

www.globalprayerdigest.org

Global Prayer Digest

April - June 2017 • Frontier Ventures • 36:4-6

RECEIVING THE KINGDOM LIKE A CHILD

IN BELGIUM, LUXEMBOURG, AND THE NETHERLANDS

- 6—"I Want Hell to Be Empty!"
- 8—Good News That Won't Make the Headlines
- 9—A Piece of Saudi Arabia in the Netherlands
- 14—Now is the Time to Reach Jewish People in Europe
- 27—Uzbeks in Belgium Not Forgotten by God
- 30—Marriages Made in Hell for Thai Women



Dear Praying Friends,

Every April we pray for the unreached people groups in Western Europe. This time we will focus our attention on those in the Benelux countries (Belgium, the Netherlands, and Luxembourg). I have wanted to do a *GPD* issue on the Netherlands for many years because I had heard about the work being done there by YWAM (Youth with a Mission) missionaries. This will be our chance to pray for the work of getting the gospel out to certain unreached people who cannot hear the gospel in their own countries due to persecution.

The other day I was listening to a song taken from Mark 10:14b-15 (NET), where Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me and do not try to stop them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. I tell you the truth, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child will never enter it."

There is something profoundly counter-cultural in this. Most of the unreached refugee populations in Europe are there because the rulers in their homelands violate principles of the kingdom of God. It is because the rulers act out of pride and selfishness that so many innocent people have to leave Muslim lands. In Europe they have the chance to hear from believers who follow the One who teaches us to humbly embrace the Lord.

Pray that the church in Europe will be purified in such a way that the nations will see its humility before the all-powerful Lord.

Keith Carey

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

Keith.carey@frontierventures.org

<http://www.globalprn.com/global-prayer-digest-magazine-downloads/>

April 2017

RECORDS AND SUBSCRIPTIONS

Frontier Ventures - GPD
PO Box 433303
Palm Coast, FL 32143
Tel: 888-903-3322 (US or Canada)
subscriptions@frontierventures.org

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Keith Carey

ASSISTANT EDITOR

Paula Fern

WRITERS

Eugena Chou
Patricia Depew
Patti Ediger
Karen Hightower
Wesley Kawato
Ben Klueft
Christopher Lane
Bianca Ontiveros
Ted Proffitt
Cory Raynham
Lydia Reynolds
Jean Smith
Allan Starling
Chun Mei Wilson

DAILY BIBLE COMMENTARIES

Keith Carey
David Dougherty
Robert Rutz

CUSTOMER SERVICE

Lois Carey

GRAPHICS

Garrett Inouye

PRINTER

Yuli Color Reproduction Co., LTD.
(Taiwan)

WEB SITE

www.globalprayerdigest.org

www.globalprn.com/global-prayer-digest-magazine-downloads/

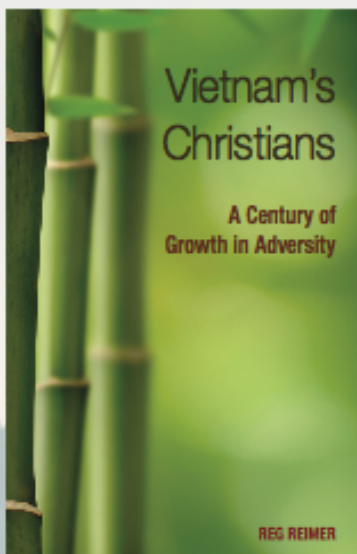
ISSN 1045-9731
Contents of the **Global Prayer Digest** © 2017
Frontier Ventures
1605 East Elizabeth Street
Pasadena, CA 91104

Contents of this booklet may be reproduced if appropriate credit and subscription information are given.

For subscription information, call 888-903-3322 (US or Canada)
For comments on content, call 626-398-2241.



WILLIAM CAREY LIBRARY



VIETNAM'S CHRISTIANS

A Century of Growth in Adversity

In 1975, Vietnam, united under communism, fell behind a bamboo curtain. Many feared the worst for churches there. But fifteen years later, churches, especially among Vietnam's ethnic minority mountain peoples, suddenly exploded in number and vitality.

Reg Reimer (MA, Fuller Theological Seminary) has served the kingdom of God in many capacities around the world, but describes himself foremost as a missionary to Vietnam. After forty-five years of deep involvement there, he has become the acknowledged authority on Protestants in that enigmatic country. He has reported much on Vietnam, but, as the situation required, anonymously – until now.

List Price: ~~\$12.99~~

Our Price: \$10.39

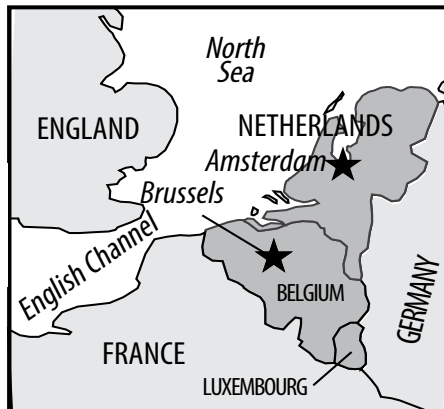
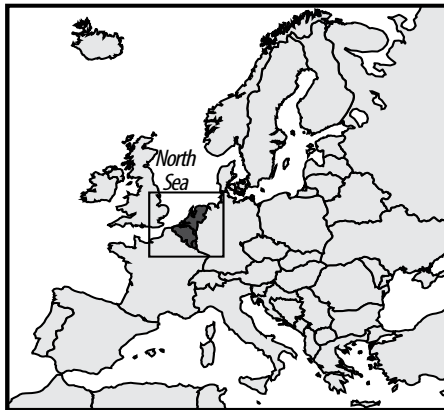
ISBN: 9780878083046
Reg Reimer (Author)
Published by William Carey Library, 2011
Paperback, 144 pages

www.missionbooks.org

US: 1-877-333-4411

PRAY FOR

*A Church Planting Movement Among Every
People Group in Belgium, the Netherlands,
and Luxembourg*



Prayer Resources for 2017!

Ethne to Ethne

A regionally based prayer movement for UPGs working closely with GPD.

www.prayerstrategists.net

Global Prayer Resource

Grand central station for prayer materials.

<http://www.globalprn.com/prayer-resources/>

PRAYER GUIDES

Global Prayer Digest

Daily prayer guide for UPGs. Get it free digitally!

globalprayerdigest.org

Joshua Project

Research and daily prayer materials for UPGs.

<http://joshuaproject.net/>

Light the Window

Prayer for 365 UPGs once a year through 2020.

<https://www.ltw2020.org/>

10-40 Window Reporter

Prayer for nations of the 10-40 Window.

<http://www.1040windowreporter.com/>

Prayerguard

Online general prayer for UPGs.

http://prayerguard.net/?page_id=209

Devotional Ideas

How can you make the most of this prayer digest:

- Some people use it as a supplement to their regular devotional time.
- Others enjoy reading and praying around the dinner table with the entire family.
- We encourage you to gather monthly with other Christian friends who are involved in this movement.

Every day at the top of the page you'll find the name of an unreached people group for which to pray. The small maps will help you locate the day's feature.

GOD AT WORK

IN THE “LOW LANDS” OF BELGIUM, THE NETHERLANDS, AND LUXEMBOURG

Located in the northwest corner of Western Europe, the Benelux nations were first recorded in history by the Romans. They described a river delta region made up of rivers and the sea known for centuries as the “Low Lands” or in Dutch as the “Nederlanden.”

The Netherlands literally means “lower countries,” referring to its low land and flat geography. About half of the land area is only one meter above sea level. Since the late 16th century, large areas below sea level were man-made and reclaimed from the sea and lakes.

It was in the 4th century A.D. that these tribes first started to receive the gospel. Through Anglo-Saxon and Celtic inspired missionary efforts in the 7th and 8th centuries, the gospel spread to the Frisian tribes north of the Rhine River. The Grand Duchy of Luxembourg traces its beginnings to 963 A.D., when Benedictine monks along the Moselle River traded the land to the founder of Luxembourg.

The Reformation

It was in the early 1500s that the Reformation drastically began to change the faith climate of the Low Lands and, indeed, all of Europe. A classical scholar, Erasmus of Rotterdam, prepared important new Latin and Greek editions of the New Testament which were influential in the Protestant Reformation and the Catholic Counter-Reformation. Erasmus translated the

Bible in a pure Latin style, and in 1516 he published the first translation. He outlined his vision for the new Bible in the preface: that every woman would read the Gospels and the Epistles of St. Paul, that every plowboy would sing the Scriptures, that the weavers would hum them, that the traveler would tell their stories and that the Word of God would be translated into every language—not only for the Scots and Irish, but also that the Turks and Saracens (Muslim Arabs) might read it.

Erasmus' work led to Luther's German translation of the Bible, Tyndale's English translation, and at least eight other European language translations in the following 25 years.

The Reformation that Luther began in 1517 also polarized Europe and the Low Lands between Protestants and Catholics. In the 1560s and 1570s, Willem of Orange led the seven northern Dutch provinces in a revolution against the King of Spain with the idea that people could have freedom of religion. This led to the Dutch Reformed Church being established in the north and Catholicism remaining dominant in the south (now Belgium and Luxembourg).

Unity Then and Now

After being liberated from Napoleon, the Low Lands were briefly united from 1813-1830 as the United Netherlands under King Willem I. However, the religious and linguistic differences, along with cultural and political issues that arose, led to Belgium declaring independence in 1830. Luxembourg had its sovereignty recognized in 1839, thus ending the United Netherlands. After World War II, these countries would again unite in the Benelux Customs Union and later the Benelux Economic Union (1960). All three are founding partners of what is now the European Union.

Whereas the union in the 1800s collapsed, the last 50 plus years have led to each country experiencing significant economic prosperity after the trauma of World War II. According to the World Bank (2015), Luxembourg, the Netherlands, and Belgium are among the 20 countries with the highest per capita income in the world.

Yet, is there a correlation between the economic prosperity that so many seek and the Christian faith? Only 46 percent of Belgians today consider themselves

GOD AT WORK IN THE “LOW LANDS”

to be Christian (10 years ago it was 75 percent) and less than two percent are evangelical. More than half of the Dutch no longer consider themselves to be religious at all. A 2012 WIN-Gallup International research report indicates that globally, religiosity is highest among the poor and declines as worldly prosperity increases for individuals. James said something very similar almost 2,000 years ago: “Hasn’t God chosen the poor in this world to be rich in faith?” (James 2:5, NLT). Jesus also spoke of how the deceitfulness of riches can choke the Word, making it unfruitful, and how difficult it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of heaven. Could it be that the people of the Low Lands are facing tests of whether they will be deceived by riches or pursue fruitfulness, multiplying what they have received to others in need?

We can look back at the history of the peoples of these countries and see when the gospel started to shape their history, how that has impacted their culture, how it has been twisted, and how people started to drift from faith.

Unreached Peoples in the Benelux Nations

There are multiple peoples in these countries who have not yet had the good news of Jesus shape their history. Let’s take a look.

Belgium

Linguistically Belgium has three official languages: Flemish in the north (55 percent), French in the south (38 percent) and German (one percent) in the east. Brussels is both the capital of Belgium and the capital of the European Union, hosting the European Parliament and a variety of other EU institutions with dozens of languages spoken every day.

The Joshua Project has identified 28 unreached groups with more than 400,000 people. Arab Moroccans, Berbers, Turks, Kurds, Jews, Iranians, and Chechens make up the largest number of unreached people in Belgium. Almost 40,000 refugees came to Belgium in 2015—mostly from Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan, and some from Somalia and other countries.

Netherlands

There are more than 100 languages spoken in the Netherlands. The capital, Amsterdam, has nearly 180 different nationalities alone.

GOD AT WORK IN THE “LOW LANDS”

According to the Joshua Project, among those many nationalities are 21 unreached groups comprised of nearly 900,000 people. There are large unreached populations of Arabs and Rif Berbers from Morocco, Turks, Kurds, Jews, Kabyle Berbers from Algeria, and Hindustani and other South Asian peoples. Additionally, more than 43,000 refugees were registered in the country for asylum in 2015 with more than 19,000 coming from Syria and large groups coming from Eritrea, Somalia, and Afghanistan.

One of the most encouraging developments to thank God for is the fact that there are over 1,000 followers of Jesus among Muslims in Europe. This has occurred among Iranians in the Netherlands and is spreading to other countries! It is interesting to note from various studies that Iranians in the Netherlands are the least likely Muslim people group to practice Islam.

Luxembourg

The European refugee crisis will nearly double the number of unreached people living in Luxembourg. The Joshua Project estimated that there were three unreached people groups with just over 2,500 people in this small country. They are Turks, Jews, and South Asians. The latest EU statistics indicated that approximately 2,400 refugees came in 2015 primarily from Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan, Kosovo, and Albania.

Pray...

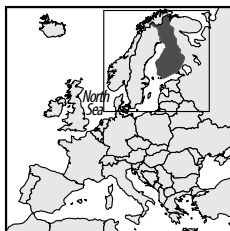
- ...for a modern day fulfillment of Erasmus' vision: that every store clerk would read the Gospels, that every delivery person would sing songs of praise, that office workers would tell gospel stories, and that every people group in the Benelux would be reached by the gospel in their own language.
- ... for laborers in the Benelux nations who would clearly communicate the good news of Jesus across cultural and language barriers, so disciple-making movements can multiply.
- ...for open hearts for the refugees from Syria, Afghanistan, Iraq, Eritrea, Somalia, and many other countries.
- ...that the peoples of the Benelux nations, both the indigenous Europeans and the immigrant communities, would not be deceived by riches, but would pursue righteousness.
- ...for Iranian believers to be a light in the Benelux countries, throughout Europe, back into Iran and beyond.

BIOGRAPHY OF OLAVI AND MARJA VESALAINEN – WYCLIFFE TRANSLATORS

COL 1:24-26, RSV

Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I complete what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of His body, that is, the church, of which I became a minister according to the divine office which was given to me for you, to make the Word of God fully known, the mystery hidden for ages and generations but now made manifest to His saints.

Pray for the suffering harvesters in the Muslim world who are experiencing His supernatural breakthroughs in the lives of the most fanatical Muslims doing their best to kill them. Pray for harvesters to powerfully make the Word of God fully known even to the most impossible to reach Muslims. Not one is beyond the reach of Christ's nail-pierced hands!



Olavi Vesalainen was 19 years old and a recent college graduate when he felt God calling him to follow the great commission. Living in Finland at the time, he was impressed with Elizabeth Elliot's book, *Operation Auca*, about the vision God had given her and her husband Jim Elliot to take the word of God to the remote Auca Indians in South America. Olavi thought to himself, "Everyone deserves to be able to read God's Word in his own language."

