and no people have been able to visit heaven since. Today the majority of Aoka are animists, living under the influence of demons and evil spirits. Many have also adopted the ancestor worship belief systems of their Han Chinese neighbors. The animistic beliefs of the Aoka can be a foundation for belief in the creator God.

CHRISTIANITY

More than three-quarters of Aoka people have yet to hear the gospel for the first time. No widespread mission effort was undertaken in their area before missionaries were expelled from China in the early 1950s. There are few Miao or Han Chinese Christian communities in that part of China today. Hunan remains one of the most unreached provinces in China. Although they have their own spoken language, the Aoka use the Chinese script for writing. Few Aoka, however, are literate enough to read the Chinese Bible or other evangelistic literature.

PRAYER ITEMS

* There are a few followers of Christ among the Aoka community. Pray they will be adequately taught the truths of Scripture, and grow in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

* Pray for unity, around truth.

* Pray the Aoka community will be able to retain their cultural heritage, and live harmoniously with their neighbors.

50 Largest UNENGAGED Unreached People Groups

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Bunu of China



People Name	Bunu
Country	China
10/40 Window	Yes
Population	408,000
Language	Bu-Nao Bunu - (bwx)
Religion	Other Religions
Bible	None
Online Audio NT	No
Jesus Film	No
Audio Recordings	Yes
Christ Followers	Less than 2 %
Status	Unreached
Unengaged	Yes

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*"Declare His glory among the nations,
His marvelous works among all the peoples!"*

IDENTITY

The Bunu were counted separately in the 1982 census before being included under the Yao nationality in China. The name Bunu is a generic term, simply meaning "us people." About 100,000 people, who do not fit into any of the recognized subgroups of Bunu, speak Zhuang as their mother tongue. One linguist notes, "The classification of the Bunu languages and dialects is very complicated. The Bunu people are actually regarded either by themselves and/or by the Chinese as Yao ethnically. However, the languages spoken by the Bunu are actually dialects of Hmong (Miao)."

HISTORY

Over many centuries the Bunu were forced to migrate south to their present location. The Chinese and Zhuang often seized Bunu land and slaughtered entire communities.

CUSTOMS

Bunu women rule over their families. "If the couple do not get along well, the husband may go back to his own home and the wife may find another man. The husband has no right to claim any property belonging to the wife's family. In such a marriage arrangement it is the husband who takes orders from his wife."

RELIGION

The Bunu worship Pan Hu who they believe created the universe. "In ancient times, the world was a chaos, Heaven and earth were still

inanimate, with no sun or moon, no Yin and Yang, no day and night. At that time our holy King Pan Hu was first born to the world, he built the heavens and created the earth, he installed mountains and rivers, made the sun, moon and stars, and set up the 10,000 countries and the nine territories." They also have a legend of a great flood which destroyed the earth. At thanksgiving rituals in honor of King Pan, the Bunu still sing: "All the people in the world had been drowned by a flood. We brother and sister got married, the flower entered her body."

CHRISTIANITY

The Bunu are one of the largest people groups in China without a single known church. There are believed to be only a small number of scattered Bunu believers. The Bunu's complex ethnolinguistic diversity has kept them from hearing the gospel. "They consist of people from many language groups. Because of these language distinctions, it creates certain difficulties for evangelizing them. This means that different sets of Scriptures will need to be translated, different languages of the Jesus film translated, and so forth."

50 Largest UNENGAGED Unreached People Groups

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Dong, Northern of China



People Name	Dong, Northern
Country	China
10/40 Window	Yes
Population	1,335,000
Language	Northern Dong - (doc)
Religion	East Asia Religions
Bible	None
Online Audio NT	No
Jesus Film	No
Audio Recordings	No
Christ Followers	Less than 2 %
Status	Unreached
Unengaged	Yes

*"Declare His glory among the nations,
His marvelous works among all the peoples!"*

IDENTITY

Although the Northern and Southern Dong speak different languages, they have been combined to form the official Dong nationality in China. The two groups are also culturally different. The Northern Dong have been assimilated into Chinese culture much more than their southern counterparts. The Dong call themselves Kam.

HISTORY

The Dong were not known by that name until this century. In the past they were part of the ancient Yue race, which dominated southern China. The Dong have many ancient myths and legends about the origin of the world.

CUSTOMS

One of the visually striking aspects of a Dong community is the Drum Tower. For centuries, the Dong have used the tower as the rallying point of the community: a place where the village gathers for an emergency, celebrates a wedding, and where young Dong couples sing love songs to each other. One source states that there are more than 30 distinct Dong dialect groups in China, and that marriage is rare between members of the various groups.

RELIGION

The Dong believe in many gods. They regard certain mountains, trees, stones, and other nonhuman objects as sacred. This is reflected in the Dong custom of planting a fir tree for each newborn baby. A form of black magic, called Tu,

is practiced by some Dong in remote areas. The Kitchen god is worshiped during the Spring and Fall festivals. A growing number of Dong youth are nonreligious.

CHRISTIANITY

Although they are considered relatively open to the gospel, the Dong remain one of the most neglected minority groups in China. Today there are an estimated 600 Northern Dong Christians, a meager number considering their large population of more than one million. Most Dong have never heard the gospel. Both Protestant and Catholic missionaries were active among the Dong prior to the introduction of Communism in 1949. Several churches were built, but the gospel never took a firm hold among the Dong. Efforts are underway to produce a Roman script for them. Many Northern Dong could now be reached by Chinese-language media.

50 Largest UNENGAGED Unreached People Groups

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Hongjin Tai of China



People Name	Hongjin Tai
Country	China
10/40 Window	Yes
Population	183,000
Language	Tai Hongjin - (tiz)
Religion	Other Religions
Bible	None
Online Audio NT	No
Jesus Film	No
Audio Recordings	No
Christ Followers	Less than 2 %
Status	Unreached
Unengaged	Yes

*"Declare His glory among the nations,
His marvelous works among all the peoples!"*

IDENTITY

The Hongjin Tai are also known in the Wuding area as the Hua Gongji (Flowery Rooster) Tai. The description of Hongjin Tai seems to be a broad one and may be a generic description of those Tai groups in China who do not fit into one of the recognized classifications.

HISTORY

The golden era of the Tai (Dai) nationality in China began in 1340 when the Tai chief, Sifeka, established an independent kingdom in Luchuan (present-day Dehong). The kingdom lasted for 100 years, until it was attacked by Ming Dynasty troops from 1441 to 1448. An army of 150,000 soldiers was mobilized from all over China to attack the Tai Kingdom and bring it to its knees. To this day the Tai have never again had their own homeland in China. Numerous Tai fled the warfare and scattered throughout southern China - they are the ancestors of today's Hongjin Tai. Those living along the Yangtze River in northern Yunnan are described as "a hidden pocket of 10,000 Tais who long ago moved far away from their southwest homeland."

CUSTOMS

Many of the Hongjin Tai have assimilated to Chinese culture. Few now wear any traditional clothing, and many of their children cannot speak the language.

RELIGION

Various Hongjin Tai groups practice different religions depending upon their location. These

include animism, polytheism, and Theravada Buddhism.

CHRISTIANITY

There are approximately 1,000 Hongjin Tai Christians in the Luquan area of northern Yunnan. The China Inland Mission commenced work among them in the early 1900s. In the 1980s "the Lipo used Mandarin Chinese to bring the Gospel to the Hua Gongji ('Flowery Rooster') tribe. ... So many hundreds of Tais have come to the Lord ... this year they have dedicated their first church." The Hongjin Tai living in the southern part of Sichuan Province were visited in 1914 by William Dodd, a missionary working in northern Thailand. Seventeen Hongjin Tai families soon became Christians. Dodd taught them to read the Northern Thai script, enabling them to read the Bible. It is not known if they still use this script - which is practically extinct in Thailand. Dodd reported, "Three families from the same village destroyed their idols and put away all traces of demon worship, accepted Christ and came for study faithfully. There are but thirty families in the village and twenty of them are now Christian."

50 Largest UNENGAGED Unreached People Groups

Transform-World: Christ's Missional Challenge - The Last and the Least



Miao, Mashan of China



People Name	Miao, Mashan
Country	China
10/40 Window	Yes
Population	203,000
Language	Western Mashan Hmong
Religion	Other Religions
Bible	None
Online Audio NT	No
Jesus Film	No
Audio Recordings	Yes
Christ Followers	Less than 2 %
Status	Unreached
Unengaged	Yes

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*"Declare His glory among the nations,
His marvelous works among all the peoples!"*

IDENTITY

The minority peoples of southern Guizhou are among the poorest in Asia and face mounting health risks. According to United Nation's figures for the late 1980s, only 22% of Guizhou's rural villages had access to an improved water source (running water, pump, or well). "The main source is usually a river or pond which is affected by droughts and almost always polluted from factory waste, seepage of agricultural chemicals, and human and animal waste."

LANGUAGE

The Western Mashan Miao language - which has 13 recognizable tones - does not have a written script.

HISTORY

A festival on the eighth day of the fourth lunar month commemorates the death of Ya Nu, who was killed in action as he led the Miao into battle against the Chinese 1,700 years ago.

CUSTOMS

The majority of Western Mashan Miao are hardworking peasants. They are also talented musicians, composing songs for festivals and creating energetic and demonstrative dances. Because of the region's mountainous terrain, it often takes several hours to walk down into the valley and up again to reach a village on a nearby hill. Without the use of telephones, the Miao have learned to project their voices across the valleys and trees to reach a neighboring

village.

RELIGION

The Western Mashan Miao put their trust in the spirit world. If a crop fails or a woman cannot produce children to help with work in the fields, the village could face starvation. As a result, an intricate system of spirit appeasement gradually developed. The Miao believe that if they make peace with the spirits, the survival and prosperity of their communities will be ensured.

CHRISTIANITY

The Western Mashan Miao have no knowledge of the gospel. Little has changed since William Clifton Dodd traveled through southern China in the 1920s: "It was a Christless land that we passed through. A man can endure a few days of absolute heathenism if he has a few Christian companions. But to foot it for a thousand miles without any sight or sound giving any evidence of anything Christian, to march as boldly as may be for so long and so far against such a blank wall of heathenism; this is to enter the land of darkness that may be felt."

50 Largest UNENGAGED Unreached People Groups

Transform-World: Christ's Missional Challenge - The Last and the Least



Pingdi Yao of China



People Name	Pingdi Yao
Country	China
10/40 Window	Yes
Population	1,404,000
Language	Xiang Chinese - (hsn)
Religion	Other Religions
Bible	Questionable Need
Online Audio NT	No
Jesus Film	Yes
Audio Recordings	Yes
Christ Followers	Less than 2 %
Status	Unreached
Unengaged	Yes

*"Declare His glory among the nations,
His marvelous works among all the peoples!"*

IDENTITY

In the 1990 national census, about half of the Pingdi were included under the Yao nationality, while the other half were included under Han Chinese. It appears the Pingdi speakers are a complicated mixture of Yao people who became Sinicized and, on the other hand, Han Chinese people who became "minoritized." Although those Pingdi who have been counted as Yao speak a Chinese language, one study of the Yao states that even though "they have many branches, with different names, languages, customs, and economy, they preserve their common psychological quality which holds their ethnic group together."

HISTORY

The numerous Yao groups in China have splintered into their present divisions after centuries of forced migration. One historian notes, "The Yao were a very large component in the Man or Southern Barbarian tribes, pushed southwestwards over millennia by the Chinese. In fact the term Man is sometimes still used to refer to the Yao."

CUSTOMS

The Pingdi area is rarely visited by outsiders. As a result, they have minimal interaction with other people groups. The majority of Pingdi are simple farmers engaged in rice cultivation.

RELIGION

Many Yao groups have a legend of a great flood. "Because the flood overflowed up to the sky for

seven days and seven nights, on earth there were no people left except for Fuxi and his younger sister. Begging a Chinese tree to be their go-between, they became husband and wife. They gave birth to a lump of flesh, which they cut into 360 pieces and scattered around. Those pieces scattered in the green mountains changed into the Yao, the others became the Chinese people."

CHRISTIANITY

In the ancient past the Yao had a legend of a Creator god. The Yao claim, "Ages ago ... before we crossed the sea, we worshipped someone called Tin Zay, who lives in heaven and is a holy god." For centuries the Pingdi have lived and died without any knowledge of Christ and without a strong church in their midst. Although there is a Yao New Testament available in the Lu Mien language, the Pingdi speak a different language from Lu Mien.

50 Largest UNENGAGED Unreached People Groups

Transform-World: Christ's Missional Challenge - The Last and the Least



Photo Source: Paul Noll

Shui of China



People Name	Shui
Country	China
10/40 Window	Yes
Population	500,000
Language	Sui - (swi)
Religion	Other Religions
Bible	None
Online Audio NT	No
Jesus Film	Yes
Audio Recordings	Yes
Christ Followers	Less than 2 %
Status	Unreached
Unengaged	Yes

*"Declare His glory among the nations,
His marvelous works among all the peoples!"*

IDENTITY

The Shui are one of China's 55 official minorities. Their name, which means "water" in Chinese, reflects their history. They were originally part of the Luo-yue tribe who lived along China's southeastern coast. Centuries later they were forced to migrate inland to their present mountainous location. Today the Shui still have more than ten different words for "fish."

HISTORY

The Shui are proud of their history, which dates back as far as 200 BC in Chinese records. The Shui have traditionally enjoyed good relationships with the Chinese. A Shui man, Teng Enming, was a founding member of the Chinese Communist Party.

CUSTOMS

Shui women wear a white headdress for three years after the death of a relative. After the three-year period they can wear black again. Most Shui village leaders are able to read the 500 to 600-year-old ancient Shui script. The book contains a Shui code of ethics and behavior. Some leaders are teaching the script to young Shui boys. The Shui live in villages that are arranged according to family clans.

RELIGION

All Shui worship their ancestors. This is considered their main religion. It keeps them in bondage to the past and prevents them from receiving Christ, because to do so would be

considered an insult to their ancestors.

CHRISTIANITY

Several French Catholic missionaries first went to the Shui in 1884. By the early 1900s some 30 Catholic churches and 5,000 Shui Christians existed. However, all the believers were put to death or fell away during the anti-Christian movement of 1906. In recent years, missionaries have traveled to the villages that formerly contained Catholic churches and have not found a trace of Christianity remaining - neither old buildings nor any knowledge of the gospel among the people. Today there are reported to be only "a small number of Christians" among the Shui. Another source adds, "a handful of Catholic believers remain." A breakthrough came in late 1997 and 1998 when approximately 100 Shui people came to Christ and were being discipled by Chinese believers.

PRAYER ITEMS

- * Pray for Scripture and other resources to be made available to Shui believers, and that they will utilize them diligently.
- * Pray they will have nothing to do with the deeds of darkness, living as children of light.
- * Pray the Lord will release the Shui from bondage to ancestral worship, leading to freedom in Christ.

50 Largest UNENGAGED Unreached People Groups

Transform-World: Christ's Missional Challenge - The Last and the Least



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Zhuang, Guibian of China



People Name	Zhuang, Guibian
Country	China
10/40 Window	Yes
Population	1,109,000
Language	Guibian Zhuang - (zgn)
Religion	Other Religions
Bible	None
Online Audio NT	No
Jesus Film	Yes
Audio Recordings	No
Christ Followers	Less than 2 %
Status	Unreached
Unengaged	Yes

*"Declare His glory among the nations,
His marvelous works among all the peoples!"*

IDENTITY

The Zhuang (Yongnan, Dai, Nong, Yang, Zuojiang) are a collection of related Central Tai language groups which have been combined with the Northern Zhuang - a collection of Northern Tai language groups - to form China's official Zhuang nationality. There are many tribes, clans, and self designations among the Zhuang. Names such as Debao and Heiyi frequently appear in Chinese linguistic research.

HISTORY

During the Qin Dynasty (221-207 BC), half a million Han convicts were exiled by Emperor Qin Shihuang to the Lingnan region in southern China (now Guangxi and Guangdong). There they intermingled with the various branches of the Bai Yue nationality. The Zhuang today are thought to be the descendants of the Bai Yue. Historically, the Zhuang were called Tuliao or Sharen.

CUSTOMS

Because they are primarily engaged in agriculture, the Zhuang are also locally known as the T'u or "People of the Soil." Their homes are usually built on stilts. A newly married woman stays with her parents until after the birth of the first child. Only then does she go to live with her husband in his village.

RELIGION

The Zhuang are a superstitious people. They are careful not to offend the spirit world that surrounds them. They believe in the spirits of

the water, forest, mountain, village, etc.

CHRISTIANITY

The first Protestant missionary to the Zhuang was R. H. Graves, a Southern Baptist, who arrived in Guangxi in 1862. In 1895 the Christian & Missionary Alliance commenced work in Guangxi. They established 65 churches over a 50-year period. Most of these churches were attended by Han Chinese, but small numbers of Zhuang also attended. The Zhuang have great linguistic diversity. Little has changed since this 1922 report describing Guangxi: "There are 58 cities, 700 market towns, and over 17,000 villages, all teeming with human lives for whom no effort whatever is being put forth."

People Group Profile

Country: Egypt

People Group: Ababda

Population in Country: 183,692

People Group Code (PEID) 11957

AB: Horn of Africa



PC: Beja



Engagement Status--An engaged people group is one in which church planting strategy is being implemented by a partner in a manner consistent with evangelical faith and practice. Consider whether there is a pioneering effort in residence, a commitment to working in the local language and culture, a commitment to long-term ministry, and sowing in a manner consistent with seeing a church planting movement emerge.

Unengaged

Status of Evangelical Christianity--The Status of Evangelical Christianity is a model for describing the progress of the Gospel among people groups whether they are currently engaged or not. The extent to which a people group is evangelical Christian, accessibility to the Gospel and evangelical church planting progress are considered.

GSEC 1 less than 2% evangelical and have not had any new churches in the last 2 years

In this people group, there are no congregations and there are evangelicals

Heart Language for This People Group - (Language Code Sudanese Arabic - (apd)

Primary Religion for this People Group Islam

Resources

Written Scripture: Yes

Jesus Film: Yes

Radio Broadcast: Yes

Gospel Recording: Yes

Country Conditions

Physical Exertion: Medium

Freedom Index: Not Free

Government Restrictions Index: Very High

Social Hostilities Index: High

Threat Level: High

50 Largest UNENGAGED Unreached People Groups

Transform-World: Christ's Missional Challenge - The Last and the Least



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Domari Gypsy of Egypt



People Name	Domari Gypsy
Country	Egypt
10/40 Window	Yes
Population	1,602,000
Language	Domari - (rmt)
Religion	Islam - Sunni
Bible	None
Online Audio NT	No
Jesus Film	No
Audio Recordings	Yes
Christ Followers	Less than 2 %
Status	Unreached
Unengaged	Yes

*"Declare His glory among the nations,
His marvelous works among all the peoples!"*

BACKGROUND

Gypsies, often called Romani or Domari, are made up of two groups: the Ghorbati and the Nawari. Both groups speak a dialect of the Gypsy language called Romany, which is related to the North Indo-Aryan language of India. Their dialect, Domari, contains many Arabic words.