Olavi determined that he wanted to be involved in taking God's Word to those who had never had an opportunity to hear it. Little did he know that his simple act of faith and commitment would consume the next 38 years of his life!

Olavi went to England for study and met an equally motivated young woman, Marja, a recent nursing graduate. As they became acquainted, they realized that God had given them both the same vision. Olavi says that when he met Marja, he knew instantly that, "She was the wife the Lord had given me." Marja said, "I was convinced also." Love at first sight! He proposed right away, and Marja responded, "I was ready to go anywhere," not realizing it would be Nepal.

Pray for those who join Wycliffe Translators to find great joy in being part of translating God's Word so that others can know the truth.—JS

BIOGRAPHY, CONTINUED

Olavi was sent to Nepal to hike and scout out the area for a potential people group without Scriptures. He felt God's clear call to work with the Lhomi people who lived in the Arun Valley. Marja joined him and seven days after her arrival they were married by a Nepalese pastor. Marja also felt drawn to the Lhomi and was struck by their "poverty, yet kindness."

They settled in Chepuwa Village and found a young Lhomi man, Jyabu, recently widowed, who was literate and agreed to be their translator. Jyabu was Buddhist. As he began to hear and understand the Bible stories he was working on, Jyabu began to understand Olavi's words, "Jesus died for you, Jyabu, over 2,000 years ago." Jyabu said, "All the sheep and goats I sacrificed did not save my wife. I want to follow Jesus." When Jyabu told others the stories, they too wanted to believe. God was healing and working miracles among the Lhomi villagers.

One day on a high mountain pass as Olavi was taking pictures of the villages below in the Arun Valley, he audibly heard God give him three promises. "Raise your hands and bless these five villages you can see." Then, "This project is going to succeed." And lastly, "I am going to do it in such a way as to be an example for others."

Pray for Wycliffe translators to be encouraged as they face the long hours and years involved in translating God's Word into a new language.—JS

DAY

02

COL 1:27, RSV

To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

All we have to give Muslims is Christ in us, and all God has to give them is Christ, the hope of glory. He is more than enough! Pray that God will move in the oceans of His glory until it engulfs the whole Muslim world. Pray that Muslims in every European country will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.

BIOGRAPHY, CONTINUED

COL 1:28, RSV

Him we proclaim, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man mature in Christ.

We see them! Just as God sees us as the bride of His son, presented without blemish before the presence of His glory, we have the privilege of helping others to become part of the bride of Christ! What a privilege God gives all us intercessors, senders, and harvesters to share a piece of the action in the greatest enterprise ever! Thanks be to Him!

In 1976 Christian workers were forced to leave Nepal. Olavi and Marja, now with four children felt hopeless, but the Lord encouraged them to return to Kathmandu and continue their work when the opportunity came. The weather did not permit them to stay in Chepuwa Village more than a few months out of the year. Their goal was to finish the Gospels of Matthew and Mark.

Olavi said, “God gave us the faith to take the next step and the next step.” Meanwhile God’s Word and miracles were spreading like wildfire. The first Bible translations were printed in Finland and shipped to Chepuwa. The people were learning to read by using the Word of God!

The work also brought persecution. Just before Christmas, insurgents attacked the church, burning it and the Bibles. Jyabu and others were captured and threatened if they did not bow before a Buddhist book. Jyabu replied, “There is only one God, and we will only bow to Him. You can do whatever you want to us, but we will not bow down.”

Marja and Olavi have retired to Finland, but Jyabu and fellow translators have pledged to finish the translation in eight years. Olavi feels that he has seen the Lord fulfill all the promises He gave him 38 years ago.

Ask God to raise up a host of translators whose dream is to finish the task of translating His Word into the almost 2,000 languages that remain without adequate Scriptures.—JS

WYCLIFFE BIBLE TRANSLATORS

So many languages and dialects, so many small people groups... and so few Bible translations! It is an arduous task – the attempt to translate the Bible into every language and dialect in the world. Everyone deserves to hear and read God’s word in his or her own mother tongue. That has been the goal of Wycliffe Bible Translators since its inception. Some missionaries have dedicated their entire lives to translating the Bible into one language. However, with today’s exponentially expanding technology, it is possible to complete the task of translation in the very near future.

The newest “miracle” software program called ParaTExt is providing an easy way to search for words and meanings that previously demanded hours of tedious work. Time is the critical component in translation work. Whenever that time can be shortened, it frees up translators to collaborate with others and move forward more rapidly. At the present time Wycliffe translators are working on translations in 2,000 languages! ParaTExt identifies the locations of key biblical words and phrases and shows how they should be translated. It is also incredibly helpful for a team to be able to use translations of a nearby language as a source text. ParaTExt not only increases the speed and accuracy of the translation process, but also allows local speakers to participate. Now translators can collaborate on a translation even when continents apart!

Pray for technology to enable translators to finish the task so that there will be no people left without God’s Word.—JS

DAY

04

LUKE 24:45, NET

Then He opened their minds so they could understand the scriptures.

Pray that new Bible translation efforts will result in millions more being able to understand the Scriptures and obey them.

ENGAGE THE CRISIS-REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT

ACTS 16:7-9, NET

When they came to Mysia, they attempted to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them to do this, so they passed through Mysia and went down to Troas. A vision appeared to Paul during the night: A Macedonian man was standing there urging him, "Come over to Macedonia and help us!"

Pray for short term missionaries to clearly hear the Lord's voice when they are called to go to a certain place or move into full time service.

“I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.” – John 15:5, NASB

Nearly 2,000 believers banded together this past summer to reach refugees for Christ in Europe. Many of them came from different backgrounds and churches; yet all acted as branches of the vine, and all reaped much fruit.

The efforts of these teams to abide in Him produced incredible testimonies of faithfulness. A man heard the sound of worship and was delivered from demons. Family members found one another after praying for the first time. Those who did not know Christ had visions of the Savior dressed in white. Broken bones and physical ailments were healed. Both refugees and Europeans experienced the fullness of the love of God.

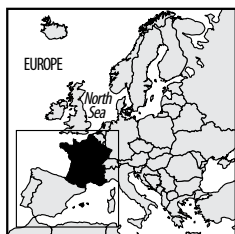
Beyond the miracles of these testimonies, the Lord provided services to the refugees. Trafficked women and refugees now have trauma counseling. Job training and job placement are available so refugees can start a new life in Europe. The Antioch Movement established eight bases in Europe to accomplish three goals: meet practical needs, start church planting movements, and mobilize long term church planters. They are accomplishing these things in beautiful ways!

Pray that the work last summer will bear lasting fruit in the lives of traumatized Muslims. Pray that these efforts will result in church planting movements in Europe and beyond.—Bianca Ontiveros, Guest Writer

GRN WORK AMONG REFUGEES IN EUROPE

DAY

06



“I have some questions,” said Abdul. “May I talk with you?” He was addressing the leader of a Global Recordings Network (GRN) team visiting his refugee camp in Europe. “We’ll be happy to,” said the team leader. “That’s why we’re here.”

“I’m from Iraq. My questions are about Jesus. When I asked my imam, he told me I was a dead person and threw me out. I’ve had to leave my country, but I’m still searching.

If I find the truth, it’s not for me alone. And if it is to follow Jesus, I will spend my life telling others. I want hell to be empty!”

The team told Abdul the story of how Jesus told Nicodemus he had to be born again. After a few hours of discussion, a team member asked, “Do you want to receive Jesus now?” Abdul was amazed that it was possible. He replied “Why not!” and prayed to receive Christ into his life.

Abdul returned the next day and stayed until evening, learning more about Jesus. The team also showed him how to download a GRN app to his phone. This enabled him to share the good news with others in the camp by playing gospel messages in their languages.

Pray for the GRN team and other missionaries as they share the gospel with refugees. Pray that many Muslim background refugees will embrace Christ and share Him with others. Pray for many to begin discipling others and planting churches.—Allan Starling, GRN

ACTS 18:28, NET

...for he refuted the Jews vigorously in public debate, demonstrating from the scriptures that the Christ was Jesus.

Pray for thousands of Muslim background believers to be raised up who can explain that Jesus is who He says He is.

WOLOF PEOPLE IN BELGIUM

1 CHR 6:31, NET

These are the men David put in charge of music in the Lord's sanctuary, after the ark was placed there.

Pray that the Holy Spirit will fill many Wolof people with heartfelt praise so that they will go forth using music to teach the ways of Jesus throughout Africa.



Corintimila

Language of the heart

When one thinks of African culture, one often thinks of music. No matter what part of the African continent one goes to, music is everywhere. When Africans migrate to Belgium, they bring music with them for everyone to enjoy. Most Africans in Belgium are from countries that have an historical

connection with Belgium through colonialism: this includes Rwanda, Burundi, and what was once known as the Belgian Congo in central Africa. Some of these people have moved to French-speaking parts of Belgium.

A smaller number of Wolof people from West Africa's Senegal have mixed in with other French-speaking Africans. Wolof in Belgium are much more likely to speak French than their original mother tongue. Maintaining their culture must be difficult for the Wolof people who number less than 2,000 in Belgium.

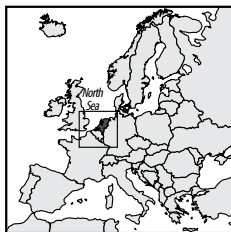
Though the Wolof people are Muslim, they are much more likely to be part of a Sufi order than other Africans. Sufism is much more mystical and “emotional” than other forms of Islam. In Senegal, about 92 percent of the people belong to a Sufi brotherhood.

Pray that the Wolof people will hear and respond to Christ's saving grace. Pray for a church planting movement among Wolof in Belgium that will spread to Senegal.—KC

YWAM MINISTRY TO MUSLIMS IN BRUSSELS

DAY

08



In recent years Brussels, Belgium has been featured in the headlines of news bulletins for the wrong reasons. Headlines brought attention to Islamic terrorist attacks against European targets that were planned in one of the neighborhoods of Brussels, Molenbeek. Many Muslim unreached people groups (UPGs) live in Molenbeek.

Today there is good news that won't make it to the headlines. A new YWAM team, New

Neighbors, is forming to plant churches in this and other Muslim neighborhoods in Brussels. One of the members of the team is from one of those UPGs and has just moved in the last year with his family to Brussels. With the influx of refugees, a number of Muslims have become “followers of Isa” (Jesus) and are becoming disciples to reach others and plant churches in the asylum centers.

Pray for open doors and men of peace for this team in Molenbeek and other Muslim communities in Brussels. Pray for their safety and for boldness. Pray that the teams going to these centers will continue to have favor with the authorities. Pray for the Holy Spirit to use Discovery Bible Studies that are taking place in various asylum centers. Pray also that believers will welcome refugees into their homes to show hospitality and share the love of Christ with them. Pray for the Iranian MBBs (Muslim Background Believers) to be united and passionate in their faith and share it with other Muslims.—Willam, YWAM, Amsterdam

ACTS 4:33, NET

With great power the apostles were giving testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was on them all.

Pray that YWAM missionaries will make it clear that Jesus Christ's resurrection sets Him apart as the only one worthy of our devotion.

SAUDI ARABS IN THE NETHERLANDS

ACTS 2:11, NET

“... both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs—we hear them speaking in our own languages about the great deeds God has done!”

Pray that this will be the year when the Lord will do great works among Saudi Arab Muslims in Europe.



Saudis in Europe

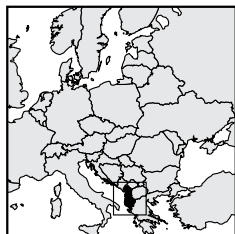
Did you know there is a piece of Saudi Arabia in the Netherlands? I don't mean the Saudi embassy; I mean the Greenbox Museum of Contemporary Art

from Saudi Arabia in Amsterdam. It is unique in that all the art exhibited there was created on the same date, July 28, 2008. The museum includes paintings and photographs. Some of the work is in English and Arabic. In a way this is remarkable given that so few Saudis live in the Netherlands. Both Saudis and Dutch visit the museum. Saudis live not only in Amsterdam, but also in Groningen which has a Saudi Club; they also live in Maastricht, where a couple of hundred students attend the university and in a few other cities. Those in the Dutch capital work for the Saudi Embassy.

None of these Saudis could be evangelized in Saudi Arabia, but in the Netherlands such a thing is possible. Friendship evangelism may win a hearing for Christ. However, the Saudis are dedicated Sunni Muslims, so it would have to be very discreet.

Pray that Christian students, faculty, and missionaries will engage in friendship evangelism with Saudis. Pray that Saudis will open themselves up to such evangelism and to media presentations of the gospel. Pray that they will obtain copies of the Bible and read them with open hearts. Pray that they will see visions and dreams of Jesus and ask Christ's followers to explain them.—TP

ALBANIANS IN THE NETHERLANDS



Why would Albanians want to live in a country so different from their own? They come from southeastern Europe seeking to live in the Netherlands where the climate and the language are far different from Albania. They can be Catholics, Orthodox, or Muslim, but they are seeking to live in a Protestant country. The Albanians are really looking for employment, yet unfortunately, they usually lack employable skills.

Thanks to the First Balkan War in 1912-13, the Netherlands promised to provide internal policing for Albania, a new nation that had just gained its independence from the Ottoman Empire. In 1970, Albania entered diplomatic relations with the Dutch. In 1999, the Dutch began an education program to teach the ways of democracy to the Albanians following the collapse of communism.

Today some 600 Albanians reside in the Netherlands. According to the Joshua Project, two percent of these are Christian, one percent evangelical, and 92 percent are nominally Muslims. They need job and language skills. Some also need legal help to remain in the Netherlands. They need friends who follow the ways of Christ.

Pray that Dutch believers will befriend them and help them learn Dutch and get jobs. Pray that Dutch churches will reach out to the Albanians so that many will become followers of Jesus. Pray that Albanian Muslims in the Netherlands will obtain Bibles and have dreams and visions of Jesus.—TP

ACTS 23:6, NET

Then when Paul noticed that part of them were Sadducees and the others Pharisees, he shouted out in the council, "Brothers, I am a Pharisee, a son of Pharisees. I am on trial concerning the hope of the resurrection of the dead!"

Pray for those ministering to Muslims to remember that the resurrection is a key part of our faith and theirs.

SARNAMI HINDI IN THE NETHERLANDS

ACTS 20:10, NET

But Paul went down, threw himself on the young man, put his arms around him, and said, “Do not be distressed, for he is still alive!”

Pray that in Europe, Hindus will know that Jesus brings life, and that His resurrection victory is the only hope for mankind.



Work, education, and tourism are just some of the reasons that the Indian population of the Netherlands has exploded in recent years. Long before

this occurred, another migration took place for different reasons.

A migration began in 1873 from the British Raj in India to the South American nation of Suriname, then under Dutch rule. There was a treaty between the British and Dutch governments regarding indentured laborers and contract workers which allowed Indian nationals to work in Suriname. These Indian Hindus became known as Sarnami Hindi. A little over 100 years later in 1975, Suriname gained its independence. This created a situation where the Indians in Suriname had an uncertain future in the new nation. Many of them emigrated to the Netherlands, searching for stability. With an estimated population of 120,000, they now comprise a little over half of the practicing Hindus in the Netherlands.

Pray that the Sarnami Hindi people in the Netherlands will soon encounter the gospel of Christ, and that they will find new life in Him. Pray that believers in the Netherlands will take an interest in them and reach out to their Hindu neighbors, demonstrating the love and power of our Heavenly Father. Pray for a church planting movement for the Sarnami Hindi people to begin in the Netherlands.—BK

TIGREANS IN THE NETHERLANDS



Invisible and unnoticed, lurking quietly in the Netherlands, there is a group of people that goes unseen by the world. They are Tigreans, refugees from the small nation of Eritrea in the Horn of Africa.

A quiet nation, Eritrea has one of the worst records for human rights worldwide. The fleeing Eritreans comprise the third largest people group crossing the Mediterranean to Europe, with up to 5,000 people risking the journey each year. Those who practice “unregistered” religion are arrested by the Eritrean government. Those who attempt to flee Eritrea receive the same fate. What they flee includes extrajudicial executions, torture, indefinitely prolonged national service, and forced labor. In addition, there are accounts of sexual harassment and abuse by government officials.

The majority of Tigreans in the Netherlands are Orthodox Christians, but there is little known about them other than this fact. They tend to be politically oriented, voicing the need for change in their home country. But they are hounded by agents of the Eritrean government who have even worked their way into becoming interpreters during sensitive conversations between the refugees and the Dutch government. Facing persecution even outside their borders, it is no wonder that the Tigrean refugees keep themselves out of sight.

Pray that the Lord would cover the Tigreans and protect them, both in the Netherlands and Eritrea. Pray that justice and mercy will soon define the Eritrean government. Pray that the Tigreans in the Netherlands will find a way to bring the gospel back to Eritrea.—BK

ACTS 24:15, NET

I have a hope in God (a hope that these men themselves accept, too) that there is going to be a resurrection of both the righteous and the unrighteous.

Pray that Muslims in the Netherlands will understand that the resurrection and the final day will be a time where they must give an account for what they do and what they believe.

DUTCH JEWS

ACTS 26:8, NET

Why do you people think it is unbelievable that God raises the dead?

Pray for the unreached people groups in Europe that are being reached this decade. Pray that they will have faith in Christ and His victory over death.

(This story explains the lifestyle of this people group.)

“**B**efore WWII there were almost 60,000 Jewish people living here in Amsterdam. After the war only about 5,000 returned. Most of our people did not survive. I was one of the few.” Nathan was sharing with a visitor who had many questions about the Jewish people in the Netherlands. He continued, “Today the Jewish population has grown to about 20,000, and our communities here and throughout Holland have been restored. While not much is left from the old Jewish Quarter, there are several new synagogues and special memorial Jewish Museums. We have wonderful schools. My grandchildren are learning Hebrew. There are many new opportunities for jobs, and most importantly, we have a Jewish Football Club! People wave the Israeli flag during matches. There are many good Kosher delis, stores, and restaurants throughout the city. Last year the Dutch government gave our community \$11 million dollars to compensate for taxes that survivors of the Holocaust had to pay. It is truly a miracle!”

The majority of the Jewish people in Holland are secular. Some are Orthodox, and a few have joined small Messianic Jewish fellowships.

Pray that believers will reach out to these Jewish people with spiritual wisdom, understanding, hope, and patience so they will see the true light of the living Lord. Pray these Jewish people will be open to receiving God's peace, truth, and grace.—PD

GERMAN JEWS IN LUXEMBOURG



(This story explains the lifestyle of this people group.)

Joshua, a Messianic Jew living in Luxembourg, was encouraged as he read a letter from his friend, Avi, who was the European Director of Jews for Jesus based in Germany. The letter stated, “I think each one of us had a very strong sense that the timing of this Berlin campaign was especially significant. Think of the “mix” of circumstances: terrorist attacks breaking out across

Europe; a growing resident Israeli population in Berlin that now exceeds 22,000; and the arrival in Berlin of some 90,000 refugees, many of them Syrian Muslims. What an uncanny opportunity for Jews for Jesus, and for our Christian Witness to Israel (CWI) partners to tell Israelis, Muslims, and Germans about Yeshua, the Prince of Peace!”

With an estimated population of 1,200 Jews (700 are German Jews), Luxembourg is one of the few European countries to have a larger Jewish population today than it had before WWII. Judaism is recognized and supported by the government as one of the major religions.

Please pray for basic training for the new Jewish believers and for the growth of the Berlin work. Join us in praising Him for bringing the peace of God into people’s lives. Pray that the German Jews and other Jewish people in Luxembourg will be willing to hear and accept that Jesus died for them and wants to give them fullness of life.—PD

ISAIAH 49:6B, NIV

... It is too small a thing for you to be my servant to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back those of Israel I have kept. I will also make you a light for the Gentiles, that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.

Pray that as the Jewish people celebrate the Passover, they will understand that they can be a light to the Gentiles and glorify the Name of Yahweh if they will only embrace their Messiah.

IRAQI ARABS IN BELGIUM AND THE NETHERLANDS

ACTS 26:23-24, NET

... that the Christ was to suffer and be the first to rise from the dead, to proclaim light both to our people and to the Gentiles." As Paul was saying these things in his defense, Festus exclaimed loudly, "You have lost your mind, Paul! Your great learning is driving you insane!"

Pray for a gift of faith for non-believers so that instead of mocking the resurrection, they will rejoice in Christ's victory over death.

Caleb Project



An Iraqi Arab in Europe

Ibrahim shook his head as he glanced across the blue and green mounds of pop-up tents covering the park. He commented, "I started a business, but the militia wanted so

much protection money that I had to close shop and run. To live here in squalor, tent against tent is very depressing. I'd rather go back to Baghdad and die in the war."

Belgium was the first nation to repatriate Iraqis who fled their homeland after the beginning of the Iraqi war. Finding life difficult as refugees in Europe, over 3,800 voluntarily returned to Iraq in 2015. The country provided one year of aid for the disillusioned people, mostly men aged 25 to 45.

The Netherlands has approximately 5,900 Iraqi immigrants living there at this time, and fewer than 100 are Muslim. Belgium and the Netherlands have access to Arabic Bibles, Christian literature, JESUS Films, and audio Bible teachings. God has opened a door for asylum seekers to find the peace and safety that only Christ can offer. They are in a land where they can learn of Jesus and embrace Him and the teachings of the Word of God. Are they hearing? Are local believers showing them kindness and sharing Christ?

Pray that before many refugees give up and retreat to Iraq they will hear and receive the good news. Pray that local believers will boldly and kindly share the treasure of salvation with those starving for His mercy and peace.—PE

MOROCCAN ARABS IN BELGIUM (EASTER SUNDAY)

DAY

16



A Moroccan man

As news programs loudly proclaim terrorist activities in Europe, focus has fallen on Belgium as a nest of jihadist activities. Belgium has the majority of the jihadists who

left to fight in Syria. Most of these are Moroccan Arabs. There are stark differences in the way the populations and local governments in Belgium address the concerns. For instance, while most cities demand tougher restrictions and crackdowns by police, one small Flemish-speaking town addressed their share of the “terror recruitment problem” by forming soccer clubs and promoting after school activities for 6-25 year-olds. Only those with good report cards can join these clubs. Teachers, police, and town officials meet bi-weekly to discuss young people who are showing at-risk behavior, and the family of problem children is visited by employment counselors, social workers, and teachers. With this changed dynamic, no young person has left for Syria or participated in terror in two years!

Since only about one in 500 Moroccan Arabs in these countries follows Christ, let us pray for their hearts to be drawn to the Lord who saves and transforms. Pray that Christian workers seek them out and boldly but tenderly share the love and salvation of Jesus Christ. Moroccan Arabs feel they have one foot in Belgium and one foot in Morocco, but their identity needs to be in Christ rather than in their nationality.

Pray for them to look to Christ for their identity.—PE

ACTS 2:31-33, NIV

Seeing what was to come, he spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, that he was not abandoned to the realm of the dead, nor did his body see decay. God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of it. Exalted to the right hand of God, he has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear.

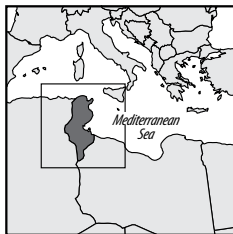
Pray for the unreached peoples to be in awe of Christ when they hear of His resurrection victory.

TUNISIAN ARABS IN BELGIUM AND THE NETHERLANDS

ACTS 1:10-11, NET

As they were still staring into the sky while he was going, suddenly two men in white clothing stood near them and said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand here looking up into the sky? This same Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven will come back in the same way you saw him go into heaven."

Pray that the Tunisian Arabs will understand that Christ will return on the Final Day as the Sovereign Lord, not just as a prophet.



(This story is intended to explain the beliefs of this people group.)

Sara's gnarled fingers rubbed against the traditional funeral dress of her red robe as she made her way to the cemetery. She watched as her son was buried with his body lying on his side facing Mecca. Her grieving mind wandered to the street beyond where Tunisian men shouted protests against the government of Tunisia. It was never allowed in the old country, but here in Belgium

political protest was allowed. They spoke in Flemish, which confused her. She had been fluent in French and Arabic, as it was mandatory in Tunisian schools, but where did the government settle them? In a city that spoke Flemish.

Sara had provided Tunisian food of lamb stew with vegetables and couscous along with olives for the meal after the funeral. It would be sweet to taste the food of her heritage again. Glancing back to the fresh grave of her son, she secretly wondered if he had done enough good deeds to outweigh the mischief of his youth and permit him to enter heaven. She doubted that she herself was good enough to enter paradise.

Pray that the nearly 14,000 Tunisians in the Netherlands and Belgium will hear and receive the gospel of Jesus Christ and the promise of salvation to those who believe in Him. May they have the joy of knowing they are secure in the embrace of Jesus.—PE

SHAWIYA BERBERS IN BELGIUM



Caleb Project

Berber woman in Europe

John 8:32, 36, NIV: Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.... If, therefore, the Son shall make you free, you shall be free, indeed.

Shawiya Berbers describe themselves as “free and noble men” or “Amazigh” in their language. They are native to the Aures Mountains of Eastern Algeria. The Joshua Project

describes these people as “sturdy, thrifty, hospitable, and lovers of the soil. They are also proud, shrewd, persistent, and loyal.” About 29,000 of them have migrated to Belgium.

Just as some Belgian people are nominal in their Christianity, many Shawiya Berbers are nominal in their Islamic beliefs. They have little knowledge of the Qur’an. Though they are considered 99.9 percent Muslim, they also practice their pre-Islamic cultural and ritual traditions. Some have ignored these and become more secular like the Europeans.

Since immigrating to Belgium, there are many possibilities for them to hear the gospel. People are free to talk to them about Christ, and they have access to all Christian resources: written, recorded, or broadcast. All Bible resources are available to them in their language. These are people whom our Savior loves. He desires to make them free, indeed from sin!

Pray that they will find freedom in Christ as believers go to them with the gospel. Pray that the Shawiya Berbers in Belgium will be increasingly open to receive the gospel. Pray that churches will be planted, and new believers will be disciplined in Belgium.—KH

ACTS 1:3, NET

To the same apostles also, after His suffering, He presented Himself alive with many convincing proofs. He was seen by them over a 40-day period and spoke about matters concerning the kingdom of God.

Pray that the day will soon come when every Berber tribe will understand and respond to the resurrected Lord.

KURMANJI-SPEAKING KURDS IN BELGIUM

ACTS 1:6-8, NET

So when they had gathered together, they began to ask him, “Lord, is this the time when you are restoring the kingdom to Israel?” He told them, “You are not permitted to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the farthest parts of the earth.”

Pray that we will heed what Christ told the apostles and seek to take His Name to every nation rather than think about how the Kingdom will benefit us personally.

Caleb Project



A Kurd in Europe

Ari (name changed for security reasons), a 22-year-old Kurdish refugee, sat outside his tent in a Brussels park among many other tents. He had a harrowing flight from war in Iraq. He and his companions experienced torture,

robbery, and beatings from “authorities” in Iraq and some European countries. Eventually Ari was rescued by the Greek Coast Guard from an unsafe boat containing 41 passengers. Though they were hungry, their greatest need was safety, and they eventually found this in Belgium. Ari would need to learn the language and find a job. For now he was too tired to even think about the future.

The 29,000 Kurds in Belgium and the Netherlands speak Kurmanji, and they share a common culture and sense of identity. Kurdish family ties, traditions, Islamic practices, and beliefs tend to hide problems in their society. Ninety-nine percent of the Kurds are Sunni Muslims. Many consider Islam an oasis of social justice. Some Kurds practice secret and unorthodox rituals, adding to the spiritual darkness. The teachings of Christ can free them to experience the abundant life, if they would only let Him into their hearts.

Thank the Lord that all Kurdish Bible resources are available. Thank the Lord for efforts to help war-weary Kurds get re-established outside of Iraq. Pray for church planting and discipleship to abound among these people so they can experience His abundant life.—KH

JEWISH PEOPLE IN BELGIUM

(This story explains the lifestyle of this people group.)

Tears came to his eyes as Prince Michel de Ligne of Belgium listened to the Jewish man speak at an appreciation ceremony in Israel. The prince was one of 35 people representing four generations of nobility that helped save Jewish children during WWII. The man stated, “I’m speaking on behalf of myself and other Jewish children you helped save during the war. We were alone. We didn’t know if or when we would see our parents again, but we were in a safe and quiet place, and we thank you, Prince Michel, for preserving the memory of our salvation.”

The majority of Belgium’s 40,000 Ashkenazi (eastern European) Jews live in Antwerp and Brussels. Most of them are secular. A few are Orthodox Jews. Brussels has one of the largest synagogues in Europe. The Holocaust had a deep impact on these Jewish people. Some of the Jewish children who were protected by the nobility during the holocaust became Christians, mainly Catholic. Currently anti-Semitism is increasing in Belgium as the country is hosting more Muslim refugees and immigrants.

Pray that believers in Belgium will understand and embrace the Hebraic roots of Christianity, which is of the faith of Abraham, so they can be strong witnesses of God’s grace. Pray that the Jewish people in Belgium will open their hearts and minds to the gospel, so they will know that the gift of salvation is found in Jesus.—PD

DAY

20

ROM 4:16-17, NET

For this reason it is by faith so that it may be by grace, with the result that the promise may be certain to all the descendants—not only to those who are under the law, but also to those who have the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all (as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”). He is our father in the presence of God whom he believed—the God who makes the dead alive and summons the things that do not yet exist as though they already do.