Gypsies originated in India where they worked as musicians, entertainers, and metal workers. There they were discriminated against and excluded from the temples. Later, they were sent to Persia as minstrels. From there they were separated into two groups. One traveled northward and became the Romany-speaking European Gypsies. The other traveled southward and became known as the Domari, or Middle Eastern Gypsies.

WHAT ARE THEIR LIVES LIKE?

Dark skin and dark eyes are typical of most Gypsies. Their almost "mystical" lifestyle has made them the objects of curiosity, distrust, and even fear, from their beginnings until now. However, they are a proud and dignified people often not deserving a negative reputation.

The Gypsies live scattered throughout much of the world. Most of them are nomads, wandering from region to region, and they depend on a variety of entrepreneurial skills for their livelihood. It is common for Gypsies to have two or more specialized occupations. This makes it easier for them to adapt to a changing society's needs. When a region's people no

longer need a Gypsy's particular skill, they move on to one that will.

Gypsies have long been known for their abilities as musicians, singers, and dancers. They also hold a wide variety of other occupations. The men are skilled makers of sieves, drums, bird cages, and reed mats. They also entertain with animals, work as tinkers, or play music. The women sometimes sell such things as cloth, shoes, kitchen utensils, or other products made by Gypsy men. Many also sing and dance. Both men and women shear sheep, spin wool, and tell fortunes. Sadly, some of the women and children are forced to beg for food as a means of survival.

Values such as justice, fidelity, and morality are very significant in Gypsy society. Such things as courtesy and friendliness are also very important. The control of deviants is strictly enforced. If a Gypsy becomes impure by some immoral or unlawful act, he is considered an outcast. Also, sexual purity is considered a must for young girls. In fact, it must be proven before marriage that the girl has never before been with a man. This strict social code is related to their old Hindu caste system which they have kept since their origin.

WHAT ARE THEIR BELIEFS?

The Middle East Gypsies are often Muslim and they follow the practices and beliefs of the Islamic faith. The traditional beliefs of the Gypsies such as that ghosts, lizards, and snakes

are capable of harming humans, that men have the power to curse others by giving them the "evil eye," and that some people have the power to heal the sick are no longer held by most Gypsies. There are a growing number of Christian Gypsies.

WHAT ARE THEIR NEEDS?

The quality of health care, nutrition, housing, and education is poor. Adequate educational opportunities must be provided in order to raise their standard of living.

Spiritually, the Islamic religion is very difficult to influence. Their nomadic lifestyle has also made it difficult for missionaries to reach them. It is encouraging to hear of recent breakthroughs in ministering to Gypsies.

PRAYER ITEMS

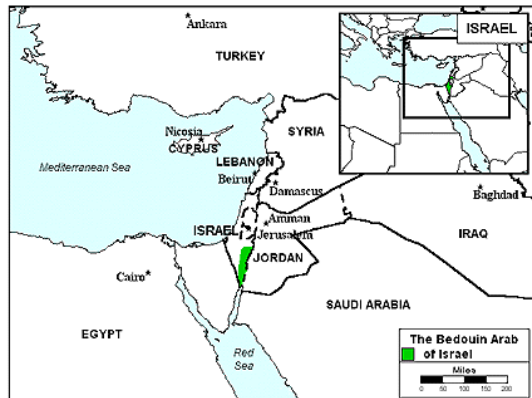
- * Ask the Lord to call people who are willing to share Christ with the Gypsies.
- * Ask God to strengthen, encourage, and protect the small number of Gypsy Christians.
- * Pray that those Gypsies who know Christ will be bold witnesses of the Gospel to their own people.
- * Ask the Holy Spirit to soften the hearts of Gypsies towards Christians so that they will be receptive to the Gospel.
- * Pray that God will raise up intercessors who will stand in the gap for them.

50 Largest UNENGAGED Unreached People Groups

Transform-World: Christ's Missional Challenge - The Last and the Least



Levantine Bedawi of Egypt



People Name	Levantine Bedawi
Country	Egypt
10/40 Window	Yes
Population	1,009,000
Language	Eastern Egyptian Bedawi
Religion	Islam - Sunni
Bible	None
Online Audio NT	No
Jesus Film	No
Audio Recordings	Yes
Christ Followers	Less than 2 %
Status	Unreached
Unengaged	Yes

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*"Declare His glory among the nations,
His marvelous works among all the peoples!"*

BACKGROUND

The traditional homeland of the Bedouin Arab is the Arabian Desert. Some Bedouin groups have migrated north into the Negev Desert region of Israel. Most are sheep and goat herders. The largest of these groups are the Banu Sakhr and the al-Huwaytat.

The Bedouin fall into two basic social classes. One class is known as the "true" Bedouin, and they live as nomadic shepherds. The other group has embraced farming and is known as the fellahin. The fellahin lead a more settled life on the edge of the desert. In contrast, the "true" Bedouin have been known for raiding any caravans that cross their path while journeying across barren deserts. They move into the desert during the rainy winter seasons and back to the desert's edge during the hot, dry summers. They speak Badawi, or as it is more commonly called, Bedouin Arabic.

WHAT ARE THEIR LIVES LIKE?

The Bedouin Arab have a relatively harsh existence. The nomads have no permanent homes, but live in portable, black tents made from woven, goat hair. The tents are divided by a decorative partition called a gata. Half of the tent is for the women, children, cooking utensils, and storage. The other half contains a fireplace and is used for entertaining. The women do most of the work, while the men socialize and make plans for the group.

Dairy products are the main food source for the

Bedouin. Milk from camels and goats is made into yogurt and butter. Most of their meals consist of at least a bowl of milk, yogurt, or rice. Round loaves of unleavened bread are served when available. Dates, which can be found in desert oases, are eaten for dessert. Meat is only served on special occasions such as marriage feasts, ceremonial events, or when guests are present.

Although the Bedouin once considered it degrading to have manual labor jobs, this has changed somewhat in recent years. Due to the need for better health conditions, more money, and better living conditions, some have accepted wage-paying jobs. However, most of them still despise this type of work.

WHAT ARE THEIR BELIEFS?

Islam has greatly influenced the lives of the Bedouin. For example, to preserve their people, the Bedouin are only allowed to marry those inside their own group. Also, the society is patrilineal, which means that inheritances are passed down through the males.

WHAT ARE THEIR NEEDS?

According to Islamic law, a Muslim who professes faith in Jesus Christ could be put to death. Perhaps this explains why there are so few known Bedouin believers in Israel at the present time.

Evangelization efforts among the Bedouin are challenging due to the harsh and unsettled

nature of their lifestyle. Missionaries who are able to endure the severe conditions of the Negev Desert are needed.

PRAYER ITEMS

- * Pray for the Bedouin, that they will hunger to know the forgiveness and fulfillment found only through Christ.
- * There are few if any believers among these Bedouin peoples, but pray for those that will someday believe.
- * Ask God to strengthen, encourage, and protect the few known Christian Bedouin living in Israel.
- * Ask the Lord to call people who are willing to reach out and share the love of Christ with them.
- * Pray that God will raise up faithful intercessors who will stand in the gap for the Bedouin.
- * Pray that their traditional Muslim culture will soften, creating open doors for the Gospel to be preached among them.
- * Ask the Holy Spirit to open the hearts of the Bedouin Arab towards Christians so that they will be receptive to the Gospel.
- * Pray that God will reveal Himself to them through dreams and visions.
- * Ask the Lord to raise up strong local churches among the Bedouin.

50 Largest UNENGAGED Unreached People Groups

Transform-World: Christ's Missional Challenge - The Last and the Least



Photo Source: Frontiers

Afshari of Iran



People Name	Afshari
Country	Iran
10/40 Window	Yes
Population	200,000
Language	South Azerbaijani - (azb)
Religion	Islam - Shia
Bible	None
Online Audio NT	No
Jesus Film	No
Audio Recordings	Yes
Christ Followers	Less than 2 %
Status	Unreached
Unengaged	Yes

*"Declare His glory among the nations,
His marvelous works among all the peoples!"*

BACKGROUND

The Afshari are descendants from the larger Azerbaijani people cluster that occupies a wide area from Caucasus to the Iranian plateau. The Afshars (sometimes spelled Avshar) are a nomadic turkic tribe which originated in central Asia and is now found in parts of Iran, Syria and Turkey. Many Afshari make their home in the area surrounding the Iranian city of Kerman.

WHAT ARE THEIR LIVES LIKE?

The Afshari are well known as skilled carpet weavers. The men practice animal husbandry, while the women sell their highly prized rugs, runners and decorative pieces. Their large families live in tents in tents hand-woven from black goat hair. They are semi-nomadic, moving between winter and summer pasture lands. In recent decades trucks and motorcycles have replaced camels and horses. Most Afshari families own a radio and a cassette recorder, they are connected to the world by radio and they love to listen to music.

WHAT ARE THEIR BELIEFS?

The Afshari are primarily Muslims of the ithna ashari tradition but there are some Hanafite Muslims as well. Isla, among the Afshari is a reflection of the historical ties that exist between Azerbaijan and Iran. Until the twentieth century, most Afshari identified themselves as Muslim rather than Azerbaijani. They believe that being a "spiritual community of Islam" was much more important than being a nation. Among the Afshari, religious practices

are less restrictive of women's activities than in most of Muslim countries. The majority of Afshari have jobs outside the home and a few have attained leadership positions. However, some evidence of the traditional, restrictive female role remains.

WHAT ARE THEIR NEEDS?

The Afshari living in Iran are very resistant to the Gospel. Currently, there are no known believers among them. The availability of the Jesus film and scriptures are all positive aspects. But with only one missions agency targeting them, reaching the Afshari remains a difficult task.

PRAYER ITEMS

Pray for Christian radio programming in the Afshari dialect of Azerbaijani. Pray that gospel recordings will soon be distributed in their communities. Pray for God to reveal Himself in visions and dreams to these least-reached, unengaged people. Pray that Afshari people who may have studied abroad and become believers in Christ will return to their people and spread the gospel.

50 Largest UNENGAGED Unreached People Groups

Transform-World: Christ's Missional Challenge - The Last and the Least



Copyright © James Gordon

Arab, Bedouin of Iraq



People Name	Arab, Bedouin
Country	Iraq
10/40 Window	Yes
Population	1,532,000
Language	Najdi Arabic - (ars)
Religion	Islam
Bible	None
Online Audio NT	No
Jesus Film	No
Audio Recordings	Yes
Christ Followers	Less than 2 %
Status	Unreached
Unengaged	Yes

*"Declare His glory among the nations,
His marvelous works among all the peoples!"*

BACKGROUND

The traditional homeland of the Bedouin Arab is the Arabian Desert; however, some Bedouin groups have migrated north into the Negev Desert region. Jordan was one of the first lands to be inhabited by the Bedouin, and today many Bedouin still live there, primarily raising sheep and goats.

The Bedouin fall into two basic social classes. One class is known as the "true" Bedouin, and they live as nomadic shepherds. The other group has embraced farming and is known as the fellahin. The fellahin lead a more settled life on the edge of the desert. In contrast, the "true" Bedouin have been known for raiding any caravans that cross their paths while journeying across barren deserts. They move into the desert during the rainy winter seasons and back to the desert's edge during the hot, dry summers. They speak Badawi, or as it is more commonly called, Bedouin Arabic.

WHAT ARE THEIR LIVES LIKE?

The Bedouin Arab have a relatively harsh existence. The nomads have no permanent homes, but live in portable, black tents made from woven, goat hair. The tents are divided by a decorative partition called a gata. Half of the tent is for the women, children, cooking utensils, and storage. The other half contains a fireplace and is used for entertaining. The women do most of the work, while the men socialize and make plans for the group.

To endure the extreme heat of the desert, the Bedouin wear lightweight, light-colored clothing. It is very loose-fitting, allowing for the circulation of air.

Although the Bedouin once considered it degrading to have manual labor jobs, this has changed somewhat in recent years. Due to the need for better health conditions, more money, and better living conditions, some have accepted wage-paying jobs. However, most of them still despise this type of work.

WHAT ARE THEIR BELIEFS?

Almost all of the Bedouin in Jordan are Sunni Muslims. Islam is based on the teachings of the prophet, Mohammed. The Koran ("holy book" of Islam) was supposedly given to Mohammed by the angel Gabriel.

Islam is a religion of works that is centered on five basic "pillars." (1) A Muslim must affirm that "there is no god but Allah, and Mohammed is his prophet." (2) Five times a day he must pray while facing Mecca. (3) He must give alms generously. (4) He must fast during Ramadan, the ninth month of the Muslim year. (5) He must try to make at least one pilgrimage to Mecca in his lifetime.

Islam has greatly influenced the lives of the Bedouin. For example, to preserve their people, the Bedouin are only allowed to marry those inside their own group. Also, the society is patrilineal, which means that inheritances are

passed down through the males.

WHAT ARE THEIR NEEDS?

According to Islamic law, a Muslim who professes faith in Jesus Christ could be put to death. Perhaps this explains why there are only a few known Bedouin believers in Jordan at the present time.

Evangelization efforts among the Bedouin are challenging due to the harsh and unsettled nature of their lifestyle. Missionaries who are able to endure the severe conditions of the Negev Desert are needed.

PRAYER ITEMS

- * Ask the Lord to call people who are willing to reach out and share the love of Christ with them.
- * Pray that God will raise up faithful intercessors who will stand in the gap for the Bedouin.
- * Ask God to strengthen, encourage, and protect the few known Christian Bedouin living in Jordan.
- * Pray their traditional Muslim culture will soften, creating open doors for the Gospel to be preached among them.
- * Ask the Holy Spirit to open the hearts of the Bedouin Arab towards Christians so that they will be receptive to the Gospel.
- * Pray that God will reveal Himself to them through dreams and visions.

People Group Profile

Country: Iraq

People Group: Marsh Arab

Population in Country: 216,486

People Group Code (PEID) 47595

AB: Arab World



PC: Arab, Levant



Engagement Status--An engaged people group is one in which church planting strategy is being implemented by a partner in a manner consistent with evangelical faith and practice. Consider whether there is a pioneering effort in residence, a commitment to working in the local language and culture, a commitment to long-term ministry, and sowing in a manner consistent with seeing a church planting movement emerge.

Unengaged

Status of Evangelical Christianity--The Status of Evangelical Christianity is a model for describing the progress of the Gospel among people groups whether they are currently engaged or not. The extent to which a people group is evangelical Christian, accessibility to the Gospel and evangelical church planting progress are considered.

GSEC 1 less than 2% evangelical and have not had any new churches in the last 2 years

In this people group, there are no congregations and there are no evangelicals

Heart Language for This People Group - (Language Code Mesopotamian Arabic - (acm)

Primary Religion for this People Group Islam

Resources

Written Scripture: Yes

Jesus Film: Yes

Radio Broadcast: Yes

Gospel Recording: Yes

Country Conditions

Physical Exertion: Extreme

Freedom Index: Not Free

Government Restrictions Index: High

Social Hostilities Index: Very High

Threat Level: Severe - Chronic

50 Largest UNENGAGED Unreached People Groups

Transform-World: Christ's Missional Challenge - The Last and the Least



Photo Source: Travlr

Turkmen, Azeri of Iraq



People Name	Turkmen, Azeri
Country	Iraq
10/40 Window	Yes
Population	407,000
Language	South Azerbaijani - (azb)
Religion	Islam - Sunni
Bible	None
Online Audio NT	No
Jesus Film	No
Audio Recordings	Yes
Christ Followers	Less than 2 %
Status	Unreached
Unengaged	Yes

*"Declare His glory among the nations,
His marvelous works among all the peoples!"*

SUMMARY

The term "Azeri" is used formally for these people; however, informally, Azeris and other Turkic speaking populations are colloquially referred to as "Tork" (Turk). Despite some friction in the past, Azerbaijanis came to be "well represented at all levels of political, military, and intellectual hierarchies, as well as the religious hierarchy." The living conditions of Azeris closely resemble that of Persians.

SCRIPTURE FOCUS

"And the gospel must first be preached to all the nations." Mark 13:10

MINISTRY OBSTACLES

The region of Iraq does not offer easy access to Christian workers.

OUTREACH IDEAS

The Lord is calling many to His name. Perhaps believers will make opportunity to carry the good news of Jesus to the Azeris. Pray the Azeris won't be overlooked by the movement of the Lord's Spirit.

PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWERS OF CHRIST

There are a few believers in Christ among the Azeris at present; pray they will grow both in numbers and in degree of commitment to know and follow Christ. They need prayer support, and they need to fellowship together.

PRAY FOR THE ENTIRE PEOPLE GROUP

Pray the Azeris will increasingly be drawn to Isa (Jesus) as he is referred to in the Koran. Pray for growing interest in this Man, for a desire to find out more. Pray this interest will be met with a growing availability of the Gospel of Christ.

People Group Profile

Country: Italy

People Group: Arab, Moroccan

Population in Country: 253,362

People Group Code (PEID) 42325

AB: Arab World

PC: Arab, Maghreb



Engagement Status--An engaged people group is one in which church planting strategy is being implemented by a partner in a manner consistent with evangelical faith and practice. Consider whether there is a pioneering effort in residence, a commitment to working in the local language and culture, a commitment to long-term ministry, and sowing in a manner consistent with seeing a church planting movement emerge.

Unengaged

Status of Evangelical Christianity--The Status of Evangelical Christianity is a model for describing the progress of the Gospel among people groups whether they are currently engaged or not. The extent to which a people group is evangelical Christian, accessibility to the Gospel and evangelical church planting progress are considered.

GSEC 1 less than 2% evangelical and have not had any new churches in the last 2 years

In this people group, there are no congregations and there are no evangelicals

Heart Language for This People Group - (Language Code Moroccan Arabic - (ary)

Primary Religion for this People Group Islam

Resources

Written Scripture: Yes

Jesus Film: Yes

Radio Broadcast: No

Gospel Recording: Yes

Country Conditions

Physical Exertion: Little

Freedom Index: Free

Government Restrictions Index: Low

Social Hostilities Index: Moderate

Threat Level: Elevated

50 Largest UNENGAGED Unreached People Groups

Transform-World: Christ's Missional Challenge - The Last and the Least



Tatar of Kazakhstan



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*"Declare His glory among the nations,
His marvelous works among all the peoples!"*

BACKGROUND

The Tatar are a group of Turkic people with sizable colonies in virtually every republic of the former Soviet Union. Although most of them live around the Volga region, others inhabit Azerbaijan, Byelorussia, the Ukraine, and the Central Asian republics. The Tatar speak a language that is also called Tatar. However, in some urban areas, nearly one-third of them claim Russian as their mother tongue. The name Tatar means "archer."

The physical appearance of the Tatar varies from blue-eyed blondes to Mongoloid features. In general, they have oval faces with little facial hair. They speak a unique language called Kazan Tatar, although many now claim Russian as their mother tongue. The Tatar are a settled people, mostly peasants and merchants, who have completely lost their traditional tribal structure.

WHAT ARE THEIR LIVES LIKE?

The Tatar often seek work outside their native region, following a trend of mobility established before 1917. Some work in Russian manufacturing industries and petroleum refineries. Many of those in the Volga region work on "collective" (community) farms where they raise grains, hemp, legumes, and other fodder crops.

In urban areas, the Tatar live no differently than modern Russians. However, those living in rural areas still hold to their pre-Revolutionary traditions. For example, up to three generations

may live under one roof.

Although the Tatar are primarily Islamic, many still observe sabantuy, or "rites of spring." This is an ancient agricultural festival that is celebrated simultaneously with the anniversary of the founding of the Russian Tatar Republic on June 25. These celebrations have their origins in Shamanism (the belief in an unseen world of gods, demons, and ancestral spirits).

WHAT ARE THEIR BELIEFS?

Most of the Tatar are Hanafite Muslim. While Muslims believe that there is only one god, many Tatar still honor saints and holy places. Some beliefs in supernatural powers such as the "evil eye" (the ability to curse someone with a glance) still exist from their pre-Islamic days.

The Tatar's Volga area has been an Islamic stronghold since the ninth century. Nevertheless, the Tatar's beliefs remain more liberal and intellectual than the beliefs held by the more Orthodox Muslims of Central Asia or the Caucasus. For instance, in many of their mosques, prayer times have been arranged so as not to conflict with work schedules. Women have also been encouraged to join the men at the mosques instead of praying at home, as is the usual custom.

Unfortunately, the Tatar's view of Christianity has been scarred by the Russian Orthodox church and its attempts to convert them through coercion. During the 1600's and 1800's,

People Name	Tatar
Country	Kazakhstan
10/40 Window	Yes
Population	250,000
Language	Russian - (rus)
Religion	Islam - Sunni
Bible	New Testament
Online Audio NT	Yes
Jesus Film	Yes
Audio Recordings	Yes
Christ Followers	Less than 2 %
Status	Unreached
Unengaged	Yes

their mosques were frequently burned. The few who were "converted" by these measures returned to their Islamic faith when oppression ended.

WHAT ARE THEIR NEEDS?

Christian laborers are needed to live and work among the Tatar of Russia. Translation of the Bible began in the 1970's. The New Testament was completed in 2001.

PRAYER ITEMS

- * We must pray that the Word of God will be completed, well-distributed, read, and understood by the Tatar.
- * Pray that the nominally Orthodox Tatars would come to know Christ.
- * Pray that God would bless the outreach efforts of a large Tatar church in Kazan.
- * Ask the Lord to call people who are willing to go to Russia and share Christ with the Tatar.
- * Ask God to use the Tatar believers to share the love of Jesus with their friends and families.
- * Ask the Holy Spirit to soften the hearts of the Russian Tatar towards Christians so that they will be receptive to the Gospel.
- * Pray that God will open the hearts of Russia's governmental leaders to the Gospel.
- * Pray that the Lord will raise up loving Russian Christians to share the Gospel message with the Tatar.

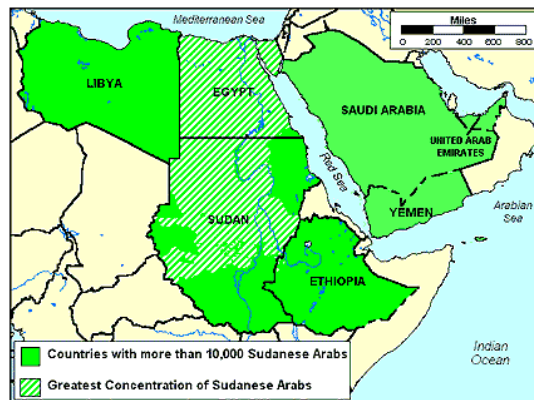
50 Largest UNENGAGED Unreached People Groups

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Arab, Sudanese of Libya



People Name	Arab, Sudanese
Country	Libya
10/40 Window	Yes
Population	283,000
Language	Sudanese Arabic - (apd)
Religion	Islam
Bible	New Testament
Online Audio NT	No
Jesus Film	Yes
Audio Recordings	Yes
Christ Followers	Less than 2 %
Status	Unreached
Unengaged	Yes

*"Declare His glory among the nations,
His marvelous works among all the peoples!"*

BACKGROUND

The Sudanese Arabs originated in the Khartoum region of Sudan many centuries ago. Today, they live primarily in northern and central Sudan and in Egypt. A few groups are also scattered in Saudi Arabia, Ethiopia, Libya, Yemen, and the United Arab Emirates.

The first "pure" Arabs were called "Bedouins." They were tribal nomads from Saudi Arabia, famous for their love of poetry and war. The Sudanese are a tribe who branched off of the Bedouins. They are a heterogeneous people with a mixture of diverse blood and cultures.

WHAT ARE THEIR LIVES LIKE?

Some Sudanese Arabs live in towns or cities. They have a greater variety of occupations, but weaker family ties than those who live in the villages. These Arabs have more concern for such things as economic prosperity and education. Today, many of them work in the oil fields of Saudi Arabia, attend universities in neighboring countries, or use trucks instead of camels.

Other Sudanese Arabs have continued living the nomadic lifestyle of their ancestors. They have temporary dwellings and move from place to place with their herds. Camels are used to transport them across desert lands, and their economy is based primarily on stock breeding and trade. Rigid codes of honor, loyalty, hostility, and hospitality are among those values that have remained strong throughout the

centuries.

WHAT ARE THEIR BELIEFS?

The Sudanese Arabs are Muslims, as are most Arabs. Identification with the Islamic religion is one of the primary cultural characteristics of most Arabs. They are devoted to their faith, and this is evident in their daily life.

While the men gather in the local mosque five times a day for prayer, the women meet in homes and have their own religious services, conducted by female religious leaders. Only on certain occasions are the women permitted inside the mosques.

According to Islamic law, a man may have up to four wives. Rules concerning marriage and divorce are held in accordance to what is written in the Koran. Regulations regarding inheritance, taxation, wartime, submission to those in authority, and the roles of family members can also be found there.

WHAT ARE THEIR NEEDS?

The Sudanese Arabs live in a country engulfed by tension, terror, and war. Even more than the physical provisions that are so badly needed in the Sudan, Sudanese Arabs need to hear about the saving love of Jesus. They have some Christian resources available to them. But churches are often closed, destroyed, or not allowed to be built. Converts from the Muslim faith are not well accepted. They will need courage and grace to withstand persecution

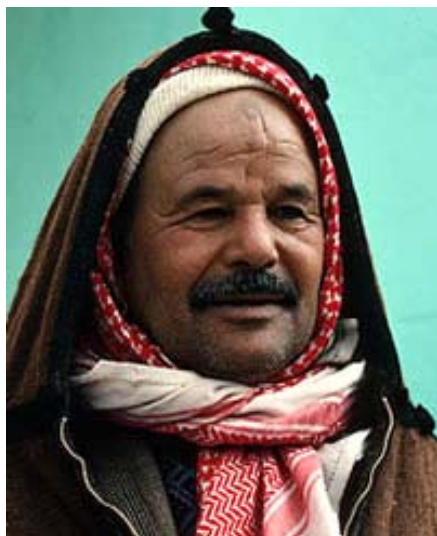
from their Islamic relatives.

PRAYER ITEMS

- * Ask God to strengthen, encourage, and protect church planters, especially the women workers.
- * Pray for additional Bibles and Christian literature to be provided and placed.
- * Ask God to bring natural and spiritual peace to this needy country.
- * Ask the Lord to call out prayer teams to go and break up the soil through worship and intercession.
- * Pray that God will raise up long term workers to join those who have already responded.
- * Pray that the Holy Spirit will complete the work begun in their hearts through adequate discipleship.
- * Pray that the Holy Spirit will anoint the Christian broadcasts as they are aired among the Sudanese Arabs.
- * Ask God to reveal Himself to these tribes through dreams and visions.
- * Ask the Lord to raise up strong local churches among the Sudanese Arabs for the glory of His name!

50 Largest UNENGAGED Unreached People Groups

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Bedouin, Fezzan of Libya



People Name	Bedouin, Fezzan
Country	Libya
10/40 Window	Yes
Population	213,000
Language	Libyan Arabic - (ayl)
Religion	Islam - Sunni
Bible	None
Online Audio NT	No
Jesus Film	No
Audio Recordings	Yes
Christ Followers	Less than 2 %
Status	Unreached
Unengaged	Yes

*"Declare His glory among the nations,
His marvelous works among all the peoples!"*

BACKGROUND

The traditional homeland of the Bedouin is the Arabian Desert in the Middle East; however, some groups have migrated into northern Africa. Today, over 170,000 Fezzan Bedouin live in Libya, and virtually all of them are Muslims. A few live in the coastal regions; however, most are located in the western part of Libya, known as Fezzan. This area lies just inside the northern edge of the Sahara Desert.

The Bedouin fall into two basic social classes. One class is known as the "true" Bedouin, and they live as nomadic shepherds. The other group has embraced farming and is known as the fellahin. The fellahin lead a more settled life on the edge of the desert. In contrast, the "true" Bedouin have been known for raiding any caravans that cross their paths while journeying across barren deserts. They move into the desert during the rainy winter seasons and back to the desert's edge during the hot, dry summers. The Fezzan Bedouin speak Fazzani, or as it is more commonly called, Maghribi.

WHAT ARE THEIR LIVES LIKE?

The Fezzan Bedouin have a relatively harsh existence. The nomads have no permanent homes, but live in portable, black tents made from woven, goat hair. The tents are divided by a decorative partition called a gata. Half of the tent is for the women, children, cooking utensils, and storage. The other half contains a fireplace and is used for entertaining. The women do most of the work, while the men

socialize and make plans for the group.

To endure the extreme heat of the desert, the Bedouin wear lightweight, light-colored clothing. It is very loose-fitting, allowing for the circulation of air.

Although the Bedouin once considered it degrading to have manual labor jobs, this has changed somewhat in recent years. Due to the need for better health conditions, more money, and better living conditions, some have accepted wage-paying jobs. However, most of them still despise this type of work.

WHAT ARE THEIR BELIEFS?

Almost all of the Bedouin in Libya are Malikite Muslims. Islam is based on the teachings of the prophet, Mohammed. The Koran ("holy book" of Islam) was supposedly given to Mohammed by the angel Gabriel.

Islam is a religion of works that is centered on five basic "pillars." (1) A Muslim must affirm that "there is no god but Allah, and Mohammed is his prophet." (2) Five times a day he must pray while facing Mecca. (3) He must give alms generously. (4) He must fast during Ramadan, the ninth month of the Muslim year. (5) He must try to make at least one pilgrimage to Mecca in his lifetime.

Islam has greatly influenced the lives of the Bedouin. For example, to preserve their people, the Bedouin are only allowed to marry those

inside their own group. Also, the society is patrilineal, which means that inheritances are passed down through the males.

WHAT ARE THEIR NEEDS?

"In most interpretations of Shariah, conversion by Muslims to other religions is forbidden and is termed apostasy. Muslim theology equates apostasy to treason, and in most interpretations of shariah, the penalty for apostasy is death."

PRAYER ITEMS

- * Ask the Lord to call people who are willing to reach out and share the love of Christ with them.
- * Pray that God will raise up faithful intercessors who will stand in the gap for the Bedouin.
- * Ask God to strengthen, encourage, and protect the few known Fezzan Bedouin Christians living in Libya.
- * Pray that their traditional Muslim culture will soften, creating open doors for the Gospel to be preached among them.
- * Ask the Holy Spirit to open the hearts of the Fezzan Bedouin towards Christians so that they will be receptive to the Gospel.
- * Pray that God will reveal Himself to these Muslims through dreams and visions.
- * Ask the Lord to raise up strong local churches among the Fezzan Bedouin.

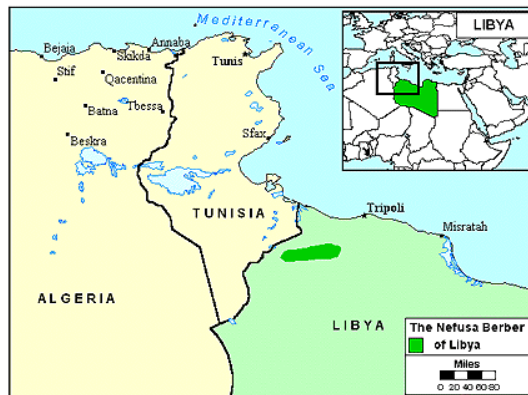
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Berber, Nefusa of Libya



People Name	Berber, Nefusa
Country	Libya
10/40 Window	Yes
Population	179,000
Language	Nafusi - (jbn)
Religion	Islam - Sunni
Bible	None
Online Audio NT	No
Jesus Film	No
Audio Recordings	No
Christ Followers	Less than 2 %
Status	Unreached
Unengaged	Yes

*"Declare His glory among the nations,
His marvelous works among all the peoples!"*

BACKGROUND

Little is known of Libya's earliest inhabitants. However, experts generally agree that they were related to the Berbers who now inhabit the coastal Mediterranean countries to the west. In Morocco and Algeria, Berbers form a large part of the total populations; whereas, few Berbers are allowed to live in the Libyan Arab Republic. As the Arabs overran the region, the Berbers were forced to leave the more prosperous regions. In other places, the Berbers have assimilated into the Arab population.

WHAT ARE THEIR LIVES LIKE?

Built with an eye on defense, Nefusa villages are often difficult to reach. Many villages have less than 500 people, but some have more than 1,000 inhabitants. There is little industrial activity in the villages. Although the Nefusa have oil presses, these are small and primitive and only active a few months of the year.

A unique aspect of the villages is the famous troglodyte houses. These are underground homes carved vertically or horizontally into the soft limestone and marls (a mixture of clay, sand, and limestone). Some of the homes resemble simple caves cut into the hill slopes. Others are dug deep into the ground with a complex network of rooms positioned around a central pit that serves as a light source.

The greater part of the country is arid and unproductive; however, over the years the Nefusa have become an agricultural economy

well adapted to their semi-arid environment. They grow a variety of crops, and herd sheep and goats. For the Nefusa, the size of the farm is not expressed by the amount of land, but by the number of trees. It is not unusual for individual trees to be owned by several families, or for one person to own a tree and another to own the soil in which it grows.

Some of their food sources include olives, figs, and palm trees. There are large plantations of olive trees and figs in the more humid eastern regions. Following the autumn rains, the Nefusa also plant wheat and barley in the neighboring plains. In order to use water and soil resources more efficiently, the Nefusa have built hundreds of soil and stone dams.

For many years, the tribe was the basis of society in Libya. Nine out of ten people lived in tribal domains. Libya's tribal organization persisted in spite of three centuries of various rulers.

WHAT ARE THEIR BELIEFS?

Although most Libyans are Sunni Muslims, the Nefusa belong to a tiny Islamic sect called Ibadaya (an off-shoot of Kharijism). Ibadaya originated in the seventh century when disputes arose concerning how religious leaders should be chosen. The Ibadis withdrew from mainstream Islam and relocated in several other countries. Ibadism was received enthusiastically in several northwestern African countries as a vehicle for opposing the Sunni (orthodox)

Muslims and the Arab conquerors.

While the Ibadis observe many fundamental Islamic practices, some of their customs are quite unorthodox. For example, the village mosque does not face east towards Mecca.

WHAT ARE THEIR NEEDS?

"In most interpretations of Shariah, conversion by Muslims to other religions is forbidden and is termed apostasy. Muslim theology equates apostasy to treason, and in most interpretations of shariah, the penalty for apostasy is death." (Wikipedia) Perhaps this explains why there are so few known Nefusa Berber Christians in Libya at the present time.

PRAYER ITEMS

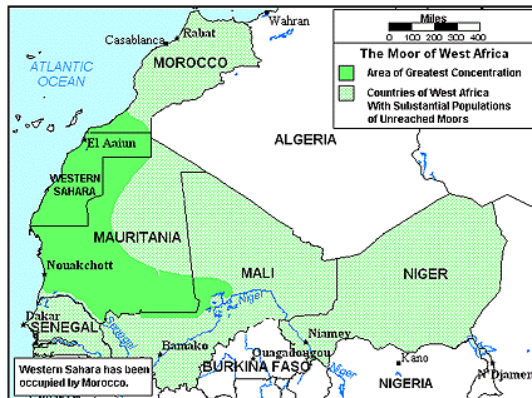
- * Ask the Lord to call people who are willing to go to Libya and share Christ with the Nefusa Berber.
- * Pray that the doors of Libya will soon open to missionaries.
- * Ask God to provide evangelistic tools and equipment needed to reach them both spiritually and geographically.
- * Ask the Holy Spirit to soften the hearts of the Nefusa Berber toward Christians so that they will be receptive to the Gospel.

50 Largest UNENGAGED Unreached People Groups

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Moor of Mauritania



People Name	Moor
Country	Mauritania
10/40 Window	Yes
Population	784,000
Language	Hassaniyya - (mey)
Religion	Islam - Sunni
Bible	None
Online Audio NT	No
Jesus Film	Yes
Audio Recordings	Yes
Christ Followers	Less than 2 %
Status	Unreached
Unengaged	Yes

*"Declare His glory among the nations,
His marvelous works among all the peoples!"*

BACKGROUND

The name Moor is derived from "Maur", the Latin word for black. When the Romans conquered the North African coast they named their newly acquired province "Mauritania" or "Land of the Blacks" as they referred to Africa. The modern day country has nothing to do with the ancient Roman territory. The people known as Moors today are an offshoot of the Berber people, specifically a Hijazi Arab/Tuareg mixed tribe. When Arabs conquered North Africa in the 7th & 8th centuries, one of the first Berber people to convert where the Tuareg, who at that time dwelt on the African Red Sea coast. They helped the Arabs in their spread of Islam until they reached the Atlantic. From there the Moors and other Berber tribes conquered the Iberian Peninsula, Southern France & Italy and the island of Sicily. This kingdom was known as Al Andalusia or the Moroccan Empire.