Meditate on this verse today!

BOSNIAKS IN BELGIUM AND THE NETHERLANDS

ISAIAH 23:13, NET

Look at the land of the Chaldeans, these people who have lost their identity! The Assyrians have made it a home for wild animals. They erected their siege towers, demolished its fortresses, and turned it into a heap of ruins.

Pray that the Bosniaks will place their identity in nothing less than Christ alone.



A Bosniak market

(This fictitious encounter is intended to explain the beliefs of this people group.)

“Sit still and listen!” the father chided. He waited for his three young sons to stop squirming and look up at him. “Are

you ready to hear a story of what it means to be a Bosniak?” The youngest of the boys said, “Daddy, you’ve told us this before.” The father nodded. “And I will tell it to you again and again until you learn who you are.”

The father nodded and pointed at his oldest son. “Tell us, Aljin, what does it mean to be a Bosniak?” The boy thought for a moment. “As you have told us, it means that we come from Bosnia.” When he paused, his father prodded, “Yes. And what else?” “Being Bosniak means being Muslim.” The father smiled, pleased by this response.

Many Bosniaks fled their homeland during the Bosnian War (1992-1995), a conflict that involved ethnic cleansing. Approximately 4,700 now reside in Belgium and the Netherlands.

There are very few followers of Christ among the Bosniaks in diaspora or in their homeland. They have been Muslim since the 15th and 16th centuries.

Pray for mission workers in Belgium and the Netherlands to recognize and take advantage of this opportunity to share the gospel with an unreached people group now residing in their country. Ask the Holy Spirit to soften the hearts of the Bosniaks and draw them into relationship with the Father.—CL

CHECHENS IN BELGIUM

DAY

22



(This is a fictitious account.)

The old Belgian man grumbled, “More dirty Chechens.” He and his friend were sitting on a bench at the train station watching the people come and go. “Are you sure those are Chechens?” his friend said, squinting at the family that had just gotten off the train. “Of course they are Chechen,” the other man said with disdain.

“Look at their shabby clothes.

They are clearly people without a home.” “Perhaps Belgium will become their home,” his friend suggested. The old man swore bitterly. “We don’t need them here.” His friend protested. “They have no other place to go.” The old man snapped, “Why not back to Chechnya?”

The people of Chechnya, a Muslim region in southwestern Russia, have been disputing with Moscow since the 1700s. When the Soviet Union collapsed in the 1990s, they began fighting for independence. In response, Russia destroyed Grozny, the main city in Chechnya, forcing many Chechens to flee their homes and their homeland.

At least 17,000 Chechens now reside in Belgium with more trickling in as the conflict continues.

The Chechens are Sunni Muslims with no known believers among them.

Pray for Chechens in Belgium to encounter the God of love. Pray for Christ’s followers in that nation to make the most of this opportunity to share the good news with this unreached people group. Pray that soon there will be a church planting movement among Chechens in Belgium.—CL

JN 11: 23-26, NET

Jesus replied, “Your brother will come back to life again.” Martha said, “I know that he will come back to life again in the resurrection at the last day.” Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live even if he dies, and the one who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?”

Pray that Chechens will understand that since Jesus is the resurrection, they should look to Him for life’s answers.

PAKISTANIS IN BELGIUM

ACTS 4:31, NET

When they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak the word of God courageously.

Pray for courage and love to be an integral part of every evangelist and missionary this year.



“We’ve lost the privilege of living in Belgium. I’ve lost my education. I’ve lost everything.” These are the words of Assim Abassi, one of nearly 15,000 Pakistanis living in Belgium. His family was forced to leave the country after a photograph of Abassi carrying a cricket-bat was circulated by police warning that he was an armed terrorist. Although Abassi was innocent, the Pakistani embassy in Belgium

fired Abassi’s father from his position as a diplomat for damaging Pakistan’s reputation.

The Pakistanis in Belgium are part of the Pakistani diaspora which distributed eight million Pakistanis throughout the world, many of whom entered Europe in the pursuit of economic prosperity. Pakistan, officially the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, gained its independence in 1947 in the name of Islam. The Pakistanis living in Belgium are 100 percent Muslim.

This situation illustrates the tension experienced by Pakistanis living abroad, unable to experience security from either their host or home countries.

Pray that Pakistanis living in Belgium would know the love and kindness of God through the actions of their Christian neighbors. Pray for Pakistanis in Belgium to begin a church planting movement.—EC

AZERBAIJANIS IN BELGIUM

DAY

24



Azerbaijan is known as the Land of Fire to its people. This name refers to an ancient belief that the country is a place where sacred fire is found and preserved. Today, the Land of Fire's rich oil resources have elevated the nation to a place of significance within the European Union. In particular, Belgium, where there are about 1,000 Azerbaijanis living in its northern regions, has been willing to offer benefits like visa liberalization to incoming

Azerbaijanis in order to secure a strategic relationship with the Azerbaijani government. However, despite Azerbaijan's economic prosperity, it is a country plagued by severe political and military corruption and a failure to preserve human rights.

According to the Joshua Project, about 87 percent of Azerbaijanis in Belgium are Muslim. Only one percent of the people are Christian. However, Azerbaijan itself is a very progressive and secular Islamic nation. Belgium, which is primarily Roman Catholic, gradually seeks to reduce Christian influence from its public life by doing things like secularizing the names of Christian holidays. To the Azerbaijanis in Belgium, religion can be a meaningless way to be identified.. With the threat of marginalization and alienation from the wider Belgian society affecting all Muslim immigrants, there is an urgent need for disciples of Christ to reach out to the growing Azerbaijani population.

Pray for the all-consuming fire of God to purify and redeem these men and women from the Land of Fire.—EC

MAT 3:11, NET

I baptize you with water, for repentance, but the one coming after me is more powerful than I am—I am not worthy to carry His sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

Pray for the Shi'ite Muslim Azerbaijanis in Europe to seek and find the fire of the Holy Spirit.

KAZAKHS IN BELGIUM

EPH 4:15, NET

But practicing the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into Christ, who is the head.

Pray that this will be the year when Kazakhs will accept the headship of Christ.

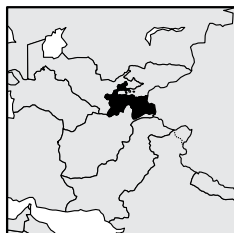
(This story illustrates what can happen among this people.)

“Yes, I really can recite my family tree back to seven generations,” said Ibrahim. Ibrahim was an old man of the Kazakh people group. Years ago he’d led his family out of China to Belgium. Now he sat on a park bench, talking to a middle-aged man he’d just met. “That’s amazing,” said the man. “I know someone who can trace his ancestry back even further.” “Really?” Ibrahim seemed surprised. “His name is Jesus Christ,” said the man, “And if you read the Gospels, then you’ll find His genealogy traced back 40 generations to the first man, Adam.”

The Kazakhs consider knowing your family heritage to be very important. Most members of this people group can recite their family tree back to at least seven generations. That’s true even of Kazakhs who fled to Belgium in the 1960s. Such people fled persecution in China to take refuge in India or Pakistan. From there these people headed to Turkey and Europe. Ibrahim isn’t a real person, but people like him are typical of the many Kazakhs who settled in Belgium. Most Kazakhs are Muslims; but most Kazakhs in Europe don’t practice their religion.

Pray that the Kazakhs living in Belgium will realize their need for salvation in Christ alone. Ask the Lord to raise up faithful workers to reach out to this people group with the message of salvation. Pray for a church planting movement among Kazakhs to begin in Belgium.—WK

TAJIKS IN BELGIUM



Ahmed, a young Tajik Muslim, stood in a church in Belgium. The pews had been removed to make room for Tajik refugee families living at the church. Each of the few families had piled their belongings in a neat stack. Mattresses had also been laid out on the floor for them. The Muslim man's forehead wrinkled when he saw an object on the front wall of the church. Just then a black robed priest walked past Ahmed. "What is that?" asked

Ahmed. "That's Jesus dying on the cross," answered the priest. "Did you know that he rose from the dead?" Ahmed raised an eyebrow. "Really? I didn't know."

Ahmed isn't a real person, but people like him are typical of the Tajiks who have sought refugee status in Belgium. They are Muslims, but most don't actually practice their religion.

In Afghanistan the Taliban has often attacked Tajik villages because that people group has rejected radical Islam. In recent years many Tajiks had fled to Turkey and then to various parts of Europe. There are now many Tajik refugees in Belgium. Many of them are unemployed because they lack job skills.

Ask God to raise up faithful workers to reach out to the Tajiks in Belgium. There is an open door for Christian teachers to teach these people job skills and also about Jesus Christ. May this people group come to see their need for salvation and begin a disciple-making movement in Europe.—WK

ACTS 2:24, NET

But God raised Him up, having released Him from the pains of death, because it was not possible for Him to be held in its power.

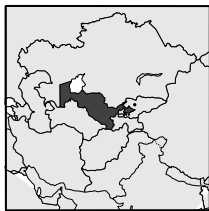
Pray for the Tajiks in Belgium to understand the power of His resurrection. Pray that they will know that His resurrection gives Him victory over death.

NORTHERN UZBEKS IN BELGIUM

GENESIS 21:17

But God heard the boy's voice. The angel of God called to Hagar from heaven and asked her, "What is the matter, Hagar? Don't be afraid, for God has heard the boy's voice right where he is crying."

Pray for Uzbeks in Europe to seek Christ for all that they need spiritually. Pray for them to rejoice in the Lord's provisions, and give them understanding of His exhortation to have no fear when they submit to the Lord.



And the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven... "What troubles you, Hagar? Fear not..." – Genesis 21:17, AMPC

Ishmael was not Abraham's legitimate heir; yet God protected him and his slave mother Hagar, in the wilderness. Many centuries later in Belgium there are a relatively small number of Northern Uzbeks from Central Asia. Though only 1600 in number, these precious Uzbeks

are much like Hagar's son in that they have not been forgotten by our loving God. The Lord seeks to set them free through Jesus.

The 1600 Northern Uzbeks of Belgium are about 85 percent Islamic and 15 percent non-religious. They represent a tiny portion of the approximately 27 million Northern Uzbeks worldwide. They are a prominent Turkic people whose original country, Uzbekistan, has an embassy in Brussels, Belgium.

Though they are a people group yet to be reached for Christ, the Northern Uzbeks do have Christian resources in their language: they have the New Testament, Old Testament Bible portions, along with the JESUS Film and other audio/visual productions.

Pray for awareness among Belgian churches of the unreached Northern Uzbeks living in their midst. Ask that believers reach out to these Northern Uzbeks. Pray to God for divine appointments. Ask that Northern Uzbek language materials enter the homes and hearts of Belgium's Uzbeks. Pray for a disciple-making movement among this people group in Belgium.—CR

UIGHURS IN BELGIUM

DAY

28



Uighur boys

“I am the good shepherd ... and I lay down my life for the sheep.” – John 10:14-15, NET

As many as 15 million Uighurs live globally, mainly in northwestern China. In Belgium there

are 500 Uighurs. Few Uighurs have turned to Jesus. However, whether in Belgium or elsewhere, Uighur people are loved by the Good Shepherd.

Belgium holds even more significance for Uighurs. It is here that peaceful Uighur demonstrations have taken place, along with training for Uighur activists from around the world to protest the systematic oppression of Uighurs by the Chinese government. As a minority group in China, the Uighurs continue to suffer severe political, economic, and religious injustice.

No matter where the Uighurs live, they cherish their culture and language. When Uighur soccer teams visit Belgium or play a tournament among other Uighur teams in North America (as took place this past year), there is a strong emphasis not on winning, but on unity and celebrating Uighur culture. Unfortunately, the Uighur fear of cultural annihilation makes it even more difficult to reach them for Christ. They cling to their traditional Sunni Islam.

The Bible, the JESUS Film, and other audio/visual materials are available in the Uighur language. Pray that God’s Word takes root in prepared Uighur hearts in Belgium and in Uighur communities worldwide. Ask God to give dreams and visions to Muslim Uighurs. Pray for favor and anointing upon Christ followers working among the Uighurs in Belgium and other countries.—CR

JN 10:14-15, NET

I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me—just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep.

Pray for the Uighurs, be they in China or Europe, to gladly join themselves to the Good Shepherd.

JAPANESE PEOPLE IN BELGIUM AND THE NETHERLANDS

ACTS 6:10, NET

Yet they were not able to resist the wisdom and the Spirit with which he spoke.

Pray that when the Holy Spirit speaks through His servants in Europe that Japanese people will listen rather than resist the ways of God.



Japanese girls

Dr. Tomoyuki Sako is managing director of Yakult, a probiotics drink company that employs 120 people including scientists in the Netherlands.

Dr. Sako first went to Amsterdam as a scientist.

Many years and a couple of promotions later, he and his family are still living there, and they now feel quite at home.

Some 5,000 Japanese live in Belgium and another 5,000 live in the Netherlands. They are mostly expatriates on business. Among the prominent Japanese companies in Belgium and the Netherlands are Hitachi, Panasonic, Toyota, Yamaha, Mitsubishi, and Yakult.

Chamber-of-commerce-like associations and Young Executive programs give the Japanese opportunities to network through business and cultural events such as a Cherry Blossom Festival, a J-Dream football tournament, a golf tournament, and a Japanese Festival. Companies such as Yakult sponsor cultural bedrocks such as the Dutch Philharmonic Orchestra and the Van Gogh Museum. Japanese restaurants, supermarkets, and schools meet the needs of families.

The Japanese nominally believe in a blend of Buddhism and Shintoism, while being secular in practice. Their financial lives are solid, but they have deep spiritual needs that only Christ can fulfill.

Pray for these successful expatriates to recognize their spiritual poverty. Pray for them to meet and befriend Christ-followers who will tell them of Christ's heavenly riches. Pray for a church planting movement that will extend across the seas to Japan.—CMW

THAI PEOPLE IN BELGIUM AND THE NETHERLANDS

DAY

30



Caleb Project

Thai Spirit houses

Another Asian people group lives in Belgium and the Netherlands. Unlike the Japanese expats described yesterday, the Thais in these countries live on an entirely different socio-economic

plane. Many of these people are modern-day slaves. Human trafficking plays a large part in bringing Thai women to Belgium and the Netherlands. The women may be married to Belgian nationals, but find themselves forced into prostitution. Others may be working in low-paying cleaning jobs and ethnic restaurants. Unsurprisingly, drug addiction often becomes a part of their lives.