WHERE ARE THEY LOCATED?

After being expelled from Iberia and Italy, the Moors who resided in Europe rejoined the rest of their Berber tribesmen in Africa. A new problem arose when an oppressive Arab ruler in Algeria persecuted the Berbers who practiced a different form of Islam. The Moors were forced to flee into the desert where they now inhabit the Sahara from Western Mali, South-Western Algeria, Western Sahara, Mauritania, Southern Morocco and Northern Senegal.

WHAT ARE THEIR LIVES LIKE?

Since ancient times the Moors have been

nomads who are astute traders and merchants. Their pre-Islamic culture is a fusion of Berber and Beja traditions. While in Europe they lived in a much more hospitable climate and adapted to farming and urban life. When forced back into Africa they were banished from the more moderate North African coast and into the harsh Sahara desert. They then took back up the camel and became traders once more, controlling the salt and gold trade. During the Islamic Golden Age, the slave trade boomed, specifically in Moorish Spain. Spanish, Portuguese, Sicilian and Slavic peoples made up the European slave population and Chadik, Mande and Noba people made up the Sudanic slave trade. The intermixing with slave cause the diversity of what Moor/Berber can look like. Some tribes are White skinned and red haired and others are coal Black with Sudanic features. after the French colonized North West Africa they literally reversed Moorish society by putting the light skinned Moors as the "Adma" (Nobility) and "Lahma" (Commoners) and the dark skinned Moors are as "Abd le tilad" (Servant who is part of the family) and "Abd le tariyya" (purchased slave).

WHAT ARE THEIR BELIEFS?

Moors are virtually all Sunni Muslim and part of the Malikite sect. They have adopted Arab culture and speak Hassaniyya Arabic. Pre-Islamic North Africans were a Matriarchal people who had female rulers and traced their lineage through women. Moors, Tuareg and Saharawi tribes on the other hand were Patriarchal before

the Arab conquest due to the fact they are Semites instead of Hamites.

WHAT ARE THEIR NEEDS?

First and foremost, the Moorish people need to end slavery and establish equal rights for Moors of all shades and features. The Moors need to then be given a fair chance at listening to the Gospels from the perspective of Jesus not only being a prophet, but God in flesh.

PRAYER ITEMS

- * Pray that God will grant wisdom and favor to missions agencies focusing on the Moors.
- * Ask the Holy Spirit to soften the hearts of the Moors towards Christians so that they will be receptive to the Gospel.
- * Pray that God will open the hearts of Mauritania's governmental leaders to the Gospel.
- * Ask God to raise up prayer teams who will begin breaking up the soil through worship and intercession.
- * Pray that God will begin revealing Himself to these Muslim tribes through dreams and visions.
- * Ask the Lord to raise up strong local churches among the Moors.
- * Pray for translation of the Bible to begin in this people group's primary language.

50 Largest UNENGAGED Unreached People Groups

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Arab of Pakistan



People Name	Arab
Country	Pakistan
10/40 Window	Yes
Population	197,000
Language	Standard Arabic - (arb)
Religion	Islam - Sunni
Bible	None
Online Audio NT	No
Jesus Film	No
Audio Recordings	Yes
Christ Followers	Less than 2 %
Status	Unreached
Unengaged	Yes

*"Declare His glory among the nations,
His marvelous works among all the peoples!"*

BACKGROUND

The word "Arab" usually brings to mind images of white-robed Bedouins riding across the desert on their camels; however, this is not the total picture. There are more than 200 million Arabs who make up the majority populations of 22 nations. They represent the largest, most diverse, and most politically influential Muslim ethnic group in the world.

While there are several characteristics that determine whether or not a person is a true Arab, one trait is always evident: a proud sense of being an Arab. Their physical, geographical, and religious aspects all vary greatly; however, the ability to speak Arabic (or an Arab dialect) and identification with the Arabian cultural heritage are, perhaps, the two most essential elements.

WHAT ARE THEIR LIVES LIKE?

It is difficult to adequately describe the Arab culture since it draws upon several thousand years of history. Through the centuries, they have experienced some periods of glory, but mostly seasons of travail.

Today, many of the Arabs live in cities and towns. This has caused traditional family and tribal ties to be broken down somewhat. Women, as well as men, now have greater educational and employment opportunities. These and other changes have created a new "middle class" within their society.

The Diaspora Arab communities fit into this new "middle class" category. Because the Diaspora Arabs have been exposed to western culture on a grand scale, their traditional culture and way of life have undergone many changes. As a result, they have experienced much tension.

Though political unity is still a dream among Arabs, the Arabic language remains the greatest common tie. In an attempt to preserve their original language, Arabs have maintained two forms of Arabic. The first is "classical Arabic," the religious and literary language that is spoken and written uniformly throughout the Arab world. The second is "colloquial Arabic," the informal spoken language which varies by dialect from region to region. Both forms are used by educated Arabs.

WHAT ARE THEIR BELIEFS?

It was early in the seventh century that Mohammed first preached the tenets of Islam to the Arabs. His successors quickly spread the word of Allah far and wide. Wherever Muslims went, they left elements of their Arab culture, including their religion.

The historical link between Arabs and the Islamic religion is still very strong. Today, most of all Arabs are Muslims, belonging to a number of sects: the Shia ("Ithna Ashari" or "Ismaeli"), the Alawi, the Zaidi, and the Sunni. Sunni Muslims are the predominant group.

WHAT ARE THEIR NEEDS?

Fundamentalist Muslims are very outspoken against Christianity. Much prayer is needed to break down the barriers that separate them from Jesus.

Resources in the various Arabic dialects are available; however, a greater effort must be made to effectively minister to them since they are so widespread.

PRAYER ITEMS

- * Ask the Lord to call people who are willing to reach out and share the love of Christ with them.
- * Pray that God will raise up faithful intercessors who will stand in the gap for the Arabs.
- * Ask God to strengthen, encourage, and protect the small number of Arabs who have decided to follow Christ.
- * Pray that the softening of their traditional culture will create open doors for the Gospel to be preached among them.
- * Ask the Holy Spirit to soften the hearts of the Arabian people towards Christians so that they will be receptive to the Gospel.
- * Pray that God will reveal Himself to them through dreams and visions.
- * Ask the Lord to raise up strong local churches among the Diaspora Arabs.

People Group Profile

Country: Pakistan

People Group: Kho

Population in Country: 339,759

People Group Code (PEID) 6369

AB: South Asian Peoples



PC: Kashmiri



Engagement Status--An engaged people group is one in which church planting strategy is being implemented by a partner in a manner consistent with evangelical faith and practice. Consider whether there is a pioneering effort in residence, a commitment to working in the local language and culture, a commitment to long-term ministry, and sowing in a manner consistent with seeing a church planting movement emerge.

Unengaged

Status of Evangelical Christianity--The Status of Evangelical Christianity is a model for describing the progress of the Gospel among people groups whether they are currently engaged or not. The extent to which a people group is evangelical Christian, accessibility to the Gospel and evangelical church planting progress are considered.

GSEC 1 less than 2% evangelical and have not had any new churches in the last 2 years

In this people group, there are no congregations and there are evangelicals

Heart Language for This People Group - (Language Code Khowar - (khw)

Primary Religion for this People Group Islam

Resources

Written Scripture: No

Jesus Film: No

Radio Broadcast: No

Gospel Recording: Yes

Country Conditions

Physical Exertion: Strenuous

Freedom Index: Partly Free

Government Restrictions Index: High

Social Hostilities Index: Very High

Threat Level: Severe - Chronic

50 Largest UNENGAGED Unreached People Groups

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Persian of Pakistan



People Name	Persian
Country	Pakistan
10/40 Window	Yes
Population	179,000
Language	Western Farsi - (pes)
Religion	Islam - Shia
Bible	Complete
Online Audio NT	Yes
Jesus Film	Yes
Audio Recordings	Yes
Christ Followers	Less than 2 %
Status	Unreached
Unengaged	Yes

*"Declare His glory among the nations,
His marvelous works among all the peoples!"*

BACKGROUND

By definition, Persians (also known as Iranians) are an ethnic group native to Iran. The Persian language, called Farsi, is part of the Indo-Iranian language family, and is the official language of Iran. Dari, the language of the elite in Afghanistan, is a dialect of modern Persian.

WHAT ARE THEIR LIVES LIKE?

In the Middle East, about half of the Persians are farmers who depend heavily on primitive methods of artificial irrigation. They also make crafts such as hand woven items, rugs, and pottery. The production of oil has also provided numerous jobs for the Persians. In fact, many of the Persians who live abroad work in this field.

Urban Persians are more or less divided into five well-defined social classes. The lowest class is made up of former villagers who flocked to the towns between the late 1950's and the early 1970's. These unskilled laborers live in densely populated communities located on the outskirts of larger cities. This class forms a majority of the local market craftsmen. At the top of the strata are real estate investors, merchants, and other commercial and industrial businessmen. The priests and other clergymen make up a class known as the ulama.

WHAT ARE THEIR BELIEFS?

Prior to the Arab invasions, the Persian religion was Zoroastrianism. This religion taught that there was an eternal struggle between the forces of good and evil. Shiite Islam became the

national religion of Iran in the sixteenth century, at which time the ulama (clergy) began playing an important role in both the social and political lives of the people.

Today, most Persians are Shia Muslims of the Ithna Ashari branch, and are radical in their adherence to Islamic laws and principles.

Islam is a major world religion that is based on the teachings of Mohammed, the prophet. The Koran, or holy book of Islam, was said to have been given to Mohammed by the angel Gabriel.

There are five essential duties in Islam: (1) A Muslim must affirm that "there is no god but Allah and Mohammed is his prophet." (2) Five times a day he must pray while facing Mecca. (3) He must give alms generously. (4) He must fast during Ramadan, the ninth month of the Muslim year. (5) He must try to make at least one pilgrimage to Mecca in his lifetime. Muslims are also prohibited to drink alcohol, eat pork, gamble, steal, use deceit, slander, and make idols.

WHAT ARE THEIR NEEDS?

The Islamic world is extremely difficult to influence with the Gospel. Fundamental Muslims are very outspoken, even militant, against Christianity. Much prayer is needed to break down the barriers separating them from the Truth.

The New Testament and other resources are

available in Farsi, yet very little progress has been made among the Persians. The number of conversions to Christianity has been small.

The difficulties associated with penetrating the barriers of Islam and working in restricted access nations must be broken. Prayer is the key.

PRAYER ITEMS

- * Ask the Lord to call people who are willing to reach out and share the love of Christ with them.
- * Pray that God will raise up faithful intercessors who will stand in the gap for the Persians.
- * Ask God to strengthen, encourage, and protect the small number of Muslim Persians who have converted to Christianity.
- * Pray their traditional Muslim culture will soften, creating open doors for the Gospel to be preached among them.
- * Ask the Holy Spirit to open the hearts of the Persian people towards Christians so that they will be receptive to the Gospel.
- * Pray that God will reveal Himself to them through dreams and visions.
- * Ask the Lord to raise up strong local churches among the Persians.

50 Largest UNENGAGED Unreached People Groups

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Arab, Qatari of Qatar



People Name	Arab, Qatari
Country	Qatar
10/40 Window	Yes
Population	356,000
Language	Gulf Arabic - (afb)
Religion	Islam
Bible	None
Online Audio NT	No
Jesus Film	No
Audio Recordings	Yes
Christ Followers	Less than 2 %
Status	Unreached
Unengaged	Yes

*"Declare His glory among the nations,
His marvelous works among all the peoples!"*

BACKGROUND

Saudi Arabia is home to a number of different Arab groups. The Saudi Arab (more commonly known as the Gulf Arab) live primarily along the southern edges of the Arabian Desert in Saudi Arabia, Yemen, the United Arab Emirates, and Qatar. The Saudi Arab in Qatar speak a language called Arabiya or, as it is more commonly known, Gulf Arabic.

The Arab culture was developed by tribes of nomads and villagers who lived in the Arabian Desert. From there, some of them later migrated into northern Africa. There are two basic classes of Arab: the true nomads and the fellahin-those who have embraced farming. The nomads are best known for their treks across barren deserts on camels, occasionally raiding caravans crossing their paths. The fellahin are more settled, living on the edge of the desert. Most Saudi Arab are herdsmen, who move into the desert during the rainy winter season, then back to the desert's edge in the dry, hot summer.

WHAT ARE THEIR LIVES LIKE?

Life for the Saudi Arab is one of harsh existence with few material belongings. Their main possession is the home—a long tent made from woven goat or animal hair. These tents are not permanent dwellings and are divided into two parts by a decorative partition called a gata. Typically, half of the tent is for the women, children, cooking utensils, and storage, while the other half is for the men. The men's section,

which contains a fireplace built in the dirt, is used for entertaining guests. Men sit and make plans for the group, while the women do most of the work.

Dairy products have been the traditional food source for the Saudi Arab. Camel's and goat's milk is drunk fresh or made into yogurt and a kind of butter called ghee. Most Arab meals consist of a bowl of milk or yogurt, or rice covered with ghee. Round loaves of unleavened bread are also served when available. Dates, which can be found in desert oases, are eaten as desserts after meals. Meat is served only on special occasions, such as for guests, marriage feasts, or special ceremonies.

Reflecting the influence of their Muslim religion, the Saudi Arab practice endogamous marriages (marriage within a small social circle). Inheritance is patrilineal (inherited by the next male family member).

In the past, the Saudi Arab considered it shameful and degrading to have jobs doing manual labor. However, this has changed somewhat in recent years. Because of the need for better health care, improved living conditions, and more income, some have accepted wage-paying jobs. Nevertheless, most Arab still despise such positions.

WHAT ARE THEIR BELIEFS?

The founding of Islam in the seventh century profoundly altered the course of Saudi history.

Today, the great majority of the Saudi Arab in Qatar are Hanbalite (Wahhabite) Muslims. In the mid-1700's, Mohammed ibn Abd al-Wahhab formed his fundamentalist sect, and today, the Saudi see themselves as the preservers of the true Islamic faith. The Wahhabites reject all innovations introduced into Islam after the third century of its existence and are very traditional in their practice of Islam. Their desire is to maintain and propagate what they see as the "true" path of Islam.

WHAT ARE THEIR NEEDS?

There are no known Christians among the Saudi Arab in Qatar. A profession of faith in Jesus may cost a person his family, honor, job, or even his life. Evangelization of this group will be challenging, due to the nature of the Arabs' lifestyle and belief system. Prayer is the key to reaching them with the Gospel.

PRAYER ITEMS

- * Ask the Lord to open the doors of Qatar to the preaching of the Gospel.
- * Ask the Lord to save key leaders among the Saudi Arab who will boldly proclaim that Jesus is Lord.
- * Ask God to raise up a mighty army of prayer warriors who will intercede for the Saudi Arab.
- * Pray that strong local churches will be raised up among the Saudi Arabs.

50 Largest UNENGAGED Unreached People Groups

Transform-World: Christ's Missional Challenge - The Last and the Least



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Ingush of Russia



People Name	Ingush
Country	Russia
10/40 Window	no
Population	361,000
Language	Ingush - (inh)
Religion	Islam - Sunni
Bible	Portions
Online Audio NT	No
Jesus Film	Yes
Audio Recordings	No
Christ Followers	Less than 2 %
Status	Unreached
Unengaged	Yes

*"Declare His glory among the nations,
His marvelous works among all the peoples!"*

BACKGROUND

The Ingush are a Muslim people who live primarily in the Chechen Republic of the former Soviet Union. Although closely related to the Chechen in history and culture, they are separate in their language and family descent.

Life for the Ingush has changed dramatically in the past sixty years. After World War II, Joseph Stalin deported all of the Ingush from their homeland to Kazakstan and Siberia as a punishment for their support of the Germans. Nearly half of their population (about 200,000) died in transit. In 1958, they were allowed to return, but found their land had been taken.

The Ingush originally settled among the plains and mountains. Today, they usually live in scattered villages or towns. Discrimination from those who are now living in their homeland has made life difficult. As a result, many have moved into the city of Grozny, which has been ravaged by the recent war with Russia.

WHAT ARE THEIR LIVES LIKE?

The Ingush are a very formal group of people who are also known for their refinement, courage, and hospitality. Having converted to Islam in the early nineteenth century, they are traditionally known not to attack unless provoked. However, should there be a grievous offense between clans (whose membership is based on family ties), they are known to carry on blood feuds.

Households (mostly nuclear families), are run by the husband. He owns everything under his roof-including the women. Marriages are usually arranged by the parents. Occasionally, a mother arranges for her daughter to elope. This is very risky for the bride, because if the "groom" changes his mind, the girl may never have another chance to marry.

Membership in a family is traced through the father. In turn, the family has membership in a clan. These clans are then grouped by language distinctions into tribes. Individuals have responsibilities to each level of kinship. Although marriages are not permitted between members of the same clan, partners must be of the same tribe. A wife becomes part of her husband's clan upon marriage and, from that time on, as a rule, never mentions her parents' names again.

The Ingush are a relatively tall Caucasian people who usually wear Western-style clothing. The Ingush enjoy music, dancing, wood carving, weaving, and felt-making.

The Ingush have maintained their cultural identity through their families and religion. The former lost much of its importance because of intermarriage with non-Ingush, while the latter became stronger through the persecutions of the communists.

WHAT ARE THEIR BELIEFS?

Like the Chechen, the Ingush are committed to

the beliefs of the Islamic religion. While some say their conversion was a political move to counter Russian influence, it is, without a doubt, their religion today. Before converting, they were known to be animists (believe that non-human objects have spirits). They looked to one spirit who served as the head over various other gods in nature.

WHAT ARE THEIR NEEDS?

The recent war in Chechenya has greatly affected the Ingush, and the struggle for independence from Russia continues. With only a few known Ingush believers, much prayer is required to see the Gospel effectively reach these precious people.

PRAYER ITEMS

- * Ask the Holy Spirit to grant wisdom and favor to the missions agency that is focusing on the Ingush.
- * Pray that God will prepare the hearts of the Ingush to receive the Gospel message.
- * Pray for the effective use of the Jesus film and other evangelistic tools in the Ingush language.
- * Pray that God will reveal Himself to the Ingush through dreams and visions.
- * Pray that God will give the Ingush believers boldness to share Christ with their own people.
- * Ask God to raise up prayer teams who will begin breaking up the soil through worship and intercession.

50 Largest UNENGAGED Unreached People Groups

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Meskhetian Turk of Russia



People Name	Meskhetian Turk
Country	Russia
10/40 Window	no
Population	300,000
Language	Turkish - (tur)
Religion	Islam - Sunni
Bible	Complete
Online Audio NT	Yes
Jesus Film	Yes
Audio Recordings	Yes
Christ Followers	Less than 2 %
Status	Unreached
Unengaged	Yes

*"Declare His glory among the nations,
His marvelous works among all the peoples!"*

BACKGROUND

Turkey is considered to be a "link" between the Orient (Chinese and Mongols) and the Occidental (Anglo-Saxons, Slavs, Goths, and Latins). The Turk, therefore, have a knowledge and mixture of both Eastern and Western cultures.

Turkey is the only secular republic with a majority of the population being Muslim. Turkish law is not based on Islamic law, but is rather a republic modelled after the Swiss and French legal systems.

The Turks represent a great opportunity to create a "fulcrum" church movement that could reach many other Muslim people groups.

WHERE ARE THEY LOCATED?

The majority of Turks live in their home country but significant numbers live elsewhere. Several million Turks live in Germany alone as either guest workers or German citizens. Many more live throughout Europe and North America; a small but significant population lives in disputed Northern Cyprus.

WHAT ARE THEIR LIVES LIKE?

Though traditional ways continue to exist in some areas, the typical Turks lives a secularized, modern urban life, with all the materialistic advantages and temptations that go with it. Much cultural sexism remains as women are often viewed through traditional Islamic beliefs. Only 80% of women are literate as compared

with 95% of men. A quarter of the population is under age 15.

For many of the peasants in Turkey, the clothes they work in, their homemade tools, and their livestock are their only possessions. Those who specialize in export crops or combine farming with a seasonal job, however, may become quite wealthy and even donate money to charities. The peasant communities that are located along the lush coastal plains or the low foothills by the seas usually live comfortable lives as farmers. However, those that live among the salt marshes lead more difficult lives.

Relaxation is of the utmost importance to the Turk. Coffee houses are places where men meet to visit and talk politics or business. In general, the Turks are courteous, gentle people who readily show hospitality to strangers. They are also very patriotic and have a deep sense of nationalistic pride and love for their country.

WHAT ARE THEIR BELIEFS?

The Turks of Turkey are predominantly nominally Sunni Muslim, believing in one god (Allah), and an eternal heaven and hell. However, they also have many ethnic beliefs and superstitions as well. For example, they believe that men have the power to curse others by giving them the "evil eye." They believe that one is protected against such a curse by wearing blue beads, which the evil eye cannot face. Another way to avoid this cursing glare is to spit in a fire and pray to Allah. They

also believe that if a woman puts fish oil around a door and a man walks through it, he will love her for the rest of his life.

WHAT ARE THEIR NEEDS?

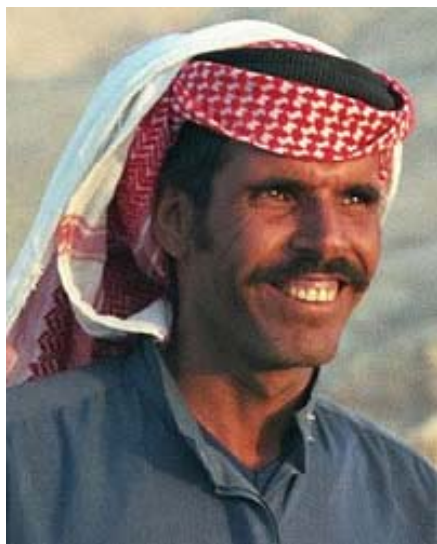
Although the Turks of Turkey have Christian resources (both the Bible and the Jesus film have been translated into Turkish) available to them in their language and missions agencies have worked among them, they remain strongly Muslim.

PRAYER ITEMS

- * Ask the Lord to call people who are willing to go to the Turks of Aruba and share Christ with them.
- * Pray that churches and missions organizations will accept the challenge of adopting and reaching the Turk.
- * Ask God to give the Turk believers boldness to share the Gospel with their own people.
- * Ask the Lord to save key leaders among the Turks who will boldly declare the Gospel.
- * Pray that God will begin revealing Himself to the Turks through dreams and visions.
- * Pray that many Turks living abroad will be reached with the Gospel and will take it back to Turkey.
- * Pray that Turkey will avoid both ethnic strife (especially with the Kurds) and resurgent Muslim fundamentalism.

50 Largest UNENGAGED Unreached People Groups

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Arab, Bedouin of Saudi Arabia



People Name	Arab, Bedouin
Country	Saudi Arabia
10/40 Window	Yes
Population	1,048,000
Language	Najdi Arabic - (ars)
Religion	Islam
Bible	None
Online Audio NT	No
Jesus Film	No
Audio Recordings	Yes
Christ Followers	Less than 2 %
Status	Unreached
Unengaged	Yes

*"Declare His glory among the nations,
His marvelous works among all the peoples!"*

BACKGROUND

Bedouins traditionally live a nomadic lifestyle, spreading from the Persian Gulf to the Atlantic Ocean, and from the borders of Turkey to Yemen. The word 'bedouin' comes from the Arab word 'Bedou' that means "desert dweller." Estimates say nomadic Bedouins constitute about one-tenth of the population of the Middle East.

WHAT ARE THEIR LIVES LIKE?

Bedouin life is generally pastoral, herding camels, sheep, goats and cattle. They normally migrate seasonally, depending on grazing conditions. In winter, when there is some rain, they migrate deeper into the desert. In the hot, dry summer time, they camp around secure water sources. Bedouins define themselves as members of tribes and families. People are divided into social classes, depending on ancestry and profession. Passing from one class to another is relatively feasible, but marriage between a man and a woman of different classes is difficult.

Women occupy a very important position in Bedouin society. Not only do they raise the children, herd the sheep, milk the animals, cook, spin yarn and make the clothes, but they also weave the cloth that constitutes the tent. The Bedouin men gather around the fire, sharing stories and sipping coffee. They might discuss falconry, the saluki greyhound and Arabian stallions, all animals the Bedouins are credited with breeding, as well as other matters of

importance to the tribe. Traditionally, one of the men recites poetry or sings. To mark the end of the evening, the host burns incense in a mabkhara (incense burner) passing it to each of his guests to inhale and fan their clothes. Poetry has been a central cultural form of expression for the Bedouins throughout their history. In early centuries of Islamic history, Bedouin poetry represented the ideal standard for other literary achievements, as well as for the Arabic language. The traditional foods of the Bedouin are dairy products and meat. Bedouins sell and barter products in order to obtain agricultural food from sedentary peoples.

WHAT ARE THEIR BELIEFS?

Islam's prophet Mohammed was born and raised in the Bedouin tribe of the Quraish. The Qur'an, first revealed to Mohammed, was later written and compiled in the Arabic language. The first converts to Islam came from the Bedouin tribes living in and around Mecca. Therefore, Islam is embedded and deeply rooted in Bedouin culture. Although there are pockets of Christians in Bedouin tribes, by and large the word Bedouin is synonymous with being a follower of Islam. Prayer is an integral part of Bedouin life. As there are no formal mosques in the desert, they pray where they are, facing Mecca and performing the ritual washing, preferably with water. Since water is not always readily available, they 'wash' with sand instead.

WHAT ARE THEIR NEEDS?

In modern Arab states and Israel, Bedouins are faced with challenges in their lifestyle, as their traditional Islamic, tribal culture has begun to mix with western practices. Men are more likely to adjust and interact with the modern cultures, but women are bound by honor and tradition to stay within the family dwelling. They therefore lack opportunity for advancement. Problems facing the Bedouin population of Israel include dispossession and the struggles connected to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Some live in townships, while others either live as squatters on land they claim as their own, or in the original 1948 refugee camps.

PRAYER ITEMS

- * Pray the Bedouin will increasingly be drawn to the man Isa (Jesus) as they read the Koran.
- * Pray the Lord's Spirit will open their eyes to see that Jesus is more than a prophet.
- * Pray for the handful of followers of Jesus among the Bedouin, that the Lord will protect their faith and nurture it.
- * Pray they will find each other and fellowship together.
- * Pray for their encouragement.

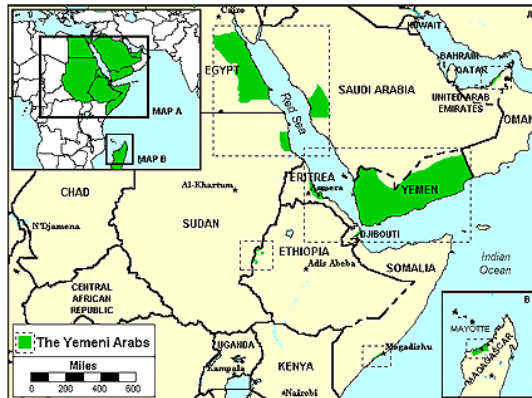
50 Largest UNENGAGED Unreached People Groups

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Arab, Yemeni of Saudi Arabia



People Name	Arab, Yemeni
Country	Saudi Arabia
10/40 Window	Yes
Population	501,000
Language	Ta'izzi-Adeni Arabic - (acq)
Religion	Islam
Bible	None
Online Audio NT	No
Jesus Film	No
Audio Recordings	Yes
Christ Followers	Less than 2 %
Status	Unreached
Unengaged	Yes

*"Declare His glory among the nations,
His marvelous works among all the peoples!"*

BACKGROUND

The Arabs from the Arabian Peninsula are considered to be the original Arabs. The Arabian culture was developed by tribes of nomads and villagers who lived in the Arabian Desert. It was also from there that Arab migrations began, eventually leading to the expansion of the Arab world.

The social structure of the Yemeni Arab consists of four classes of people: the Sayyid, or wealthy (who trace their descent to the grandson of Muhammad), the Qatani, (tribesmen), the Shafi'ite townsmen (merchants, artisans, and craftsmen), and the Akhdam (slaves).

The Yemeni Arabs have had a close association with Islam throughout their history; and today, nearly all of the Yemeni Arab (both in the Republic of Yemen, and in the other nations), are Muslims. About half of them are Zaydis Muslims, 40% are Shafi'ites, and 5% are Ismailis.

WHAT ARE THEIR LIVES LIKE?

Yemeni Arab society is tribal in structure with over 1,700 different tribes or clans. These various tribes are ruled by sheiks (Arab chiefs), who often fight with each other.

Today, the majority of the Yemeni Arabs in Yemen still live in fortress-like villages that can be easily defended. Each house has windows on all sides and is built facing the outside of the village. All goods and persons passing through town are strictly controlled.

Social life is extremely important to Arabs. They like to share a daily coffee time by sitting on the floor and drinking coffee from cups without handles. Their diet basically consists of wheat bread and porridge made with boiled meat or chicken.

Despite Islamic teachings, the reality that there are different classes of Arabs still persists. The type of clothing worn has become one of the determining factors. Yemeni tribesmen dress differently than other villagers and can be easily recognized. The women wear veils both in town and at home. Boys show that they are becoming men by changing their headgear and wearing daggers.

In spite of the fact that Muslims are allowed to have up to four wives, most marriages among the Yemeni Arab are monogamous. In the past, all marriages were arranged by the parents; however, it is becoming more acceptable for young people to choose their own mates. Young girls are considered ready for marriage by age nine.

WHAT ARE THEIR BELIEFS?

Almost all of the Yemeni Arab are Muslims, and there is little doubt that Islam has influenced their society.

The Zaydis sect of Islam (part of the Shi'ite tradition) is quite fanatical in its form. Most of the Zaydis are warriors and perceive all wars to

be a manifestation of Jihad (Muslim crusade against infidels; holy war).

WHAT ARE THEIR NEEDS?

In many Muslim countries, Muslims who profess faith in Jesus Christ can be put to death. Perhaps this explains why there are less than 5,000 known Yemeni believers in Yemen at the present time. Evangelization efforts among them are challenging due to restrictions in many of the countries, and general antagonism to the Gospel.

PRAYER ITEMS

- * Ask the Lord to call people who are willing to reach out and share the love of Christ with them.
- * Pray that God will raise up faithful intercessors who will stand in the gap for the Yemeni Arabs.
- * Ask God to give the Yemeni Arab believers opportunities to share the love of Christ with their own people.
- * Pray that their traditional Muslim culture will soften, creating open doors for the Gospel to be preached among them.
- * Ask the Holy Spirit to open the hearts of the Arabs towards Christians so that they will be receptive to the Gospel.
- * Pray that God will reveal Himself to these Muslims through dreams and visions.
- * Ask the Lord to raise up strong local churches among the Yemeni Arab.

50 Largest UNENGAGED Unreached People Groups

Transform-World: Christ's Missional Challenge - The Last and the Least



Photo Source: COMIBAM / Sepal

Bengali of Saudi Arabia



People Name	Bengali
Country	Saudi Arabia
10/40 Window	Yes
Population	1,624,000
Language	Bengali - (ben)
Religion	Islam - Sunni
Bible	Complete
Online Audio NT	Yes
Jesus Film	Yes
Audio Recordings	Yes
Christ Followers	Less than 2 %
Status	Unreached
Unengaged	Yes

*"Declare His glory among the nations,
His marvelous works among all the peoples!"*

BACKGROUND

The Bengali are considered to be the original inhabitants of the Bengal region of southwest Asia. This territory is divided politically between Bangladesh and West Bengal, a state in India. Bengali is the native language spoken by most of the groups in this region. While the vast majority of Bengalis live in Bangladesh and northeast India, there are significant communities in a number of other countries and other parts of India as well.

WHAT ARE THEIR LIVES LIKE?

The majority of the Bengali in India and Bangladesh are involved in some type of farming. Wet rice is their primary crop, and wheat and potatoes have also recently been added. Some families with private ponds may engage in small-scale fishing, but extensive fishing is an occupational specialty of one of the castes.

The Bengalis typically live in adobe (mud) brick homes. Since monsoon rains cause frequent flooding in the delta region, the homes there are usually elevated. Many of the Bengalis living in Calcutta have extremely low-incomes. They live in slums, on the streets, or anywhere they can find a place.

Most marriages in Bengali society are arranged. However, there are marked differences between the Hindu and Muslim wedding ceremonies. When mates are being chosen, caste and social rank are very important

considerations. Within rural areas, married couples almost always live near or with their parents. Inheritance is governed by the dayabhaga system of customary law. Under such a system, a man has sole rites in all ancestral property. Before he dies, he may then pass it on to his survivors any way he chooses.

WHAT ARE THEIR BELIEFS?

The majority of Bengalis are Muslims, while the rest are Hindu or Hinduized animists. The Bengali of Bangladesh are the largest group and are nearly all Muslim. In Islam, recruitment of clergy is voluntary. Any man who has a desire to study the Qur'an may do so. Then, he may eventually become the mullah (one highly trained in doctrine and holding a position in the local mosque) if chosen by the congregation.

Bengali Hindu worship many gods, some of which are animals. Cows are sacred, but they revere monkeys, snakes, and other animals as well. They teach such things as yoga and reincarnation (a continual cycle of death and rebirth). They believe that the soul may be reincarnated, or reborn, as an animal or as a human. The law of karma states that every action influences how the soul will be born in the next life. If a person lives a good life, his soul will be born into a higher state. Whereas, if he leads an evil life, his soul will be born into a lower state, perhaps even as a worm! The cycle continues until spiritual perfection is achieved. Then the soul enters moksha, a new level of existence, from which it never returns.

Hindu shrines contain sculptured images of their gods. Everyday priests wash and dress the images and bring them food. This is not considered idol worship since they believe the gods are actually present in the images.

WHAT ARE THEIR NEEDS?

The Bengali are one of the most significant people groups in South Asia. Although there have been reports of real progress among the Muslims in Bangladesh, a determined effort must be sustained in order to reach the Bengali with the Gospel. The city of Calcutta, home to many Bengalis, is a city of massive oppression, disease, and poverty.

PRAYER ITEMS

- * Pray for an opening of spiritual understanding among all Bengalis.
- * Pray that the small number of Bengali Christians will be a light for the Gospel in this area.
- * Ask God to raise up Christian medical teams, businessmen, and teachers to take the Gospel into this region.
- * Ask the Holy Spirit to soften the hearts of these Hindus and Muslims towards Christians so that they will be receptive to the Gospel.
- * Ask the Lord to raise up strong local churches in the Bengal region.

50 Largest UNENGAGED Unreached People Groups

Transform-World: Christ's Missional Challenge - The Last and the Least



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Black African of Saudi Arabia



People Name	Black African
Country	Saudi Arabia
10/40 Window	Yes
Population	279,000
Language	Swahili - (swh)
Religion	Islam
Bible	Complete
Online Audio NT	Yes
Jesus Film	Yes
Audio Recordings	Yes
Christ Followers	Less than 2 %
Status	Unreached
Unengaged	Yes

*"Declare His glory among the nations,
His marvelous works among all the peoples!"*

BACKGROUND

The name Swahili literally means "coast," and is the name given to several people groups that share a common culture (Uswahili), language (Kiswahili), and religion (Islam).

Today, the Swahili are scattered along Eastern Africa and the Persian Gulf, from Saudi Arabia to Zambia. Though they are called "Swahili" by others, they prefer to be named according to their local settlements.

WHAT ARE THEIR LIVES LIKE?

The Swahili language has many different dialects. A number of its words were borrowed from Arabic, the second language for many Swahili.

For about 2,000 years, the backbone of the Swahili economy has been commerce. They worked as cross-national merchants trading spices, slaves, ivory, gold, and grain. Today, international commerce is still important to the Swahili but to a lesser degree. Many of the upper class Swahili now manage small businesses, do clerical work, and teach school. Those living in cities sometimes own plantations that provide both their income and their food supply. Most lower class Swahili are farmers.

Since the Swahili are predominantly Muslim, Islamic practices play a large role in their daily activities. Dietary laws, rules of dress, social etiquette, marriage ceremonies, laws concerning divorce, and rituals at birth and

death are all governed by Islamic tradition. Parents strive to have well-mannered, respectful children, since this is highly valued among Muslims. Young boys go to Islamic schools where they study the Koran. The central building in each town is the mosque. The male population can be found praying there five times a day and at special prayer meetings on Fridays.

The Swahili have recently demonstrated an interest in Western culture. For example, in addition to attending Islamic schools, most children also attend non-religious schools to acquire a Western-style education. Also, traditional Swahili folk medicines are no longer the only means of treating those with illnesses. Modern medical clinics have now been built in some areas.

Swahili culture has not only been influenced by the Islamic religion and Western ideas but also by the Northeast Bantu and Arab cultures, as well as Asian, Persian, and Indian cultures. This has made their culture quite unique, and they can easily be distinguished from their neighbors.

WHAT ARE THEIR BELIEFS?