One Christian non-governmental organization (oasisglobal.org) works to connect with these exploited and isolated women and inform them of their rights. The organization gives the women language lessons and helps them obtain housing and employment. They provide legal advice to women who have been trafficked or who are victims of bogus marriages. The organization also actively lobbies for laws that combat mail order bride agencies.

The Thai women come from Buddhist backgrounds and are in Europe hoping to find better circumstances than they would have in Thailand.

Pray for the Lord to come to the aid of these exploited Thai people. Pray for the Holy Spirit to protect and direct the work of Oasis. Pray that the Thai people will see that Buddhism cannot help them, but that they can turn to a real and almighty God who has the power to rescue them from slavery, addiction, and sin.—CMW

ACTS 15:8-9, NET

And God, who knows the heart, has testified to them by giving them the Holy Spirit just as He did to us, and He made no distinction between them and us, cleansing their hearts by faith.

Pray for the Holy Spirit to move in power and holiness among those who have recently become part of God's family.

ORDER FORM

1. Keep it Coming!

Please send me a subscription to the Global Prayer Digest.

One-Year Subscription				
Location	Price per subs 1-9 subs*	Price per subs 10+ subs*	# of Subs	\$ Amount
USA	\$18.00	\$10.00		
Canada/Mexico	\$24.00	\$14.00		
Overseas-airmail	\$36.00	\$30.00		
<input type="checkbox"/> I would like to donate to help with GPD printing, mailing, and other costs				
~ For orders of single copies or extras see contact info below. * To one address.			Total	\$ _____

**GPD
Subtotal**

\$ _____

Donation

\$ _____

2. Mail it! to Frontier Ventures-GPD, PO Box 433303, Palm Coast, FL 32143, USA

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip Code/Country: _____

Email: _____

Phone (_____) _____

Check enclosed, payable to "Frontier Ventures-GPD"

Credit card. If paying by credit card please see other side.

Grand Total

\$ _____

- Include payment in U.S. funds drawn on U.S. banks.
- We'll try to get it to you soon but allow 5-6 weeks for your subscription to begin.
- For information or address changes call 888-903-3322 (US or Canada) or email us at GPD@emailcustomerservice.com. (For address changes, if you get voice mail, be sure to leave your old zip code and new address with your full name and phone number so we can keep your subscription coming.)

Get the FREE email version!

1-- Go to globalprayerdigest.org

2-- In the upper right side, under subscribe, enter your email and click submit

Download PDF versions of GPD here:

<http://www.globalprn.com/global-prayer-digest-magazine-downloads/>

Please check with credit card you are using: _____



Card # _____ Exp. _____ / _____

Signature _____ date _____

Print Name _____

Phone _____ Email _____

If billing address is different than mailing address:

Address: _____

City/State/Zip Code/Country: _____

Why not give a gift subscription to a pastor or friend?

Please send a gift subscription of the **Global Prayer Digest** to:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Please send a gift subscription of the **Global Prayer Digest** to:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Please send a gift subscription of the **Global Prayer Digest** to:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____



www.globalprayerdigest.org

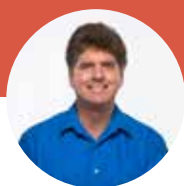
Global Prayer

May 2017 • Frontier Ventures • 36:5

Digest

**THEY CAN BE REACHED
IN NORTH AMERICAN CITIES!**

- 1—A Setback Leads to a Mission Breakthrough in NYC
- 6—A “Citadel” of Buddhism Can Be Penetrated in NYC
- 16—Yezidis Getting Comfortable in Lincoln, NE
- 18—Trauma and Pain Follow Nepali Refugees
- 22—Muslim Turks Building Up Dayton, OH



Dear Praying Friends,

As I finish editing this prayer guide, I am struck by how many people groups we are praying for that are nearly impossible to reach for Christ in their homelands. Twice we will pray for Tibetans. A famous missionary, William Carey, once described them as being in an isolated spiritual stronghold. The Tibetans are not alone. The Somalis in Minneapolis, the Saudis in San Diego, the Rohingyas in Houston, the Yezidis in Lincoln, Nebraska, the Ahishka Turks in Dayton, Ohio and the Afghans in the San Francisco Bay Area all fall into this category. And that does not include all the unreached people groups in New York City (NYC) that can't be reached in their homeland.

Global Gates is doing something about this need. This month they picked out which people groups in specific cities in the United States we should pray for. Regular *GPD* writers had a light load this month as the Global Gates staff members wrote about the people groups they are lovingly reaching in the USA. Much of their work is in NYC, but they are requesting prayer for people groups in the "Global Gateway cities" of Washington DC, Houston, Dallas, Chicago, Los Angeles, Greater San Francisco, and Toronto, Canada. (<http://www.globalgates.info/gateway-cities/>)

Please pray that these people groups being reached in North American cities will also be reached in their homelands where there are numerous barriers to the gospel.

In Christ,

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

Keith.carey@frontierventures.org

May 2017

RECORDS AND SUBSCRIPTIONS

Frontier Ventures - GPD
PO Box 433303
Palm Coast, FL 32143
Tel: 888-903-3322 (US or Canada)
subscriptions@frontierventures.org

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Keith Carey

ASSISTANT EDITOR

Paula Fern

WRITERS

Eugena Chou
Patricia Depew
Patti Ediger
Karen Hightower
Wesley Kawato
Ben Klueft
Christopher Lane
Bianca Ontiveros
Ted Proffitt
Cory Raynham
Lydia Reynolds
Jean Smith
Allan Starling
Chun Mei Wilson

DAILY BIBLE COMMENTARIES

Keith Carey
David Dougherty
Robert Rutz

CUSTOMER SERVICE

Lois Carey

GRAPHICS

Garrett Inouye

PRINTER

Yuli Color Reproduction Co., LTD.
(Taiwan)

WEB SITE

www.globalprayerdigest.org

www.globalprn.com/global-prayer-digest-magazine-downloads/

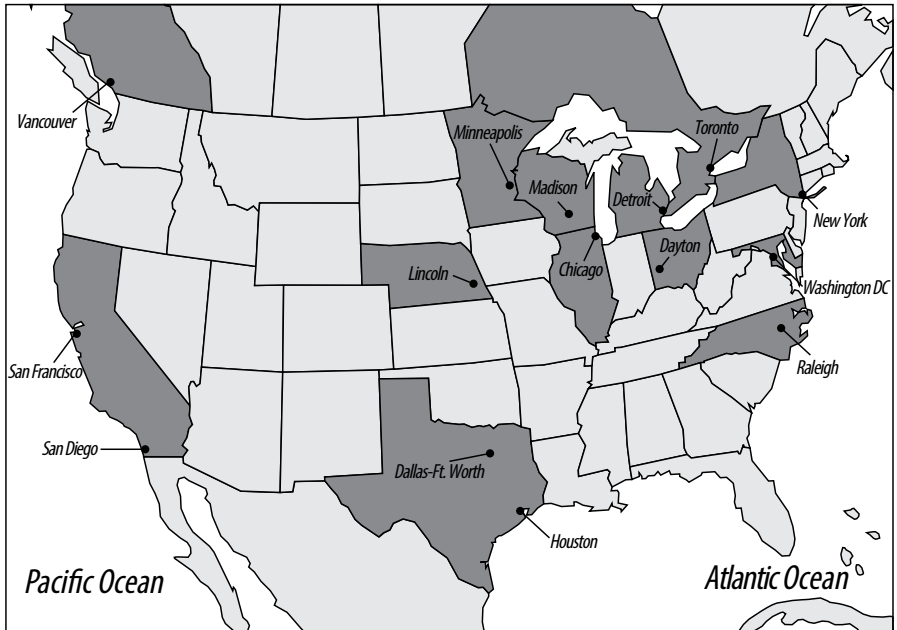
ISSN 1045-9731
Contents of the *Global Prayer Digest* © 2017
Frontier Ventures
1605 East Elizabeth Street
Pasadena, CA 91104

Contents of this booklet may be reproduced if appropriate credit and subscription information are given.

For subscription information,
call (626) 398-2249.
For comments on content,
call (626) 398-2241.

PRAY FOR

*a Disciple-Making Movement Among the
Unreached in North American Cities*



WHAT IS A GLOBAL GATEWAY CITY?



What does global gateway city mean?

The first city called a Global Gateway was New York, and few could argue that this is a good example. But that can also be a problem in some situations.

So what are the key elements that constitute a “global gateway city”? Despite the temptation to begin with the three constituent words: 1)

global, 2) gateway, and 3) city –let’s look at the Global Gates’ vision statement, which reads: “reaching the ends of the earth, through global gateway cities.”

“Global gateway cities” are defined by their potential for “reaching the ends of the earth” for Christ. This means we must add “the ends of the earth” as a fourth component to clarify our definition of “global gateway cities.” Let’s begin!

Ends of the Earth

First, let’s examine “the ends of the earth.” This is a theological term that derives from Christ’s Great Commission words in Matthew 28:20 (“...and lo I will be with you always, even to the ends of the age.”) and more

particularly in Acts 1:8 (“...you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”) In both instances, “the ends of the earth” refers to peoples that have not yet received the gospel, not to a geographical location. Translated into the 21st century, then, “the ends of the earth” refers to the world’s least reached people groups, particularly those language communities and populations who have yet to receive the good news of Christ’s salvation.

It is the mission of Global Gates to reach these least-reached, unevangelized populations for Christ in these cities. With the object of global gateway cities clearly defined as “the ends of the earth,” let’s now turn our attention to these three remaining words, “global, gateway, cities.”

Global

“Global” is less about the size of a city than about its content. A city, large or small, becomes globally significant when it contains an “ends of the earth” (unreached) people group within it. So we must limit our list of global gateway cities to those that contain a substantial population of least-reached peoples.

Gateway

There are two key aspects to the second term: “gateway.” First, gateway is about access. A city may have a large “ends of the earth” people group within it, but if that city is itself closed or highly restricted from a gospel witness, then it is hardly a gateway city. One can share Christ in Chicago, but not in a city like Ashgabat that does not allow freedom of religion. Second, “gateway” conveys relationship with the people group’s community of origin. Diaspora ethnic groups that are generations away from their place of origin with no ongoing relationship with their place of origin are not effective gateway communities. For example, third generation Russian Jewish people who have never been to Russia nor speak Yiddish would not qualify.

Cities

Finally, the word “city” is important, not because Global Gates is primarily an urban mission organization, but because cities are where we have the greatest concentrations of least-reached, “ends of the earth” people groups

we are seeking to reach. This time it is the size of the least-reached population that matters most. A handful of diaspora individuals in a suburb or small town lacks the gravity to warrant a full-time Global Gates missionary engagement. That is, until the people group's largest concentrations in global gateway cities have been addressed.

At the same time, we must not ignore where the concentration of least-reached people groups reside. In the case of Paris, France for example, costly urban housing has pushed immigrant populations to the suburbs surrounding Paris. For this reason, we must consider that Paris together with its suburbs constitute a significant global gateway city.



Resulting Definition

Our resulting definition of a global gateway city then would be a city with a sizable population of least-reached, “ends of the earth” people groups who are both accessible to Christian witness and through whom their home populations overseas could be impacted with the gospel. This list would begin with New York City and quickly be followed by Western Hemisphere cities: Toronto, Vancouver, Los Angeles, Chicago, Houston, Dallas-Ft. Worth, San Francisco, Detroit-Dearborn, and Minneapolis. It would also include anywhere else where these criteria of special urban concentrations of least reached people groups can be contacted with the gospel. The goal is to reach them both locally and through them to impact their home populations overseas.

As a result of recent population migrations, Europe is filled with global gateway cities. They include London, Paris, Amsterdam, Berlin, Marseilles, Athens, and Rome. Due to their restrictive nature, Istanbul and Moscow would be less valuable as gateways. For the same reasons, Middle Eastern and North African cities such as Beirut, Cairo, Tunis, and Algiers—though containing large “ends of the earth” people groups—would fall short as “gateway” cities due to their restrictive nature.

Asia’s immediate candidates as global gateway cities would include many Pacific Rim mega-cities such as Singapore, Bangkok, Hong Kong, Seoul, Melbourne, Perth, and Sydney. Other Asian urban giants such as Kuala Lumpur, Yangon, and Saigon would probably fail the gateway test due to their restrictions on Christian witness despite the existence of sizable “ends of the earth” populations within them. Tokyo, Taipei, and Manila, though fairly open, have a relatively small “ends of the earth” diaspora population. Shanghai, Mumbai, and Kolkotta, would be possible global gateway city candidates. Sub-Saharan Africa has a number of global gateway cities including Nairobi, Addis Ababa, Lagos, Abidjan, and Cape Town.

Clearly the 21st century is abundant with global gateway cities. These cities exhibit patterns of human migration that have resulted in the very ends of the earth being brought near to us. God has made available to us through these “gateways” a means of reaching the world’s least reached peoples and a new and unprecedented avenue to fulfill the great commission in our lifetime.

Let’s Pray!

- Pray that believers in North America will take advantage of this opportunity to reach the nations from the US and Canada.
- Pray that those who go will exhibit the fruit of the Holy Spirit to the lost, and live as Christ’s ambassadors.
- Pray for workers to be thrust out not only for Global Gates, but other diaspora-oriented mission organizations.

MISSIONARY BIOGRAPHY—BRAD & SARA OF GLOBAL GATES

JONAH 3:2, NKJV

Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and preach to it the message that I tell you.

Pray that many others like Brad and Sara will hear the Lord's voice to take Christ to a particular city.



“Back to the USA? Lord, why would you allow this? We are willing to give our lives to reach Muslims in Southeast Asia. Why should we return?”

Brad and Sara wrestled with God, with each other, and with what their future would be as they grappled with returning to the US. They were devastated, feeling like life circumstances had robbed them of their dream to minister among the unreached.

A friend suggested they visit New York City (NYC) to investigate ministry opportunities among the more than a million Muslims residing there. They did, and three weeks later moved their family there to begin ministering to South Asian Muslims living in Queens.

That was six years ago. Since then, God has allowed their family to minister to Muslims from many countries around the world, right in New York City!

One thing most of these Muslims have in common is that they are people of influence. Many were politicians or business leaders in their countries. All are supporting family members in their home countries. By winning these persons of influence to Christ and equipping them to reach their own families, Brad and Sara are touching the ends of the earth from New York. “We thought we were losing our ministry, but, God was expanding it!”

*Pray for God to expand their ministry even more by thrusting out more workers to the urban harvest field.—
David Garrison, guest writer from Global Gates*

MISSIONARY BIOGRAPHY—CHRIS & NICOLE CLAYMAN OF GLOBAL GATES

DAY

02

Chris Clayman was a missionary among an unreached Muslim people group called the Wassoulou in Mali. Though the Wassoulou had never known a Christian among their people, they welcomed Chris and listened as he shared Bible stories. After repeated bouts of malaria Chris was forced to leave Africa and was told he could not return.