Nearly all of the Swahili profess to be Muslims; however, many of their traditional pre-Islamic beliefs and practices still exist. For example, they believe that many spirits - both good and evil - exist. They also believe in the supernatural power of witches and sorcerers.

The Swahili often have superstitious explanations for natural occurrences. For example, some believe that a cow is supporting the earth and that earthquakes are caused when the cow moves its horns. They believe that thunder is the sound of God speaking with the angels and that lightning occurs when God is pleased. To the Swahili, lightning is a good sign because it means that God will send plentiful rain and food that year.

WHAT ARE THEIR NEEDS?

Although Christian resources are available in the Swahili language, there are only a small number of Swahili Christians. Laborers who are sensitive to the Muslim culture are greatly needed to work among the Swahili.

PRAYER ITEMS

- * Ask God to raise up prayer teams to break up the soil through worship and intercession.
- * Ask God to raise up Christian businessmen who will boldly share Christ with the Swahili.
- * Ask the Lord of the harvest to send forth many laborers into East Africa.
- * Pray that the Holy Spirit will encourage the small number of Swahili believers.
- * Ask God to reveal Himself to the Swahili through dreams and visions.

People Group Profile

Country: Saudi Arabia

People Group: Northern Yemeni

Population in Country: 310,844

People Group Code (PEID) 46418

AB: Arab World



PC: Arab, Arabian



Engagement Status--An engaged people group is one in which church planting strategy is being implemented by a partner in a manner consistent with evangelical faith and practice. Consider whether there is a pioneering effort in residence, a commitment to working in the local language and culture, a commitment to long-term ministry, and sowing in a manner consistent with seeing a church planting movement emerge.

Unengaged

Status of Evangelical Christianity--The Status of Evangelical Christianity is a model for describing the progress of the Gospel among people groups whether they are currently engaged or not. The extent to which a people group is evangelical Christian, accessibility to the Gospel and evangelical church planting progress are considered.

GSEC 1 less than 2% evangelical and have not had any new churches in the last 2 years

In this people group, there are no congregations and there are evangelicals

Heart Language for This People Group - (Language Code Sanaani Arabic - (ayn)

Primary Religion for this People Group Islam

Resources

Written Scripture: Yes

Jesus Film: No

Radio Broadcast: No

Gospel Recording: Yes

Country Conditions

Physical Exertion: Low

Freedom Index: Not Free

Government Restrictions Index: Very High

Social Hostilities Index: Very High

Threat Level: High

50 Largest UNENGAGED Unreached People Groups

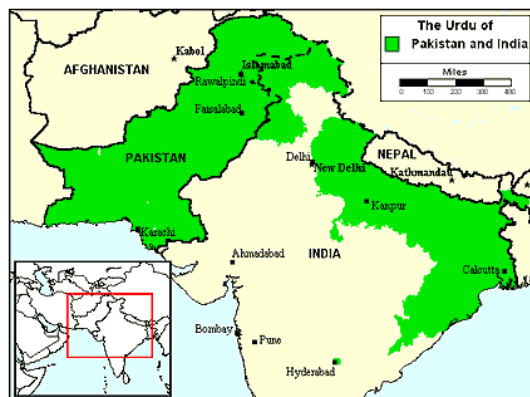
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Urdu of Saudi Arabia



Photo Source: COMIBAM / Sepal



People Name	Urdu
Country	Saudi Arabia
10/40 Window	Yes
Population	1,561,000
Language	Urdu - (urd)
Religion	Islam
Bible	Complete
Online Audio NT	Yes
Jesus Film	Yes
Audio Recordings	Yes
Christ Followers	Less than 2 %
Status	Unreached
Unengaged	Yes

*"Declare His glory among the nations,
His marvelous works among all the peoples!"*

BACKGROUND

The term "Urdu" does not adequately describe the Urdu people as such, but is merely a language distinction. Urdu-speaking Muslims are not an ethnic group in the strictest sense, but are rather a collection of ethnic groups who have been widely dispersed geographically. They possess a sense of "group identity" based on cultural and historical factors: the Islamic religion, a Persian cultural tradition, the Urdu language, and the tradition of Muslim supremacy in northern India.

A majority of the Urdu speakers live in Pakistan and the northern states of India. However, in recent years, many Urdu-speaking Muslims have emigrated to the Persian Gulf and Saudi Arabia, searching for economic opportunities. Skilled laborers and highly educated professionals have also emigrated to Western Europe, North America, and the Commonwealth countries.

WHAT ARE THEIR LIVES LIKE?

Presently, there is such diversity among the Urdu speakers that it is difficult to generalize their lifestyles. Within any given region, their differences are related to class distinctions.

Before the partition of Pakistan and India in 1947, the Urdu consisted of a wide range of economic and social classes. When Pakistan became independent in 1947, many Urdu-speaking Muslims stayed in India. While the petty merchants and laborers only noticed minor economic changes, the landholders

experienced drastic changes. Middle class immigrants to the Persian Gulf and other nearby regions felt discriminated against in jobs and educational opportunities. Such immigrants tend to retain their original citizenship. The bulk of their earnings are sent back to their families in Pakistan and India. On the other hand, those who immigrate to westernized countries usually take on the citizenship of their new country. However, unless they live in neighborhoods containing numbers of other Urdu speakers, the second generation often loses contact with their native language and culture.

Among the Urdu Muslims, there is still much social pressure to "maintain honor" in all levels of their societies. Purdah (the seclusion, concealment, or unsociability of women) still exists, but to varying degrees. A woman is generally secluded from public view and is protected from "dangerous" contacts. This is done to protect either her husband's honor or the honor of her father's family. In some areas, the entire covering of the body with only an embroidered screen for vision is required. In other areas, the women are much more outspoken. They may cover just their heads and wear dark glasses to maintain a sense of privacy. In some of the wealthy, urban levels of society, purdah is losing its value as it competes with western values. Women entering professions lean toward such occupations as teaching or practicing medicine in which their students and clients will be female.

WHAT ARE THEIR BELIEFS?

Although the Urdu are all Muslims, this is no longer a unifying factor. There are intense differences among the various Muslim sects (the Hanafites, Shafiites, and Ithna-Asharis).

Since entire communities tended to migrate together, different Islamic sects are found in different countries. For example, in Turkey and South Africa, the Urdu speakers are almost completely Sunni Muslims; whereas in Canada and in Pakistan, they are almost completely Hanafite Muslims.

WHAT ARE THEIR NEEDS?

Many of the Urdu, such as those living in Bahrain, consider the moral values of Western Christians to be "pagan." For this reason, they are very suspicious of opening up to Christianity. They need to see true Christianity lived out.

PRAYER ITEMS

- * Pray that God will open doors for Christian businessmen to share the Gospel with them.
- * Ask God to strengthen, encourage, and protect the small number of Urdu Muslims that have converted to Christianity.
- * Pray that these converts will be bold in their witness for Christ.

50 Largest UNENGAGED Unreached People Groups

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Arab, Maghrebi of Sudan



People Name	Arab, Maghrebi
Country	Sudan
10/40 Window	Yes
Population	187,000
Language	Sudanese Arabic - (apd)
Religion	Islam
Bible	New Testament
Online Audio NT	No
Jesus Film	Yes
Audio Recordings	Yes
Christ Followers	Less than 2 %
Status	Unreached
Unengaged	Yes

*"Declare His glory among the nations,
His marvelous works among all the peoples!"*

BACKGROUND

The word "Arab" usually brings to mind images of white-robed Bedouins riding across the desert on their camels; however, this is not the total picture. There are more than 200 million Arabs who make up the majority populations of 22 nations. They represent the largest, most diverse, and most politically influential Muslim ethnic group in the world.

While there are several characteristics that determine whether or not a person is a true Arab, one trait is always evident: a proud sense of being an Arab. Their physical, geographical, and religious aspects all vary greatly; however, the ability to speak Arabic (or an Arab dialect) and identification with the Arabian cultural heritage are, perhaps, the two most essential elements.

In the modern Arab world, traditional values have been altered. This can be attributed to the pressure to urbanize, industrialize, and de-tribalize. Today, few of the modern Arabs live as desert shepherds; and significant Arab communities can now be found in almost all of the western world.

WHAT ARE THEIR LIVES LIKE?

In comparison to the traditional desert or village Arab, the social structure of the Diaspora Arab is very complex. Today, most Diaspora Arabs identify themselves by nationality rather than tribal affiliations.

Though political unity is still a dream among Arabs, the Arabic language remains the greatest common tie. In an attempt to preserve their original language, Arabs have maintained two forms of Arabic. The first is "classical Arabic," the religious and literary language that is spoken and written uniformly throughout the Arab world. The second is "colloquial Arabic," the informal spoken language which varies by dialect from region to region. Both forms are used by educated Arabs.

The early Islamic period was a time when "Arab identity" meant that all Arabs had descended from a common male ancestor. Thus, being an Arab brought recognition, honor, and certain privileges.

WHAT ARE THEIR BELIEFS?

It was early in the seventh century that Mohammed first preached the tenets of Islam to the Arabs. His successors quickly spread the word of Allah far and wide. Wherever Muslims went, they left elements of their Arab culture, including their religion.

The historical link between Arabs and the Islamic religion is still very strong. Today, most of all Arabs are Muslims, belonging to a number of sects: the Shia ("Ithna Ashari" or "Ismaeli"), the Alawi, the Zaidi, and the Sunni. Sunni Muslims are the predominant group.

WHAT ARE THEIR NEEDS?

Fundamentalist Muslims are very outspoken

against Christianity. Much prayer is needed to break down the barriers that separate them from Jesus.

Resources in the various Arabic dialects are available; however, a greater effort must be made to effectively minister to them since they are so widespread.

PRAYER ITEMS

- * Ask the Lord to call people who are willing to reach out and share the love of Christ with them.
- * Pray that God will raise up faithful intercessors who will stand in the gap for the Arabs.
- * Ask God to strengthen, encourage, and protect the small number of Arabs who have decided to follow Christ.
- * Pray that the softening of their traditional culture will create open doors for the Gospel to be preached among them.
- * Ask the Holy Spirit to soften the hearts of the Arabian people towards Christians so that they will be receptive to the Gospel.
- * Pray that God will reveal Himself to them through dreams and visions.
- * Ask the Lord to raise up strong local churches among the Diaspora Arabs.

50 Largest UNENGAGED Unreached People Groups

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Copyright © UN Photo/Albert Gonzalez Farran

Gimma of Sudan



People Name	Gimma
Country	Sudan
10/40 Window	Yes
Population	165,000
Language	Sudanese Arabic - (apd)
Religion	Islam
Bible	New Testament
Online Audio NT	No
Jesus Film	Yes
Audio Recordings	Yes
Christ Followers	Less than 2 %
Status	Unreached
Unengaged	Yes

*"Declare His glory among the nations,
His marvelous works among all the peoples!"*

BACKGROUND

One of the most striking characteristics of Sudan is the diversity of its people. The Sudanese are divided into 19 major ethnic groups and nearly 600 sub-groups. In addition, they speak more than 100 different languages and dialects.

The Gimma are a sub-group of the Jaaliyin Arab (also known as the Gaalin). They live between southern Nubia and the Gezira region of Sudan. Other sub-groups of the Jaaliyin include the Dangala, Hassaniya, Kawahla, and the Husaynat. These Jaaliyin Arab claim to be direct descendants of the prophet Mohammed, but some ethnologists consider them to be an "Arabized" Nubian group.

Sudan's leaders proudly boast that they are the leaders of the Islamic revolution in Africa. The Arab minority has used this as a tool to strengthen their personal control of the economy and their political power. The tragic cost of this has been more than a million people killed, an economy devastated, and a country divided.

WHAT ARE THEIR LIVES LIKE?

Those Sudanese who consider themselves Arab are generally racially mixed, and many of them are indistinguishable from blacks living in southern Sudan. Despite a common language and religion, the "Arabs" are not a unified group. They differ greatly in occupation and way of life and consist of city dwellers, village farmers, and nomadic herdsman. The Arab have

historically been divided into tribes based on presumed descent from a common ancestor. Each tribe or cluster of tribes is assigned to a larger tribal grouping. Today, this system has largely disappeared in the cities and settled villages and exists only among the nomads of the plains.

Since water is scarce, rural settlements in Sudan are usually clustered near sources of water. In the north, villages are often strung out along the rivers. The types of houses built vary from north to south. In the north, houses are made of sun-dried bricks and have flat-topped roofs. In the central and southern portions of the country, there are round huts with thatched, cone-shaped roofs made of grass, millet stalks, and wooden poles. In central Sudan, walls made of millet stalks often surround compounds.

WHAT ARE THEIR BELIEFS?

A major rift exists between the northern and southern parts of Sudan. The north is dominated by Muslims, most of whom speak Arabic and identify themselves as Arabs. The people of the south are primarily black Africans, who, for the most part, follow traditional African religions. Also, some Christians can be found in the south.

The Gimma are almost exclusively Sunni Muslim. Sunni Islam in Sudan, as in much of the rest of Africa, has been characterized by the formation of tariqas, or Muslim religious brotherhoods. The oldest of these tariqas is the

Qadiriya, which was introduced to Sudan from the Middle East in the sixteenth century. Another major brotherhood is the Khatmiya, or Mirghaniya, which was founded in the early nineteenth century.

WHAT ARE THEIR NEEDS?

The Gimma have some Christian resources available to them. Intercession and pioneer missions efforts are both required to bring the Gimma to Christ.

PRAYER ITEMS

- * Ask the Lord to open the doors of Sudan to the preaching of the Gospel.
- * Pray that God will reveal Himself to the Gimma through dreams and visions.
- * Ask the Lord to save key leaders among the Gimma who will proclaim the Gospel to their own people.
- * Pray that God will strengthen, embolden, and protect the few Gimma believers.
- * Ask God to raise up prayer teams who will begin breaking up the soil through worship and intercession.
- * Pray that strong local churches will be raised up among the Gimma.

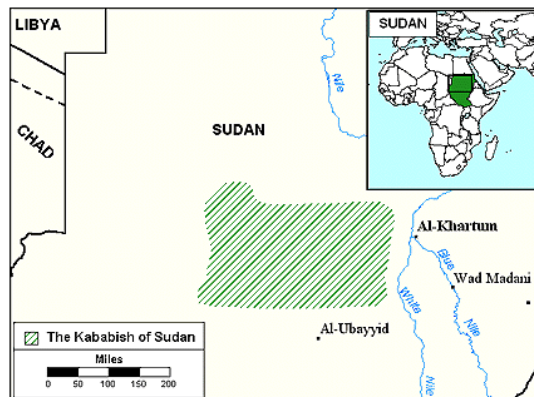
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Photo Source: Frontiers

Guhayna of Sudan



People Name	Guhayna
Country	Sudan
10/40 Window	Yes
Population	1,461,000
Language	Sudanese Arabic - (apd)
Religion	Islam
Bible	New Testament
Online Audio NT	No
Jesus Film	Yes
Audio Recordings	Yes
Christ Followers	Less than 2 %
Status	Unreached
Unengaged	Yes

*"Declare His glory among the nations,
His marvelous works among all the peoples!"*

BACKGROUND

There are three main groups of Arabs who live in the White Nile/Sudan area: the Gaalin, the Guhayna, and the Kawahla. Not much is known about the 1.3 million who make up the Guhayna people group. However, a fair amount is known about the Sudanese Arabs. The Sudanese Arabs find their heritage in the Bedouin who wandered the deserts of Saudi Arabia centuries ago. They are now a diverse group of 16 million people who find their commonality in the language of Arabic and the religion of Islam.

WHERE ARE THEY LOCATED?

The largest people group living in the North African country of Sudan, they have spread throughout the countries of North Africa and the Middle East, but the majority can be found living in either Sudan or Egypt.

WHAT ARE THEIR LIVES LIKE?

The single thread of a common culture binds these Sudanese Arabs with other Arabs from around the world. Aspects of pure Arab life, such as rigid codes of honor, loyalty and hospitality, have remained strong in the Sudanese Arab culture.

The role of men in the Sudanese Arab society, as in all other Arabic cultures, is extremely important. Children, and especially male children, are highly valued. Women are in a subservient position but are more liberal and dress more freely than many of their counterparts around the world.

WHAT ARE THEIR BELIEFS?

Islam is the religion of the majority of Arabs, and most Sudanese Arabs likewise embrace the Islamic faith. It is very common to find them stopping and bowing to pray whenever the call to prayer is heard, whether they are on the roadside or in their shop or business. They also practice the other four pillars of Islam, including the ritual fasting and the pilgrimage to the holy city of Mecca. The rules that govern society, including regulations concerning marriage, divorce, inheritance, taxation and warfare, are all found in Islam's holy book, the Koran.

The historical link between Arabs and the Muslim religion is still strong. There are few Sudanese Arab Christians, and conversion from Islam to Christianity is not well-accepted and often comes with severe consequences. While there have been Christian workers in Sudan for many years, most concentrate on reaching the southern Sudanese and neglect the country's Muslim majority.

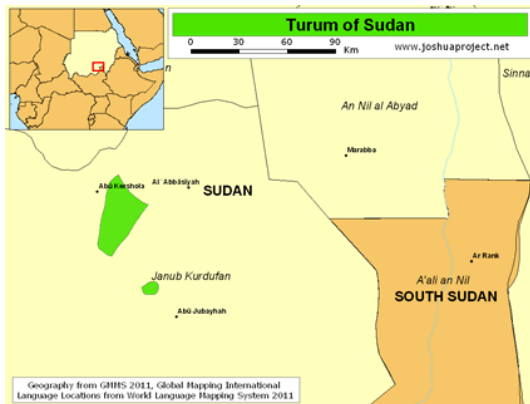
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Turum of Sudan



People Name	Turum
Country	Sudan
10/40 Window	Yes
Population	207,000
Language	Koalib - (kib)
Religion	Other Religions
Bible	Questionable Need
Online Audio NT	No
Jesus Film	No
Audio Recordings	No
Christ Followers	Less than 2 %
Status	Unreached
Unengaged	Yes

*"Declare His glory among the nations,
His marvelous works among all the peoples!"*

Bullets screamed through the night air while airplanes and helicopters zoomed through the black sky. The Turum girl jumped up from her mat on the dirt floor. Her family joined her in racing out of their hut. Dodging bullets, the family joined others of the tribe, all running for the nearby bushes to escape the atrocities of the Sudanese military.

ethnic cleansing and to bring about reconciliation in Christ

This attack along with others came only days after a supposed peace accord had been signed between the Turum tribe and the hostile Rzigat Aballa tribe. The Turums represent a relatively small group-about 5,000. They easily fall prey to more numerous people groups with stronger ties to the Sudanese government.

Throughout this month you will see that scarce water and arable land motivate attacks between rival peoples. But the national government seems to undermine local and regional steps towards resolution.

Meanwhile one source indicates that over a million people have turned to Christ in Sudan in recent years. Repulsed by the brutalities they see by the government and rebel groups, many reject that path to embrace God's forgiveness through Christ.

Pray that Christian relief organizations will show unconditional love among the Turum people and their enemies.

Pray that Christians will join efforts to end

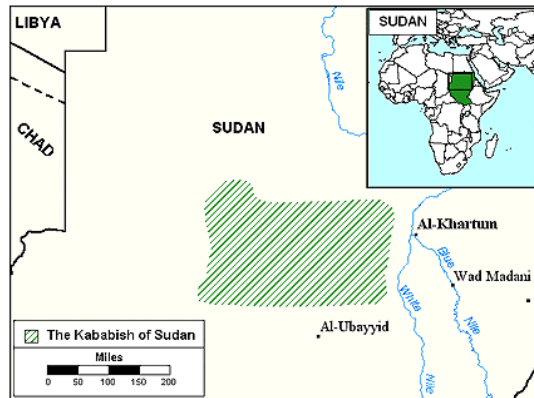
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Yazeed of Sudan



People Name	Yazeed
Country	Sudan
10/40 Window	Yes
Population	385,000
Language	Sudanese Arabic - (apd)
Religion	Islam
Bible	New Testament
Online Audio NT	No
Jesus Film	Yes
Audio Recordings	Yes
Christ Followers	Less than 2 %
Status	Unreached
Unengaged	Yes

*"Declare His glory among the nations,
His marvelous works among all the peoples!"*

BACKGROUND

The Dar Hamid are a confederation of about nineteen tribes and some smaller sub-groups that share a common culture and are led by a single nazir (chief). Although the tribes have different origins, most of their ancestors came from Arabia. Unfortunately, most Dar Hamid cannot read or write.

The Dar Hamid dar (territory) is located in Northern Sudan. Like other nomadic Arab tribes, the Dar Hamid wander the desert with their herds, searching for vegetation that grows after the rare desert thunderstorms. They have a complex system of migration in which different parts of the family move to different places during certain times of the year.

The Dar Hamid raise all types of livestock which are traded for grain and other essentials such as salt, tea, sugar, cloth, dates, seasoning, and metal goods. Camels are the most important of their animals. They provide milk, a main diet staple for the nomads, occasional meat, material for tents, and transportation across the desert.

WHAT ARE THEIR LIVES LIKE?

Because the Dar Hamid are a nomadic people, they live in dikkas (camps). Their homes are tents made with camel hair roofs and cotton sides. Many of the tents are decorated inside with leather and wool ornaments. The basic item of furniture is a double bed made of palm ribs bound with strips of leather. The bed rests

on pegs a foot above the ground. The Dar Hamid lifestyle dictates that even the tent's decorative ornaments have a practical value. By tradition, Arabs are very hospitable and always provide for their guests.

While the Dar Hamid men move across the desert with their camel herds, the women and children stay home in the dikka. The women tend the gardens and the small boys work in the fields, herding house camels and preventing goats and sheep from entering the cultivated land.

Dar Hamid children are sent to herd animals almost as soon as they can walk. They have been described as shy and reserved, even with each other. Perhaps this is a reflection of the harsh life they lead.

Because life in the desert is very dangerous, all of the Dar Hamid men wear sheathed daggers on their left arms. Most carry swords and all carry either shotguns or rifles. They must sleep lightly at night to protect themselves and their tribes from bandits.

WHAT ARE THEIR BELIEFS?

Traditionally, the Dar Hamid are Sunni Muslims. However, most are not religious and know very little about the Islamic religion. One of the five "pillars" of Islam is that a Muslim must pray five times a day. However, among the Kababish, some pray only when they feel like it, while others never pray at all. Water is scarce, so the

cleansing rituals are either cut short or ignored completely, and sand is used in place of water.

Since very few of the Dar Hamid are able to read or write, many consider the written word a source of magical power. Fakirs (holy men) make charms and sell them to the tribesmen for cash or livestock.

WHAT ARE THEIR NEEDS?

Clear identification of the various groups in Sudan is difficult since their cultures and lifestyles often overlap. However, most remain proud of their tribal and ethnic identities. Compassionate missionaries who are willing to embrace the Dar Hamid culture and endure the harsh, nomadic lifestyle are desperately needed. Since many of the tribesmen cannot read, Christian teachers are also needed.

PRAYER ITEMS

- * Ask the Lord of the harvest to send forth laborers into Sudan.
- * Pray for the small number of Kababish Christians.
- * Ask the Holy Spirit to soften the hearts of the Dar Hamid towards Christians so that they will be receptive to the Gospel.
- * Pray that God will open the hearts of Sudan's governmental leaders to the Gospel.
- * Ask the Lord to raise up strong local churches among the Dar Hamid.

50 Largest UNENGAGED Unreached People Groups

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Photo Source: Y. Killianov

Alawites of Syria



People Name	Alawites
Country	Syria
10/40 Window	Yes
Population	1,776,000
Language	North Levantine Arabic -
Religion	Islam - Shia
Bible	Portions
Online Audio NT	No
Jesus Film	No
Audio Recordings	Yes
Christ Followers	Less than 2 %
Status	Unreached
Unengaged	Yes

*"Declare His glory among the nations,
His marvelous works among all the peoples!"*

BACKGROUND

In the Jabal al-Nusayriyah, the mountain ranges of northwestern Syria that overlook the Mediterranean Sea, the Alawi community has maintained itself for over one thousand years, fiercely clinging to its syncretistic secret religion. The 'Alawis have survived as a distinct group in spite of repeated persecution and the threat of extinction by the Sunni majority and rulers who considered them pagans and heretics who were not eligible for the status of a protected religion.

"Alawi" is the term that Alawis usually apply to themselves; but until 1920 they were known to the outside world as "Nusayris" or "Ansaris". The change in name, imposed by the French upon their seizure of control in Syria, has significance. Whereas "Nusayri" emphasizes the group's differences from Islam, "Alawi" suggests an adherent of Ali and accentuates the religion's similarities to Shi'a Islam. Thus, opponents of the Assad regime habitually use the former term; supporters of the regime use the latter.

Three-quarters of the Syrian Alawis live in the northwestern province of Latakia, where they make up almost two-thirds of the population.

The mountainous areas of Syria have always been a safe haven for minority groups seeking security. Three Islamic sects found refuge there: the Assassins (Nizari Isma'ilis) and the Druze who were direct offshoots of the Isma'ili Sevener Fatimids of Egypt, and the Alawis who were based on extremer Twelver Shi'a thought

mixed with syncretic Christian and traditional influences. The Alawi are one of several groups of extremist Shi'a sects known as the Ghulat (exaggerators). While most Shi'a groups revere Ali and his family, the Ghulat have gone beyond veneration, considering Ali to be the very manifestation of God.

The Alawis are a tribal people, divided into four main tribe. They are a closed society and they see themselves as a persecuted and despised people, who actually are the chosen people of God, the only ones to have seen the light in a world of darkness. While maintaining their beliefs they pretend to adhere to the dominant religion present in order to escape persecution.

WHAT ARE THEIR LIVES LIKE?

The 'Alawi community is divided into the "Khassah", the initiated religious leaders who learn the mysteries of the religion, and the ignorant majority called "'Ammah". Any male over eighteen can try and receive initiation if he passes certain tests. He is then attached to a spiritual guide and can gradually ascend to higher degrees of initiation (Najib, Natik, Imam). All Khassah must pledge to keep the secrets of the faith (Kitman) and it's obligations. The ignorant 'Ammah are expected only to keep general moral rules, be loyal to the community's spiritual leaders, celebrate the 'Alawi feasts and make pilgrimages to the tombs of various holy men, amongst them al-Khidr (Elijah, St. George) and other saints venerated also by Muslims and Christians.

WHAT ARE THEIR BELIEFS?

The Alawis believe that all people were stars in the world of light, but fell from there due to disobedience. They believe they must be reincarnated seven times before they once again return to the stars where Ali is prince. If they are sinful, they will be reborn as Christians until their atonement is complete. Infidels will be reborn as animals. The actual Alawi beliefs and practices are based on their book, the "Kitab al-Majmu".

WHAT ARE THEIR NEEDS?

A visitor will not encounter an Alawite who will discuss the particulars of his beliefs. In fact, an Alawite would tell the visitor he is a Muslim, since he sees himself as one. The common Alawite person does not even know his group's teachings, because they are so secret. According to Christian workers assigned to the Fertile Crescent, very few of the Alawites knows Christ personally. There is a great need for more workers who will commit themselves to getting Bibles and other Christian literature into the Alawites' hands and to sharing the Good News in other ways.

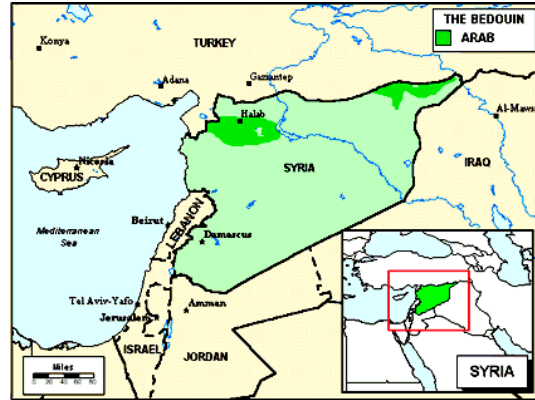
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Photo Source: Galen Frysjinger

Arab, Bedouin of Syria



People Name	Arab, Bedouin
Country	Syria
10/40 Window	Yes
Population	634,000
Language	Najdi Arabic - (ars)
Religion	Islam
Bible	None
Online Audio NT	No
Jesus Film	No
Audio Recordings	Yes
Christ Followers	Less than 2 %
Status	Unreached
Unengaged	Yes

*"Declare His glory among the nations,
His marvelous works among all the peoples!"*

BACKGROUND

The traditional homeland of the Bedouin Arab is the Arabian Desert; however, some groups have migrated north. Syria was one of the first lands to be inhabited by the Bedouin, and today, there are over a million still living in the northern Syrian Desert. Most of these Bedouin are herders of sheep and goats. The most well known group is the Rwala.

The Bedouin fall into two basic social classes. One class is known as the "true" Bedouin, and they live as nomadic shepherds. The other group has embraced farming and is known as the fellahin. The fellahin lead a more settled life on the edge of the desert. In contrast, the "true" Bedouin have been known for raiding any caravans that cross their paths while journeying across barren deserts. They move into the desert during the rainy winter seasons and back to the desert's edge during the hot, dry summers. They speak Badawi, or as it is more commonly called, Bedouin Arabic.

WHAT ARE THEIR LIVES LIKE?

The Bedouin Arab have a relatively harsh existence. The nomads have no permanent homes, but live in portable, black tents made from woven, goat hair. The tents are divided by a decorative partition called a gata. Half of the tent is for the women, children, cooking utensils, and storage. The other half contains a fireplace and is used for entertaining. The women do most of the work, while the men socialize and make plans for the group.

Dairy products are the main food source for the Bedouin. Milk from camels and goats is made into yogurt and butter. Most of their meals consist of a bowl of milk, yogurt, or rice. Round loaves of unleavened bread are served when available. Dates, which can be found in desert oases, are eaten for dessert. Meat is only served on special occasions such as marriage feasts, ceremonial events, or when guests are present.

To endure the extreme heat of the desert, the Bedouin wear lightweight, light-colored clothing. It is very loose-fitting, allowing for the circulation of air.

Although the Bedouin once considered it degrading to have manual labor jobs, this attitude has changed somewhat in recent years. Due to the need for better health conditions, more money, and better living conditions, some have accepted wage-paying jobs. However, most of them still despise this type of work.

WHAT ARE THEIR BELIEFS?

Islam has greatly influenced the lives of the Bedouin. For example, to preserve their people, the Bedouin are only allowed to marry those inside their own group. Also, the society is patrilineal, which means that inheritances are passed down through the males.

WHAT ARE THEIR NEEDS?

"In most interpretations of Shariah, conversion by Muslims to other religions is forbidden and is

termed apostasy. Muslim theology equates apostasy to treason, and in most interpretations of shariah, the penalty for apostasy is death." (<http://en.wikipedia.org>)

Evangelization efforts among the Bedouin are challenging due to the harsh and unsettled nature of their lifestyle. Missionaries who are able to endure the severe conditions of the Syrian Desert are needed.

PRAYER ITEMS

- * Ask the Lord to call people who are willing to reach out and share the love of Christ with them.
- * Pray that God will raise faithful intercessors who will stand in the gap for the Bedouin.
- * Ask God to strengthen, encourage, and protect the few known Christian Bedouin living in Syria.
- * Pray that their traditional Muslim culture will soften, creating open doors for the Gospel to be preached among them.
- * Ask the Holy Spirit to open the hearts of the Bedouin Arab towards Christians so that they will be receptive to the Gospel.
- * Pray that God will reveal Himself to them through dreams and visions.
- * Ask the Lord to raise strong local churches among the Bedouin.

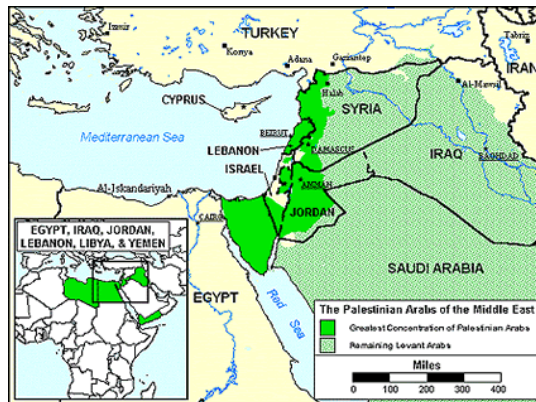
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Arab, Palestinian of Syria



People Name	Arab, Palestinian
Country	Syria
10/40 Window	Yes
Population	442,000
Language	North Levantine Arabic -
Religion	Islam
Bible	Portions
Online Audio NT	No
Jesus Film	Yes
Audio Recordings	Yes
Christ Followers	Less than 2 %
Status	Unreached
Unengaged	Yes

*"Declare His glory among the nations,
His marvelous works among all the peoples!"*

BACKGROUND

Palestinian Arabs fall into a category classified as Levant Arabs. "Levant" is a broad term that includes several groups of Arabs: the Jordanian, Palestinian, Iraqi, Arabic Jewish, Chaldean, and Syrian Arabs. Today, several hundred thousand Levant Arabs live along the northern edges of the Arabian Desert. They are spread from Israel to Kuwait and as far east as Iran. Small groups can also be found in North Africa.

The Palestinian Arabs have had a close association with Islam throughout their history and today, most of them are Muslims. However, there has long been a sizable contingent of committed Christians among the Palestinian Arabs. The two main branches of Islam in the region are the Shi'ites and Shafiites. Palestinian Arabs speak an Arabic language called Mashriqi, with various local dialects.

WHAT ARE THEIR LIVES LIKE?

The Palestinian Arabs typically live in villages located near fertile regions; however, they can also be found near mountain foothills in less arid regions.

Although the Palestinian Arabs have settled in towns or villages, they are still tribal in nature. The various tribes are ruled by sheiks (Arab chiefs that are considered to be experts in Islam and in relating to the outside world). Their fortress-like villages can be easily defended. Each house has windows on all sides and is built facing the outside of the village. All goods and

persons passing through town are strictly controlled.

Social life is extremely important to Arabs. They like to share a daily coffee time by sitting on the floor and drinking coffee from cups without handles. Their diet basically consists of wheat bread and porridge made with boiled meat or chicken.

Despite Islamic teachings on equality, different classes of Arabs still persist. The type of clothing worn has become one of the determining factors. Palestinian Arab tribesmen dress differently than other villagers and can be easily recognized. The women wear veils both in town and at home. Boys show that they are becoming men by changing their headgear and wearing daggers.

Muslims are allowed to have up to four wives but most marriages among the Palestinian Arabs are monogamous. In the past, all marriages were arranged by the parents; however, it is becoming more acceptable for young people to choose their own mates.

WHAT ARE THEIR BELIEFS?

Virtually all of the Palestinian Arabs are Muslims. Islamic laws have greatly influenced the lives of the Palestinian Arabs. For example, to preserve their people, they are only allowed to marry those inside their own group. The tribes living in the mountainous regions have intermarried the least with other Arab groups.

Their society, like other Islamic communities, is patrilineal. This means that inheritances are passed down through the males. In this system, boys inherit more than girls. Since children are considered a family's greatest asset, females are valued for their ability to bear children.

WHAT ARE THEIR NEEDS?

A Muslim who professes faith in Jesus Christ can lose his family, his honor, his job, or even his life. At the present time, there are only a few known Palestinian Arab Christians. Evangelization efforts among these tribes are challenging due to restrictions in many of the countries, as well as general antagonism to Christianity. Intercession is the key to reaching them with the Gospel.

PRAYER ITEMS

- * Ask the Lord to send forth willing laborers to live and work among these tribes.
- * Pray that God will raise up faithful intercessors who will stand in the gap for the Palestinian Arabs.
- * Ask God to give the few Palestinian Arab believers opportunities to share the love of Christ with their own people.

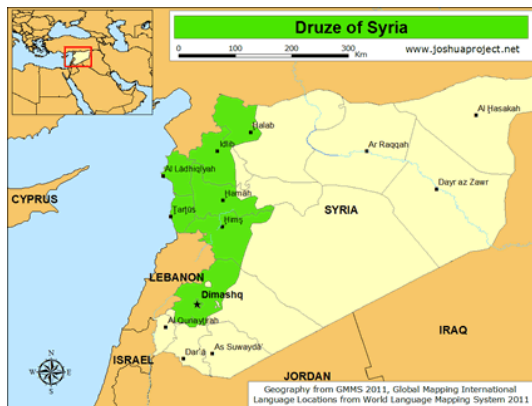
50 Largest UNENGAGED Unreached People Groups

Transform-World: Christ's Missional Challenge - The Last and the Least



Photo Source: Margot Grimal

Druze of Syria



People Name	Druze
Country	Syria
10/40 Window	Yes
Population	970,000
Language	North Levantine Arabic -
Religion	Islam - Shia
Bible	Portions
Online Audio NT	No
Jesus Film	No
Audio Recordings	Yes
Christ Followers	Less than 2 %
Status	Unreached
Unengaged	Yes

*"Declare His glory among the nations,
His marvelous works among all the peoples!"*

BACKGROUND

Druze refer to themselves as 'Mowahhidoon' (plural) or 'Mowahhid' (singular), which means "monotheistic". They are commonly referred to as "Druze", a name derived from el-Drzi, the name of one of the known propagandists of the Druze religion at its beginning. Druze do not seek their own country, but they are loyal to the country which governs their land.