Back in America Chris and his wife Nicole longed for ministry among African Muslims. One day Chris received an invitation from missionaries in New York. “There are many West African Muslims here,” they were told. On the streets of Harlem Chris and Nicole were greeted by African Muslims who were delighted by the Texans who spoke their language.

These Muslims introduced Chris to a local Wassoulou man who told Chris his story. He said, “Twenty-three years ago I had recurring dreams of Isa al-Masih, and I gave my life to Him as my Savior. After villagers tried to poison me, a neighboring Christian helped me get a visa to the US. Ever since then I have asked God to send someone to help me reach my people. You are the answer to that prayer.”

The Claymans moved into Harlem and began their Global Gates ministry. Today there are more than 100 Wassoulou believers. Through these believers, Chris said, “We have seen the first Wassoulou churches in America, and the first ever Wassoulou church planted in Mali.”

Pray that efforts to reach the unreached in American cities will spread back to the old countries.—David Garrison, guest writer from Global Gates

JONAH 4:11, NKJV

And should I not pity Nineveh, that great city, in which are more than 120,000 persons who cannot discern between their right hand and their left—and much livestock?”

Meditate on how what God said to Jonah applies to believers today when we consider violent people groups who are spiritually lost.

YEMENI MUSLIMS IN DETROIT AND NYC

JOHN 1:4-5, ESV

In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

Pray that the light of Christ will overtake the Yemeni Muslims in the United States and penetrate their hearts.



A Yemeni girl

In the early centuries after Christ's ascension, there was a small population of Christian believers living in Yemen before Muhammad and his religion took over the area. Today the Yemeni

people are over 99 percent Muslim. It is the poorest nation in the Middle East and ranks globally in the Global Gender Gap Index report 2015 as the country with the greatest inequality between men and women. Yemen has been embroiled for decades in civil wars and is presently suffering from a major humanitarian crisis, as bombs from foreign nations have indiscriminately targeted civilian areas.

Yemeni men and women who have immigrated to America often struggle with the huge cultural differences between their Sharia law-governed homeland and their new country. There are an estimated 20,000 Yemenis living in the metropolitan New York area, and many more in Detroit, Michigan. Most Yemeni men work long hours in grocery stores to support their families. Yemeni women are married off in their teens, often never finishing high school, and tasked with raising children and maintaining the home. Those who continue their conservative practice of Islam wear the black *niqab* in public, often at the insistence of their husbands. Many American-born Yemeni daughters run away from home, seeking freedom from this lifestyle.

Pray that the light and hope of Christ will be revealed to the Yemeni people, and that the truth of the Word of God be made known to them. —TL, guest writer from Global Gates

FUUTA TOORO FULANI PEOPLE IN BROOKLYN, NYC



Hannaman

As I walked up the steps in the mosque following the West African man leading his children, I became increasingly aware that West African Muslims maintain a safe cultural distance from Americans.

There are over 300 West African children in the mosque every Saturday and Sunday to learn Arabic and the teachings of the Qur'an. The majority of the parents do not mix with Americans because they do not want their children to act like the children they see on the playgrounds. Looking deeper, some tribes are even taught to be suspicious of outsiders because outsiders might change their culture. This teaching is known as the *Pulaaku* among the Fulani.

Historically the Fulani are recognized as the first Africans to receive Islam. They were responsible for spreading the religion to all of West Africa. The Fuuta Tooro are one group of the Fulani, and they are revered among West African Muslims as the people that follow Islam the closest.

As the aristocratic class of Fulani, they generally come to America prepared to get jobs so they can send money back home and get an education for their children. They hope to eventually return to Africa to build up their economy. With over 3,000,000 Fuuta Tooro people worldwide, over 2,000 live in Brooklyn. They are almost 100 percent Muslim.

Pray God removes the walls of suspicion so they may be open to hearing the gospel for the first time.—KB, Guest writer from Global Gates

DAY

04

JONAH 4:2, NKJV

So he prayed to the Lord, and said, "Ah, Lord, was not this what I said when I was still in my country? Therefore I fled previously to Tarshish; for I know that You are a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness, One who relents from doing harm."

Pray that unlike Jonah, you will have love for neighbors who are not always loveable or approachable.

SONINKE MUSLIMS IN NEW YORK CITY (NYC)

REV 22:17, NKJV

And the Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely.

Pray that many will heed the Lord's call to come to the water and drink!

Walking the streets of South Bronx, one hears the many sounds of the city: sirens, music, and even helicopters. At certain times of the day, one hears another sound join the chorus: an Arabic call to prayer. As Arabic booms from a loud speaker inside a storefront mosque, West African Soninke men close up their clothing stores, grocery markets, and electronic shops and make their way towards the mosque, chatting in Soninke along the way.

The Soninke are an unreached people group from West African countries such as Mali, Senegal, Gambia, and Mauritania. They are well over two million strong in their homeland with a Muslim population of around 99 percent. Over 5,000 of them live in New York City (NYC). Many of them immigrate to New York for work as they support families and businesses in their home countries. The Soninke place a high value on money and focus much of their time working and traveling for economic gain.

The Soninke are proud of their Muslim heritage. To be Soninke is to be Muslim. Even after immigrating to America, they hold tightly to their heritage. Many have never heard the gospel, and most have no real relationships with Christians.

Pray that followers of Christ will befriend the Soninke people in NYC. Pray that the Soninke people will see that neither money nor religion brings true peace, but only the saving power of the gospel of Jesus Christ.— By JBS, guest writer from Global Gates

TIBETANS IN NEW YORK CITY (NYC)

DAY

06



Art and worship for Tibetans

In 1802, missionary William Carey referred to the Tibetan region as a “citadel under siege,” metaphorically referring to the many mission agencies hoping to gain

access to Tibet with hopes of bringing about a spiritual transformation. Very few could get into this mountainous region. Today some of these same Tibetan people have immigrated to America, and they live in growing numbers in New York City (NYC).

The mountains of the Himalayan region and the tense political climate in Tibet largely prevent missionaries from accessing these people in Tibet. This is not the case in NYC. There are no difficult barriers that would prevent the churches in America from moving into these urban environments, building relationships, and sharing the love of Christ. Unfortunately, few believers are involved long-term in reaching these people that are still less than one percent Christian. Our God cares for the distressed refugees who can no longer go home, even though they may not know Him. Do we as believers share God’s concern for such people?

Pray for the Tibetan people of NYC who currently pray using a 108 bead mālā, who seek to gain karma (good merit) through prayers of recitation, who prostrate themselves before idols, and walk circles around temples. These people are lost without the knowledge of our gracious God and the message of His Son Jesus, His free gift of grace.—PI, guest writer from Global Gates

PSALM 107:1-6 HCSB

Some wandered in the desolate wilderness, finding no way to a city where they could live. They were hungry and thirsty; their spirits failed within them. They cried out to the Lord in their trouble; He rescued them from their distress.

Pray that the Tibetans in New York City will trade their spiritual desolate wilderness for the abundant water of life offered by Jesus Christ.

HASIDIC JEWISH PEOPLE IN NYC

ISAIAH 62:1, NLT

Because I love Zion, I will not keep still. Because my heart yearns for Jerusalem, I cannot remain silent. I will not stop praying for her until her righteousness shines like the dawn, and her salvation blazes like a burning torch.

Make this your prayer for the Hasidic Jewish people of New York City.



Standing in a packed *shul* (synagogue), he listened as the rabbi talked about heaven. “You see that your sins and good deeds are not equal, so G-d sends you off to Gehenna (hell). But a

Rabbi comes out and recognizes you as his own and says, ‘he’s with me,’ and walks you into heaven.”

Hasidism, which is Hebrew for “pious ones,” began from a spiritist leader by the name of Baal Shem Tov in the 1700s in Poland, and it spread throughout the community in Eastern Europe. Almost every Jewish person was Hasidic by the dawn of the 20th century. They believe in reincarnation, misplaced trust in their rabbi, atonement by the suffering of their rabbi, a strict dedication to living a life they see as righteous, and praying three times a day for a total of three to four hours of prayer.

There are several hundred thousand Hasidic people in the Metro New York area, but only a handful of known believers from this group. They trace their roots to the Pharisees and believe themselves to be direct descendants of them.

Ask God to draw His people to Himself through dreams and visions of Elijah showing them Jesus as the Messiah. Pray that they may receive their Messiah and be redeemed.—By DC, guest writer from Global Gates

PALESTINIAN MUSLIMS IN NYC

DAY

08

Yearning for their homeland, Palestinian Muslims are scattered across the urban centers of the United States and around the globe. Due to the Arab-Israeli wars they suffered personal loss losing their homes, property, and control of their destinies. The highest concentration of these Palestinian immigrants in the US, around 20,000, reside in the New York City Metro Area. They cope, working hard and contributing to American society, but they are living in a never-ending state of inner-unsettledness. Palestinian immigrants in NYC left families behind in the West Bank, Gaza, or Arab refugee camps, and they often feel guilty for not suffering as much as the others.

The greatest barriers preventing Palestinian Muslims from coming to faith in Jesus Christ come from geopolitics and Zionism. They assume that no one wants them, including Americans. They believe that Christians are only concerned with strengthening Israel at their expense. To a Palestinian, it seems that few Westerners are concerned about the well-being of their people. Although they have resided in American cities for decades, most of these Muslims have not had contacts with Christians willing to befriend them and share the gospel. Palestinian Muslims need to meet Christ-like believers who are willing to overlook international political issues in favor of seeking first the Lord's kingdom and seeing all peoples, including Palestinian, reached for Christ.

Pray that followers of the Messiah will connect with Palestinian Muslims and love and serve them for the Lord's sake.—BD, guest writer from Global Gates

REV 21:2, NKJV

Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

Pray for both Israeli Jews and Palestinian Muslims to yearn for the day when there is a New Jerusalem, far superior to any city they can ever imagine.

GUJARATI HINDUS IN NEW JERSEY

JONAH 1:16, NKJV

Then the men feared the Lord exceedingly, and offered a sacrifice to the Lord and took vows.

Pray that soon the Gujaratis will make a sacrifice of praise to the true and living God.



Imagine strolling down the street late at night in a New Jersey neighborhood. As you walk along, you are surprised to hear live music echoing through the fall air. Nearing the source, you see local police blocking the streets and thousands of people dancing and beating sticks together above their heads. The dancers' moves seem orchestrated. As you move to the center of the crowd, you find a representation of the

Hindu goddess Matangi. The dancers and singers are worshipping and asking for blessings from images resembling mortal man.

In New Jersey this scene plays out every fall during the celebration of Navratri. People from the western most state in India, Gujarat, eagerly anticipate this celebration and invite many outsiders to join them. The festive atmosphere covers the spiritual darkness of idol worship at the center of this street party. Matangi is only one of over 300 million gods that Gujaratis believe they can devote their lives to in order to liberate themselves from the endless cycle of death and rebirth.

Pray that the Holy Spirit will reveal Himself to the Gujaratis as they practice puja (Hindu worship) every morning. Pray that people of peace will devote themselves to Jesus and share Him with their family and friends. Pray that the Father would be glorified in the salvation of this people.—AB, guest writer from Global Gates

IRANIAN MUSLIMS IN THE WASHINGTON, D.C. AREA

DAY

10



Carey

The Capital building in Washington DC.

“Tell me about Christmas,” the inquisitive Iranian asked. Banaz had been living in the D.C. area for four years and was curious about all the festivities. Her friend replied, “Are you interested in the cultural or the spiritual

meaning of the holiday?” “Is there a spiritual meaning behind Christmas?” Banaz asked.

Banaz represents a large portion of Iranian Muslims in the Washington, D.C. area. Quick at adopting western culture, many are upwardly mobile and blissfully unaware or uninterested in Christ. They are among the most educated and successful immigrants today in the United States. Though they value relationships, they also value prestige and material goods.

Unfortunately, another aspect of western culture acquired by so many Iranians is the idea that one’s theology is personal. As such, many do not attend public worship gatherings. This can be casually observed by the disproportionately small number of Iranian-attended Shi’ite mosques, given the local population is commonly estimated at over 100,000 Iranians.

Pray that Iranian Muslims in the Washington, D.C. area would become disillusioned with the emptiness of worldly success and become captivated by the love and forgiveness found only in Christ. Pray that many Iranian believers in the urban US will gladly share their faith in the Savior with them. Pray that the desire for close relationships will prompt these Iranians to seek and find Jesus.—MS, guest writer from Global Gates

MATT 16:26A, NIV

What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul?

Pray that the Iranians in the urban United States will understand that they cannot ignore their spiritual lives. Pray that they will understand that Jesus offers what no one else can give.

PEOPLE NEXT DOOR (PND)

ACTS 17:16, NET

While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, his spirit was greatly upset because he saw the city was full of idols.

Pray that you will be disturbed by idolatry in your city enough to pray for the lost and present the gospel to them.

He made from one, every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined their appointed times, and the boundaries of their habitation, that they should seek God, if perhaps they might search for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us. Acts 17:26, 27, NASB

“Did you know,” said Chuck Register of Peoples Next Door (PND), “that more foreign-born residents are in the USA than the combined state populations of Mississippi, Alabama, Tennessee, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Louisiana, and Arkansas?”

The PND prayer map shows that unreached people groups like the Gujaratis, Hindi speakers, Punjabis, Berbers, Moroccans, Somalis, Wolof, and Thai live, work, and get a higher education in the North Carolina’s “Research Triangle” region. This area includes North Carolina State University, Duke University, and the University of North Carolina.

While these major universities attract many from non-Christian backgrounds, World Relief and Lutheran Family Services help to settle hundreds of refugees each year into the area. Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary has done extensive ethnic mapping. In these last days Almighty God has given His Church a profound opportunity to reach these beloved unreached people. We must not choose to be unavailable.

Pray that the Church will see the need to become aware of these people and get involved in their personal, physical, emotional, and spiritual well-being. Pray that Christ followers will be salt and light, and follow the leading of God’s Holy Spirit.—KH

HINDI SPEAKING HINDUS

DAY

12



Hannaman

A Hindu procession in the US

India is home to over 2,000 unreached people groups speaking thousands of different languages. Among the largest and most unreached people groups in India are the Hindi speakers, most of whom are Hindu.

Hindus believe in 330 million different names and forms of god. They bow down to their idols looking for favor, but instead they become like their idols. They are blinded to the truth, but God is at work. These people groups who have little access to the gospel in the cities and villages where they were born are coming by the thousands to Gateway Cities across the United States for work and education. Often times those coming are from high castes which missionaries in India struggle to gain access to. They come west with hopes of a new life and are more accessible and often more open to the gospel than they would be back home. The Metro areas surrounding New York, Chicago, Washington DC, San Francisco, and Houston are home to over 100,000 Indian Hindus, many of whom speak Hindi.

Pray that missionaries and believers living in these and other cities would find access and favor in the Hindi speaking communities. Pray that we would see a gospel movement among Hindi speaking Hindus in Gateway Cities. Pray for multiplying communities of Indian believers that worship the One True God, make disciples, and reach the nations with the gospel.—DA, guest writer from Global Gates

PS 135:15-18, NIV

The idols of the nations are silver and gold, the work of human hands. They have mouths, but do not speak; they have eyes, but do not see; they have ears, but do not hear, nor is there any breath in their mouths. Those who make them become like them, so do all who trust in them.

Pray for spiritual openness among Hindus in the West. Pray that they will gladly exchange their idols for Jesus Christ, the resurrected Lord.

PAKISTANIS IN DALLAS-FORT WORTH (DFW), TX

ACTS 16:15, NET

After she and her household were baptized, she urged us, "If you consider me to be a believer in the Lord, come and stay in my house." And she persuaded us.

Pray that as God opened the heart of Lydia, He will open Pakistani hearts to the gospel.



Pakistan, meaning “Land of the Pure,” is a predominantly Muslim country of over 191 million people. Pakistanis see themselves as pure Muslims and hold strongly to traditional Muslim dress, culture, and religious precepts.

Those who immigrate to the US do so primarily to improve their lives economically. Approximately 50,000 Pakistanis live in the Dallas-Ft. Worth (DFW) area. They tend to be well educated and well established economically.

Pakistanis in DFW are overwhelmingly Muslim. They are open to discussions about religion, but express deeply entrenched objections to the Christian faith. They believe that the Bible has been corrupted, that Jesus was only a man, that He did not die on the cross, and that Islam has come to take the place of all other religions. They see Mohammed as the final prophet of God, and the Qur’an as the flawless record of what was revealed to him by God.

Even if a Muslim does begin to believe the message of the gospel, it is very difficult for him or her to take a stand as a follower of Christ. In Pakistan, those who decide to follow Christ will face physical persecution and possibly even death. While this is not likely in the US, the convert will face rejection by his family and the wider Muslim community.

Pray for spiritual breakthroughs among the Pakistani Muslims in the DFW area that will lead to church planting movements in Pakistan.—RO, guest writer from Global Gates

BENGALI MUSLIMS OF HOUSTON, TX

DAY

14

Global Gates



“When we moved to Houston, we did not have any family. You loved us and helped us. You are now our brothers. You told us the stories about Jesus and we love Jesus. He is in our heart and he will always be

in our heart. However, if we convert now, we will lose everything.”—a family that recently moved to Houston, TX from Bangladesh

Bangladesh is a South Asian country with a population about half the size of the US with a much smaller landmass. Despite some movements of the Bengali people to Christ over the last 30 years, 90 percent of the country’s population remains Muslim, with only .03 percent being Christian.

The Bengali population has been one of the fastest growing ethnic communities in the US over the past 20 years. Houston, TX is home to 10,000 to 15,000 Bengali Muslims. They hold very tightly to their Islamic identity and community when they arrive in Houston. The Bengali Muslim community often provides jobs and daily needs for those arriving in the US for the first time. Those that hear the good news often have to pay the cost of losing their jobs, families, and communities to follow Jesus.

Pray that God will create a movement of Bengali Muslims to Jesus in Houston that spreads through natural networks across the US, back to Bangladesh, and across the world.—DO, guest writer from Global Gates

REV 22:7, NKJV

Behold, I am coming quickly! Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book.

Pray that Bengali Muslims, who already know something about Christ’s second coming, will heed His voice rather than the voices of those who don’t want to know Him.

ROHINGYA MUSLIMS IN HOUSTON, TX

REV 21:18, NKJV

The construction of its wall was of jasper; and the city was pure gold, like clear glass.

Pray that the Rohingya Muslims in Houston will yearn for the One who can produce such beauty and splendor.

Create International



Just north of Houston's Chinatown is a stretch of apartment complexes known as "Little Burma." As you walk in the shade of the live oaks, you see women with bright yellow *thanaka* painted in swirls on

their tanned faces, groups of teenagers and children in circles playing *chinlone*, and men in *longyis* lounging on the front steps. Within these apartment complexes dozens of households represent the outcast minorities of Myanmar such as the Chin, Karen, Kachin, and Shan. They have established a microcosm of their Myanmar homeland in Houston.

Among this group of refugees is one of the most unwanted peoples on earth, the Rohingya people. The Rohingyas are descendants of Bengalis who moved into Burma nearly 200 years ago under the British Raj. They are 100 percent Sunni Muslim, and they have been disenfranchised by the Buddhist military junta of Myanmar. They have been stripped of their citizenship, and denied education and health care in their homeland. Most of the world's 1.7 million Rohingyas have fled Myanmar to settle elsewhere in Southeast Asia, Australia, Europe, New Zealand, Pakistan, and Saudi Arabia. There are large refugee camps in Bangladesh, Malaysia, and Thailand. From these camps, approximately 50 Rohingya households have made their way to Houston's "Little Burma" to establish new homes.

Pray that Houston's Rohingya, who are staunchly Islamic, have every chance to hear the gospel, so that those who are seeking the truth will find it.—JS, guest writer from Global Gates

YEZIDIS IN LINCOLN, NE

If many of your people are stuck in refugee camps while you escape, do you celebrate your freedom, or mourn for those less fortunate? This is the dilemma of Yazidi refugees who now live in Lincoln, Nebraska.

Some of the Yezidis are able to enjoy a Thanksgiving turkey each November sent by sympathetic Americans. They are grateful to be out of harm's way. Others are so overcome with grief over the others who remain that they can't eat or sleep. Though some Yezidis have found a safe home in Lincoln, the trauma is far from over.

Now they need to deal with daily issues. If one of them dies, they can't send the body back to Iraq for burial because of the fighting. Should they start their own burial plot in Lincoln? If they do, it's another step closer to acknowledging that Lincoln is their new home.

The ISIS attack on the Yezidis was only the most recent. Saddam Hussein attacked them as well, and he wasn't the first. Arab Muslims hate members of this religious group because they are Kurdish, a rival ethnic group. Secondly, Yezidi theology is considered heretical by Muslims. They face a grim future if they return to Iraq.

Pray that Yezidis in Iraq will be kept safe by the power of the Lord. Pray for members of the Yezidi community to fully embrace Jesus, and that there will be a strong movement to Christ among them in the United States.—KC

DAY

16

JONAH 1:6, NKJV

So the captain came to him, and said to him, "What do you mean, sleeper? Arise, call on your God; perhaps your God will consider us, so that we may not perish."

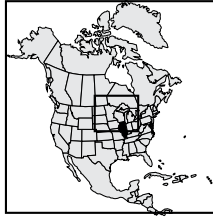
Pray that believers in America will rise from their spiritual sleep and call on the Lord for the Yezidi people in their midst.

IRAQI ARAB MUSLIMS IN CHICAGO

JONAH 3:10, NKJV

Then God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God relented from the disaster that He had said He would bring upon them, and He did not do it.

Pray for the Lord to relieve the Iraqi peoples from the disaster that nation is now facing. Pray for every people in Iraq to turn to Christ and be used of Him to re-build their nation into what He wants it to become.



(This fictitious story is intended to illustrate what could be happening to Iraqi Muslims in Chicago.)

“Welcome to our home!” Rahum, an Iraqi Arab Muslim man, welcomed his American Christian friends, Dave and Susan, to his apartment in Chicago. He introduced his wife Nahir, and his three children. They shared their story over hot tea and *baklava*.

Nahir said, “it was wonderful to see how people in America love their children and respect women. I will be having our fourth child soon.” She gestured at the things given to her at a recent baby shower and said, “Look at all these beautiful things the ladies gave me for the baby!” Rahum added, “Dave, thank you for getting me the assembly job at the factory. We now have this apartment, a TV, and the kids are doing great in school! Life was dangerous in Baghdad, but thank God we got out and could come to America.”

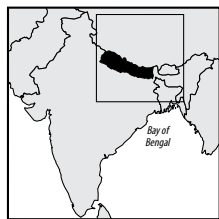
There are over 6,500 Iraqi Arabs living in Chicago. The majority are practicing Muslims who are hospitable and easy to make friends with. However they are resistant to Christian witness, and there is a need for more believers to reach out to them in love.

Pray that these Iraqis will open their hearts to God’s love, mercy, forgiveness, and the truth found in a relationship with Christ. Pray that God will prepare many believers to develop long lasting, committed friendships with Iraqi Muslims.—PD

NEPALI HINDUS IN KANSAS CITY, MO

DAY

18



(This story is intended to illustrate how this people group lives.)

Naveen opened the door and invited the health worker to step into his modest living room. The city worker went directly to the tiny elderly woman swathed in quilts and staring vacantly through the window. The old woman told the health worker, “I’m not stressed, I’m in pain.” The health worker shook his head.

This vague malady of unending

pain seems to be an after effect of the torture some of the Nepali refugees suffered after fleeing Nepal to Bhutan. It is especially common in older refugees.

Naveen and his family were able to immigrate to the US with about 1000 other Nepalis who were living in neighboring Bhutan. He settled in Kansas City. Eighty percent are Hindu or Buddhist, but 20 percent are now following Christ, and the numbers are growing!

As the health worker opened the door to leave, the first arrivals began pouring into Naveen’s home for house church. Their goal is to reach every Nepali and Bhutanese person in the US, and then send them back to their home countries to deliver the gospel.

Pray for the growing house churches in Kansas City to increase in numbers and spiritual depth. Pray that the hurting Nepali refugees will accept the healing touch that only the Lord Jesus Christ can give. Pray that their God-given goal of spreading the gospel back to Nepal and Bhutan will be met.—PE

JONAH 4:4, NKJV

Then the Lord said, “Is it right for you to be angry?”

Pray that unlike Jonah, the Nepalis will forgive their oppressors and be used to bless them. Pray for repentance, forgiveness, and spiritual refreshment to come to the Nepalis both in the US and in Bhutan.

LATIN AMERICAN PRAYER FOR PASHTUNS

REV 21:4, NKJV

And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.”

Make this your prayer for the war-weary Pashtuns!

“If you are wondering whether prayer really makes a difference, in this particular case we have the proof,” says missionary David Taylor. A Christian radio ministry had been broadcasting for years to the unreached Pashtun people of Pakistan and Afghanistan. They were receiving about 60 responses to their program each month. “As soon as thousands of churches in Latin America began praying for the Pashtuns, this radio program began receiving hundreds and then thousands of responses each month,” Taylor exclaims. “Like the Bible story of the disciples whose nets could not handle all the fish, this ministry is now asking for help from others to handle this unexpected interest in the gospel!”

This miracle did not happen overnight. About five years ago, Guatemalan missionary Rigoberto Diguero began working with the Adopt-A-People movement to encourage Latin American believers to regularly pray for one unreached people group. That people group was the Pashtuns. He worked especially hard with his own denomination, Assembly of God. Five years later, we are hearing about the results.

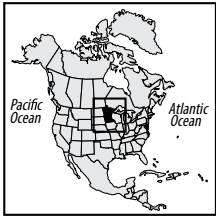
There are many other mission agencies and denominations in Latin America that can do the same. Just think what will happen when they begin to adopt the Tibetans, Brahmins, and Japanese!

Pray for this prayer movement, which began in El Salvador, to spread to every mission agency and every country in Latin America.—KC

TIBETANS IN MADISON, WI

DAY

20



“I really am Miss Tibet, even though I’ve never been to Tibet,” said Tenzing, an Asian beauty in her early 20s. Tenzing’s Tibetan parents settled in Madison, Wisconsin after spending years in exile in India. They were among the first 1,000 Tibetans granted political asylum in the United States in 1990. She was Miss Tibet in 2013.

I PETER 3:3-4 RSV

Let not yours be the outward adorning with braiding of hair, decoration of gold, and wearing of fine clothes. But let it be the hidden person of the heart with the imperishable jewel of a gentle and quiet spirit, which in God’s sight is very precious.

Tibet was an independent country until the Chinese invaded during the early 1950s. Mao Zedong harshly repressed any Tibetans who pushed for the restoration of freedom from China in Tibet. Political persecution forced thousands of Tibetans to flee to neighboring India. These exiles consider their fellow countryman, the Dalai Lama, to be their king and leader.

Some Tibetans have found refuge in other parts of the world like the United States, where there is a great deal of sympathy for their plight. As more refugees come to the US seeking asylum, newcomers are being settled in smaller cities such as Madison rather than the larger cities.

Tibetans blend their form of Buddhism with *bon*, an ancient shamanistic religion. There are very few followers of Jesus Christ among them.

Miss America contests are won by a disproportionate number of born-again women with the life of Jesus radiating out of them. Hair-dos, makeup, clothes, and jewelry help, but a woman lit up by Jesus will remain beautiful.

Pray for God to even use beauty contests to spread His fame to the unreached of the world.

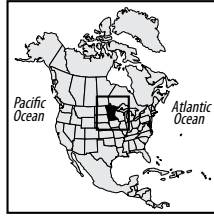
Ask God to break the hold that Buddhism and bon have on Tibetans in America. Pray that this people group will come to see Jesus as the true source of freedom from sin and death. Ask God to raise up faithful workers to take the message of salvation to the Tibetans in America.—WK

SOMALIS IN MINNEAPOLIS, MN

REV 21:13, NKJV

... three gates on the east, three gates on the north, three gates on the south, and three gates on the west.

Pray that soon the Somalis in Minneapolis will find the gate that leads to the Kingdom of heaven. Pray that they will see beyond what they have ever seen before.



There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.—Galatians 3:28-29

The 1990s scarred Somalia with civil war, floods, famine, and a drought leading to a major influx of Somalis into Minneapolis, Minnesota.

The stable economy and low unemployment seemed like a promised land in comparison to their war-torn homeland.

More than 77,000 Somalis live in Minnesota, the largest population of Somalis in the United States. Most of the Somalis in Minnesota live in Minneapolis. They own stores, restaurants, and businesses; providing a haven for those who are displaced and without work.

It is often said, "To be a Somali, is to be a Muslim." Most Somalis have followed the Sunni branch of Islam for well over a thousand years. This long-standing tradition followed them when they migrated to America. Like most Muslims, the Somalis cannot even imagine turning their allegiance to Christ rather than the Islamic religious system.