WHAT ARE THEIR LIVES LIKE?

Druze are village and mountain dwellers, attached only to their individual plots of land and property, harboring no separatist national aspirations. They follow a lifestyle of isolation. Conversion, both to and from their faith is forbidden. Soon after the religion was founded, they stopped making new converts and have instead perpetuated themselves through their children. Until recently, most girls were married between the ages of 12 and 15, and most men at the age of 16 or 17. When Druze live among people of other religions, they try to blend in, to protect their religion and for safety. They can pray as Muslims or as Christians, depending on where they are living. This system seems to now be changing in response to higher security, allowing Druze to be more open about their religious beliefs. Druze have earlier been reported to practice polygamy, but there is no evidence of this practice among Druze today. Druze abstain from wine and tobacco, as there are clear prohibitions against any practice that could involve profanity of their religion. Druze have a strong sense of community, and they

consider themselves related, even across country borders.

WHAT ARE THEIR BELIEFS?

The religion of the Druze began in the 9th century AD, as a sect of Islam. Darazi, a preacher, and Hamza ibn Ali ibn Ahmad, a Persian mystic, were instrumental in popularizing the religion. They announced that God had manifested himself in human form as al-Hakim Bi-amr Allah (985 or 996-1021 AD), a Muslim caliph from Cairo, Egypt. They now believe that Darazi began to distort the message; his writings are now considered blasphemous.

Druze hold the Qur'an to be sacred, but look upon it as an outer shell, holding an "inner, esoteric meaning". Their religious texts are known collectively as "Kitab Al Hikma", the book of wisdom. This is a collection of books, of which the first six are most commonly used. They are firmly monotheistic, believing in a single God. They recognize seven major prophets, including Adam, Abraham, and Jesus (who they believe only to be the son of Joseph). Each major prophet had seven minor prophets; each of the latter had twelve disciples.

Druze believe in the transmigration of the soul. That is, at death, one's soul is instantaneously reincarnated (in time and space), and it is reborn into another life. Their concept of heaven and hell is spiritual in nature. It is believed that heaven is the ultimate happiness

that the soul encounters when it unites and meets its creator. Hell is the bitter feeling of being deprived endlessly of the glorious presence of the Almighty.

WHAT ARE THEIR NEEDS?

Druze have lived in parts of northern Israel since the 16th century, and with the establishment of the State in 1948, joined their destiny with the people of Israel. Over the years, more than 300 of their men have given their lives in the country's defense. The Druze have yet to reap the full benefits of the society they do so much to defend. Israel has worked to address the community's needs by connecting Druze villages to utility networks, upgrading health services, and adopting an initiative to boost academic achievement among the mainstream students.

PRAYER ITEMS

- * Pray each individual in the Druze community will soon become persuaded that Jesus is truly the Son of God, and will place their faith in His finished work on the cross.
- * Pray for multiplying disciples among the Druze.
- * Pray for the few believers among the Druze, that the Lord may strengthen them out of His glorious riches so that Christ may dwell in their hearts through faith.
- * Pray these believers will fellowship together, and grow as the body of Christ.

50 Largest UNENGAGED Unreached People Groups

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Photo Source: COMIBAM / Sepal

Arab, Algerian of Tunisia



People Name	Arab, Algerian
Country	Tunisia
10/40 Window	Yes
Population	255,000
Language	Algerian Arabic - (arq)
Religion	Islam - Sunni
Bible	New Testament
Online Audio NT	No
Jesus Film	Yes
Audio Recordings	Yes
Christ Followers	Less than 2 %
Status	Unreached
Unengaged	Yes

*"Declare His glory among the nations,
His marvelous works among all the peoples!"*

BACKGROUND

Today, the vast region of Northern Africa is predominantly inhabited by Arab Muslims. However, this was not always the case. The territory was once dominated by the Berbers, a non-Arab people who were at one time mostly Christians. The Berbers successfully withstood numerous invasions before finally being overrun by Arabs.

WHAT ARE THEIR LIVES LIKE?

For the Berbers, "Arabization" occurred in three overlapping stages. The first stage was the initial contact with the Arab invaders in the seventh century. The second stage began with the arrival of the Bedouins in the eleventh century. The third stage of Arabization, which took place between the fifteenth and seventeenth centuries, was accelerated by the arrival of refugees from Andalusia (a region in southern Spain).

Traditionally, the Berber economy rested on a fine balance between farming and breeding cattle. Each tribe depended heavily on domestic animals for carrying heavy loads, milk and dairy products, meat, and hides or wool. Similarly, there was not a single tribe that did not also rely on agriculture for survival.

The arrival of the Bedouins in the eleventh century brought competition for pasture land. The Bedouins were numerous enough to compete with the Berbers who lived in the plains, but were not able to dislodge or greatly

influence the mountain tribes. For this reason, the Arabization of the Berber was confined to the plains and plateau areas.

The harshness of the Berber lifestyle in Northern Africa has led many of the Berbers to immigrate. Today, large communities of Arabized Berbers can be found in several nations, particularly Europe. Although most of them are only involved in unskilled or semi-skilled labor, they are able to earn more than they would "back home."

The Arabized Berbers, like many other groups that have immigrated to other nations, send much of their earnings back home to support their larger, extended families. Similarly, members of the extended families often travel to Europe, where they will live and work for short periods of time before returning home.

WHAT ARE THEIR BELIEFS?

While the Berbers adopted the five pillars of Islam, each was modified a little to fit their local traditions and tastes. For instance, many are very casual about prayer. Also, among some tribes, the giving of alms was not accepted because it was perceived as being some type of tax.

WHAT ARE THEIR NEEDS?

There are several Christian resources available to the Arabized Berbers; however, most of the tribes have a minimal Christian population. Several missions agencies have focused on the

Arabized Berbers living in European nations, but they have had little success. New strategies must be developed and implemented so that these tribes can be effectively reached with the Gospel.

PRAYER ITEMS

- * Ask God to call out prayer teams who will begin breaking up the soil through intercession.
- * Pray for the small number of Arabized Berber Christians.
- * Ask God to give the missions agencies new strategies for reaching these tribes with the Gospel.
- * Ask the Holy Spirit to soften the hearts of these Muslim tribes towards Christians so that they will be receptive to the Gospel.
- * Pray that God will reveal Himself to these precious people through dreams and visions.
- * Ask the Lord to raise up strong local churches among each of the Arabized Berber tribes.

50 Largest UNENGAGED Unreached People Groups

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Arab, Levantine of Turkey



People Name	Arab, Levantine
Country	Turkey
10/40 Window	Yes
Population	592,000
Language	North Levantine Arabic -
Religion	Islam
Bible	Portions
Online Audio NT	No
Jesus Film	No
Audio Recordings	Yes
Christ Followers	Less than 2 %
Status	Unreached
Unengaged	Yes

*"Declare His glory among the nations,
His marvelous works among all the peoples!"*

BACKGROUND

The Levantine Arabs historically lived in a region called "the Levant". This includes Cyprus, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine and Syria. Sometimes included in the region are Egypt, Iraq and Turkey. Today, large populations can be found worldwide.

A surprisingly large percentage of them are found in the Western Hemisphere, especially in Brazil, the U.S., Canada and Mexico as well as perhaps in every Latin American country. A substantial number live in African countries as well.

Originally speakers of Aramaic and followers of Canaanite culture and language, the Levantine Arabs gradually came to speak Arabic and to practice Islam for the most part.

WHAT ARE THEIR LIVES LIKE?

The Levant Arabs typically live in villages located near fertile regions; but they can also be found near mountain foothills in less arid regions. Although they have settled in towns or villages, they have held on to their tribal affiliations.

The various tribes are ruled by sheiks (Arab chiefs that are considered to be experts in Islam and in relating to the outside world). Their fortress-like villages can be easily defended. Each house has windows on all sides and is built facing the outside of the village. All goods and persons passing through town are strictly controlled.

Social life is extremely important to Arabs. They like to share a daily coffee time by sitting on the floor and drinking coffee from cups without handles. Their diet basically consists of wheat bread and porridge made with boiled meat or chicken.

Despite Islamic teachings, the reality of different classes of Arabs still persists. The type of clothing worn has become one of the determining factors. Levant tribesmen dress differently than other villagers and can be easily recognized. The women wear veils both in town and at home. Boys show that they are becoming men by changing their headgear and wearing daggers.

WHAT ARE THEIR BELIEFS?

Almost all of the Levant Arabs are Muslims. The Levant Arabs have had a close association with Islam throughout their history; and today, all of them except for the Arabic Jewish Arabs are Muslims. The two main branches of Islam in the region are the Shi'ites and Shafiites.

Islam has greatly influenced the lives of the Levant Arabs. To preserve their people, they are only allowed to marry those inside their own group. Levant Arab society is patrilineal, which means that inheritances are passed down through the males. In this system, boys inherit more than girls. Since children are considered a family's greatest asset, females are valued for their ability to bear children.

WHAT ARE THEIR NEEDS?

A Muslim who professes faith in Jesus Christ can lose his family, his honor, his job, or even his life. At the present time, there are only a few known Christians within the Levant Arab community, with the largest number found among the Iraqi Arabs. Evangelization efforts among these tribes are challenging due to restrictions in many of the countries, as well as general antagonism towards Christianity. Intercession is the key to reaching them with the Gospel

PRAYER ITEMS

- * Ask the Lord to call people who are willing to reach out and share the love of Christ with them.
- * Pray that God will raise up faithful intercessors who will stand in the gap for the Levantine Arabs.
- * Ask God to give the Levantine Arab believers opportunities to share the love of Christ with their own people.
- * Pray that their traditional Muslim culture will soften, creating open doors for the Gospel to be preached among them.
- * Ask the Holy Spirit to open the hearts of these Muslims towards Christians so that they will be receptive to the Gospel.
- * Pray that God will reveal Himself to them through dreams and visions.
- * Ask the Lord to raise up strong local churches among the Levant Arabs.

50 Largest UNENGAGED Unreached People Groups

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Meskhetian Turk of Uzbekistan



People Name	Meskhetian Turk
Country	Uzbekistan
10/40 Window	Yes
Population	169,000
Language	Turkish - (tur)
Religion	Islam - Sunni
Bible	Complete
Online Audio NT	Yes
Jesus Film	Yes
Audio Recordings	Yes
Christ Followers	Less than 2 %
Status	Unreached
Unengaged	Yes

*"Declare His glory among the nations,
His marvelous works among all the peoples!"*

BACKGROUND

The homeland of the Meskhetian Turk, known as Meskheta, lies along the borders of Georgia and Turkey. During the rule of the Ottoman Empire (1299-1922), Turkish settlers moved into Meskheta as part of Turkey's expansion. The resulting mix of Turkish and Meskheta populations became known as the Meskhetian Turk. The Russians call them the Meskhetian Turki, or "Turks from Turkey," rather than using the more generic term for Turk.

In 1944, Stalin forcibly moved the Meskhetian Turk from their traditional Georgian homeland to southeastern Uzbekistan. Although they long to resettle in Georgia, the Georgian government refuses to allow them to return unless they replace their Turkish family names with Georgian ones and acknowledge themselves as Georgians. However, most still insist on retaining their Turkish national identity while continuing their efforts to return to Georgia.

WHAT ARE THEIR LIVES LIKE?

The deportation of the Meskhetian Turk to Uzbekistan strengthened their ethnic awareness and produced strong internal leadership. The leaders' goals are to resettle in Georgia while still maintaining the people's ethnic identity and preserving their traditional culture.

One special tradition still survives-the Meskhetian Turk marriage. The official matchmaking is conducted at the bride's home. There, the girl's father receives the bride price

and both families celebrate the betrothal with a banquet. On the day preceding the wedding (which always takes place on a Friday), a mullah (Muslim leader) confirms the marriage in the presence of two witnesses. The wedding is a joyous community affair celebrated with colorful costumes and decorations. After the celebration, the wedding couple departs for their new home, which is built especially for them.

WHAT ARE THEIR BELIEFS?

All of the Meskhetian Turk are Hanafite Muslims. Although they faithfully observe the Islamic rituals, they either add to or deviate from some customs. For example, for several nights after funeral rites and a burial, a fire is lit over the grave. When a Meskhetian Turk sees a fire in the distance at night, he will begin praying for the dead.

Even though the Meskhetian Turk are strong Muslims, they still hold to some of their pre-Islamic beliefs in magic and sorcery. The practice of inducing rain by magic is common, along with healing by the use of "moon water," or water that has set overnight under a clear sky.

The Meskhetian Turk also celebrate rituals and festivals connected with agriculture. For example, farmers may break eggs over the heads of their oxen before beginning the season's plowing. Spring weeding is followed by a folk festival with dancing, games, fortune telling, pantomimes, and sometimes, weddings.

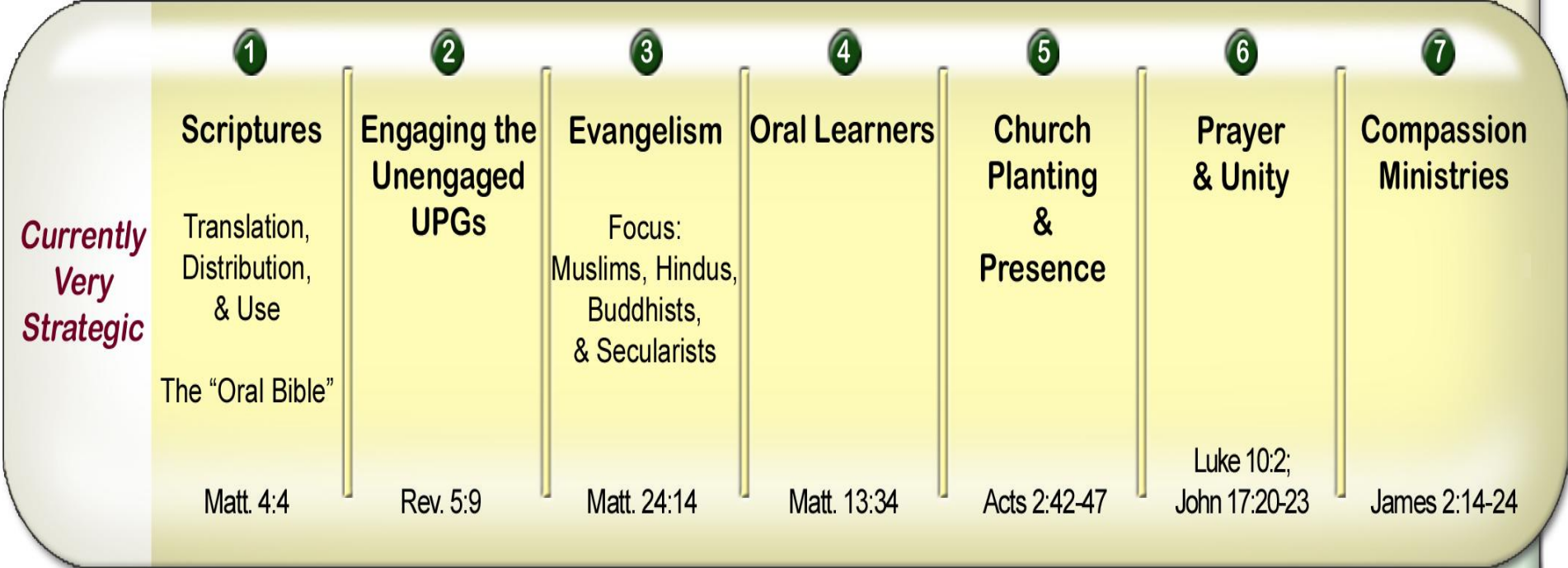
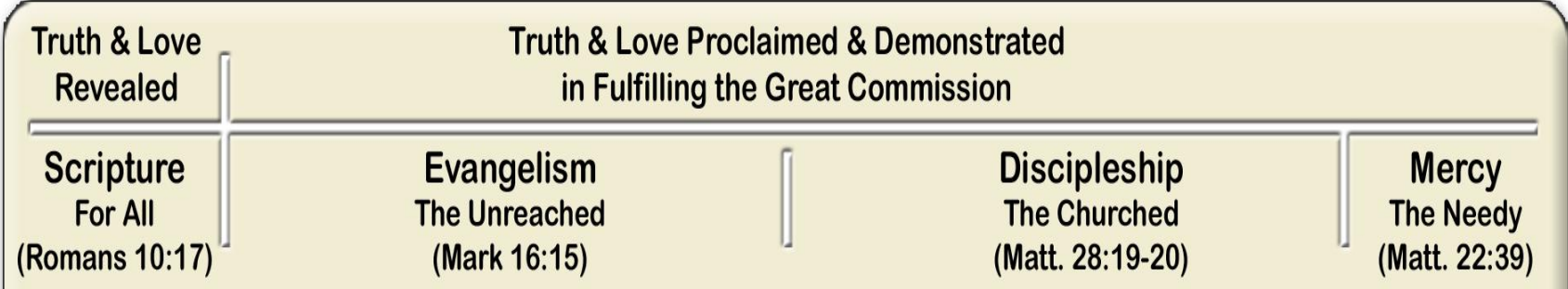
WHAT ARE THEIR NEEDS?

The Meskhetian Turk believe that they were removed unjustly from their homeland. As a result, they have lost most of their cultural heritage. The need to maintain their ethnic identity can only be done by preserving their traditional culture. They need to know that their true identity can only be found in Christ.

PRAYER ITEMS

- * Ask the Lord of the harvest to send forth laborers to live and work among the Meskhetian Turk of Uzbekistan.
- * Pray that God will raise up prayer teams to break up the spiritual soil through worship and intercession.
- * Ask God to anoint the Gospel as it goes forth via radio to the Meskhetian Turk.
- * Pray for effectiveness of the Jesus film among the Meskhetian Turk.
- * Pray that God will reveal Himself to these precious people through dreams and visions.
- * Ask the Holy Spirit to soften the hearts of the Meskhetian Turk towards Christians so that they will be receptive to the Gospel.
- * Ask the Lord to bring forth a triumphant Meskhetian Turk church for the glory of His name!

Essential Elements of the Great Commission



⑧ Confession, Repentance & Holy Spirit (1 John 1:8-10; Ephesians 5:18)

⑨ Mobilizing the Body of Christ – People & Finances (Isaiah 6:8; Luke 6:38)

⑩ Research, Mapping & Reporting (Numb. 13:17-20; Matt. 5:14-16)