Pray that the churches in Minnesota welcome and minister to Somalis. Pray that Somalis not be viewed as "Jew" nor "Gentile," but as beloved children of the most high God. Pray that this people group would soon inherit the promises of the Kingdom of heaven, and that they may know the Lord as their protector and provider.—BO

AHISHKA TURKS IN DAYTON, OH



Coming

Turkish women

Block after block, lifeless houses stand side-by-side, gutted and empty, keeping watch over streets and sidewalks nearly as empty as themselves. The old neighborhood of North Dayton was

suffering greatly from a lack of residents, just one of the symptoms of a slumping urban economy. This municipality has responded by soliciting assistance from an unlikely source: Turkish refugees!

The Ahishka Turks, displaced from southern Russia near Turkey, have been immigrating to the US since 2004 when they were granted refugee status. They are a hard-working and diligent people who consider it dishonorable to accept handouts, and they are very interested in investing in their communities. It is this entrepreneurial spirit that Dayton officials expect to help put the city economy on an upward turn.

The Ahishka form very close-knit communities, and they maintain very strong family bonds. The elderly are held in high respect. Everyone bands together to care for the young and the sick, to renovate a home, or to lift a business off the ground. Life is not necessarily easy for the Ahishka Turks in Dayton, but it is life, and they are flourishing in their new homeland.

Pray that the Ahishka Turks will find success in their entrepreneurial endeavors, as they seek to carve out a life for their community. Pray that they would be exposed to the gospel, and that the local body of Christ would intentionally show them the love of the Father.—BK

REV 21:10, NKJV

And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God. . .

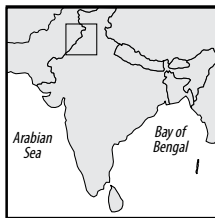
Pray that the Ahishka Turks will see beyond living in a land of opportunity, and they will look for a home with the Lord of lords.

PUNJABI SIKHS OF TORONTO, CANADA

JOHN 5:44, ESV

How can you believe, when you receive glory from one another and do not seek the glory that comes from the only God?

Pray that Punjabi Sikhs in Canada will seek and receive the glory of the One True God.



“I’ve been thinking of changing my religion,” a Toronto Sikh man recently said. “Today is the first time anyone has told me of Jesus, but if I were to follow Jesus, my family would not tolerate it. I cannot.”

Since 1947 and increasingly since the 1980s, God has been bringing members of the Sikh religion from India’s Punjab region to Toronto. According to a Statistics Canada report, there are now over 134,000 Sikhs in Toronto. Most have followed their families to

Canada, retaining their cultural traditions, keeping their lifestyle, and finding monetary success.

Although wrapped in a covering of prosperity, Punjabi Sikhs are broken in their sins. Sikhs worship one god who goes by many names, whom they believe is present in everyone and everywhere. They express devotion through daily chants, gathering at the *gurdwara* (temple), and they worship their holy book, *the Guru Granth Sahib*. Sikhs believe they may increase their *karma* and escape the ongoing cycle of reincarnation through devotion, community, and charity.

The close-knit community of the Sikhs keeps many from considering Jesus. Their ignorance of God’s holy nature leaves them unaware of the depths of their sin and need for a Savior.

Pray that the Sikhs will be open to the self-revelation of God in the Scriptures. Pray for those considering the good news of Jesus to seek the glory of God over the praise and approval that comes from community.—SB, guest writer from Global Gates

KHMER CAMBODIANS IN VANCOUVER, CANADA

DAY

24



Over 2300 ethnic Cambodians live in Canada's westernmost province of British Columbia. Many reside in or near the culturally-rich city of Vancouver. Khmer is the predominant language and ethnic group of Cambodia. Thousands of Khmer refugees migrated to Canada as a result of the 1975-79 Khmer Rouge genocide, which terrorized and killed millions of Cambodians.

When compared to the struggles and suffering that so many still experience in Cambodia, the Khmer Cambodians live in the thriving city of Vancouver and other parts of Canada. Their culture has its own beauty and creativity, as experienced in Greater Vancouver at a traditional Cambodian wedding or at the Cambodian restaurants that feature tasty and colorful foods.

Though some now follow Jesus, most Canadian Khmers adhere to Theravada Buddhism mixed with Hinduism. Ancestor worship and spirit worship are still important to them. These Canadian Cambodians practice a works-oriented religion without the true freedom and abundant life that only Jesus can give.

Pray for softened hearts and receptive minds among Khmer people in Canada to receive the only Savior, Jesus Christ. Ask God to raise up many disciples among the Khmer people in Vancouver and other Canadian cities. Pray for Canadian churches to gain awareness and lift up regular prayer for Khmers in Canada. Ask for strategic outreaches that will lead many from Buddhism to a living faith in Jesus, and a disciple-making movement.—CR

ACTS 17:22, NET

So Paul stood before the Areopagus and said, "Men of Athens, I see that you are very religious in all respects."

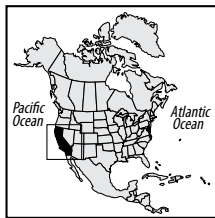
Pray that God will raise up missionaries who will be able to explain the gospel to the Khmer people in Canada in a clear, tactful way.

AFGHAN MUSLIMS IN CA

JONAH 3:8-9, NKJV

But let man and beast be covered with sackcloth, and cry mightily to God; yes, let everyone turn from his evil way and from the violence that is in his hands. Who can tell if God will turn and relent, and turn away from His fierce anger, so that we may not perish?

Pray for this kind of repentance to come to the Afghans in California and elsewhere.



Afghans have been leaving Afghanistan in search of safety, stability, and opportunity. One Global Gates Hub city is home to more than 60,000 Afghans. The needs in this community are vast: from housing, language learning, and job skills to safety for women from domestic violence, healing from trauma, and the new hope that comes from knowing Jesus.

Afghan families first came to this area in the late 1970s

during the war with Russia. These families were well educated, secular, and leaders in their fields. Their children were raised in the US and have assimilated into western culture. The second wave of refugees came in the early 2000s and were primarily widows and children. They faced multiple challenges as they spoke little English, had minimal education, and limited financial resources.

The third wave of Afghans that is still coming is made up of former translators for the US military. They are in need of job training and many need trauma treatment. All of these families have a need both for familiar community, which they often find in the mosque, as well as integration with the broader community.

Pray for Jesus to come to Afghans in dreams, and for believers to be prepared to explain and live out the reason for their hope. Pray for Afghan people of peace to be identified and for wisdom and love to abound as these relationships deepen.—TF, guest writer from Global Gates

SAUDI ARABS IN SAN DIEGO, CA



As I strolled across the campus where I teach English as a Second Language, I saw one of my Saudi students, “H”, approaching me with his smartphone’s camera eye outstretched and pointed right at me! Before I knew it, I was on a Skype call to Mecca with “H’s” big brother. After “H” said farewell to his brother, he gestured toward a picnic table. With an irresistible smile he tried to convince

me of the wonders of the Qur’an. At one point, he played a YouTube video of his brother, a famous sheik in Mecca, beautifully reciting the Qur’an (Muslims hold that the singing of the Qur’an has supernatural powers over the listener). Eventually, however, the Holy Spirit transformed our conversation into a compelling discussion of Jesus!

“H” is one of 60,000 of Saudi Arabia’s best and brightest college students that God has brought to America. In San Diego, over 1,000 make up this unique harvest field, temporarily separated from their home country where the strictest form of Islam is promoted, Bibles are forbidden, and honor killings for those who stray from the faith are the norm.

Pray the Lord will send laborers to share the gospel person to person with these Saudis. Pray that Saudis will take the gospel back home, plant churches, and fan the flames of revival from Mecca to the entire Muslim world!—BKS, guest writer with Global Gates

ACTS 17:26-27A, TLB

From one man He created all the nations throughout the whole earth. He decided beforehand when they should rise and fall, and He determined their boundaries. His purpose was for the nations to seek after God and perhaps feel their way toward Him and find Him...

Pray that Saudi Muslims in the US will truly seek and find God while they have the chance.

KURDS IN SAN DIEGO, CA

JONAH 2:9, NKJV

But I will sacrifice to
You with the voice of
thanksgiving; I will pay
what I have vowed.
Salvation is of the Lord.

*Pray for the Kurdish people
in San Diego to raise their
voices in thanksgiving to the
Lord. Pray that they will give
Him their hearts.*

Create International



A Kurdish woman

Who are the Kurds? They claim descent from the ancient Medes who once ruled Persia. Where is their home? That is a good question. They are the fourth largest ethnic group in the Middle East, but they have never had a permanent nation state. Their homeland of “Kurdistan” does not actually exist as such, but it is a combined area in the mountainous regions of Turkey, Iraq, Syria, Iran, and Azerbaijan. They have gained fame in recent years with their military force, the Peshmerga, fighting ISIS.

As a result of the war, many Kurds have come to the US. El Cajon, a suburb of San Diego, is known to have a large Kurdish community, and some churches are reaching out to them. Shadow Mountain Church in El Cajon has weekly worship services to minister to both Iraqi and Iranian congregations. Kurds are found among both of these communities.

The Kurds come from a variety of religious backgrounds, but most are Sunni Muslim. Kurdish dialects vary throughout Kurdistan, and they also speak the languages of the countries in which they live.

Pray for many churches in Southern California to initiate ministries that befriend the Kurds. May they help them find homes and jobs and remember the Bible’s command: “Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it.” (Hebrews 13:2)—JS

SOMALI BANTU PEOPLE IN SALT LAKE CITY, UT

DAY

28




These Somalis know where to find good coffee

Family... school...
children... jobs...
bills... giftings...

We can all add our own specific reasons to the list, reasons why we can't go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. (Mark 16:5b) They are valid reasons because when we think of

“going,” we think of selling all and relocating to some distant, often dangerous part of the globe where the gospel has yet to take root.

There's no replacement for boots on the ground mission work. As if in response to the obstacles keeping us from going, God is doing something amazing: He is bringing the lost to us.

In Salt Lake City, for instance, there is now a concentration of Somalia tu. Would you rather share the Good News in the Horn of Africa, with al Shabaab terrorists looking for foreigners to kidnap, or in Utah, where the worst thing that can happen to you is you won't be able to find a good coffee house?

If God is calling you to work among the Somali Bantu people, you can fulfill your call by catching a flight to Salt Lake City.

Pray for the Somali Bantus to have the opportunity to hear the gospel message in a way they can understand and embrace. Pray for the Lord to move in their hearts, draw them into relationships, and establish His Church and Kingdom among them.—CL

MARK 16:15, NIV

He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.”

Pray that as believers read this verse, they will understand that “all the world” can include “safe” cities like Salt Lake City, Utah, USA.

MONGOLIANS IN DENVER, CO

PSALM 35:18, NET

Then I will give you thanks
in the great assembly; I will
praise you before a large
crowd of people!

*Pray that the Mongolians in
Denver will praise Him and
give their lives to the Savior.*

Create International



A Mongol youth

(This fictitious dialogue is intended to explain the situation of this people group.)

“The Mongolians are coming!” “Very funny, Kevin,” Mike groaned. “Actually, they’re already here,” Kevin said.

Mike and Kevin were standing near the Colorado state capital building in Denver where a public demonstration was taking place. Thousands had gathered for a convention to discuss education and socio-economic issues facing Mongolian Americans.

“Do you think they’ll accept our materials?” Mike mumbled. Kevin nodded. As they began moving into the crowd offering evangelical tracts and scripture portions tailored specifically for this people group, they were pleasantly surprised by the response.

In 1989, three Mongolian engineering students came to Colorado to study at the Colorado School of Mines. More students followed. By 1996, the University of Colorado’s Denver campus had a program aimed specifically at bringing Mongolian students to study in Colorado.

Today there are more than 2,000 Mongolians living in and around Denver. While there are some Christians among them, the number is small.

Ask the Lord to help churches in and around Denver realize the opportunity they have to share the gospel with this people group. Pray for the salvation of the Mongolians in Denver, as well as the nearly three million still living in their homeland. Ask God to do a powerful work among them, establishing a Mongolian church planting movement.—CL

PERSPECTIVES COURSE IN LATIN AMERICA

Have you taken the Perspectives on the World Christian Movement course yet? It is an excellent tool for helping you understand why God wants every nation to become part of His family. (<http://www.perspectives.org/About>) Perspectives has grown into an international movement.

In Spanish speaking countries, it has been growing so quickly in recent years that it is hard to keep track of the growth! Starting with Costa Rica in 2010, several Spanish speaking countries have been added in recent years, preparing Latinos to take part in God's global purposes for their lives.

Last August, alumni from four different Latin American nations were represented at an instructors' training event. The development of *Perspectivas* programs throughout Latin America is being led by a council of Latin American leaders with assistance from the Perspectives Global Service Office team. These leaders hope to see the courses taught and led by Latinos rather than outsiders. The current teams are in need of prayer for additional staff members to help meet the new needs for expansion.

Pray for the Lord to help national leaders build strong teams of coordinators, administrators, and instructors for Perspectivas. Pray for God to use Perspectivas mightily and that through the program the Holy Spirit would touch, captivate, and activate believers all across Latin America. If you are fluent in Spanish, pray about how the Lord will use you as well.—EC

DAY

30

REV 21:23-24, NKJV

The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb is its light. And the nations of those who are saved shall walk in its light, and the kings of the earth bring their glory and honor into it.

Pray that as Spanish speaking believers take the Perspectivas course, they will fully realize that He is calling them personally to invite the unreached nations to walk in the light of the Lord of lords!

THE ANNA CALL

REV 22:1-2, NKJV

And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb. In the middle of its street, and on either side of the river, was the tree of life, which bore 12 fruits, each tree yielding its fruit every month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.

Meditate on how this verse affects the First Nations of North America.



CMA

“You, as Indians, are a sleeping giant, the original Americans. You are now awakening! Just around the corner you may become a spiritual super power in this country that could

change not only America, but the world!”—Dr. Billy Graham, 1975

Forty-one years later from October 7–9, 2016, a landmark gathering occurred in Tahlequah, Oklahoma. This town is one of the most well-known, heartbreaking places of its kind. Here is the geographical ending point of the Trail of Tears, a death march that took place in 1838–39 representing a broken covenant and the forcible relocation of several tribes.

In this same location the ANNA Call (All Nations North America) staged the biggest First Nations gathering in honor of Jesus Christ. In place of the broken covenant, there was an appeal to the everlasting covenant-keeping God of heaven. Gathering from across the entire North American continent, people met for three days in hopes of bringing a different kind of conclusion to the Trail of Tears. This conclusion is one that Christ alone can bring—redemption, emotional healing, and a rollback of the curse of poverty and despair on the First Nations peoples.

Pray that the Anna Call will be just a beginning towards spiritual and emotional healing for First Nation peoples. Pray that the Lord will use “healed and whole” First Nation believers to go to the unreached with Christ’s message of healing and wholeness.—The Call/KC

www.globalprayerdigest.org

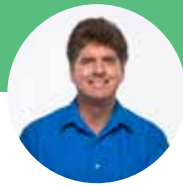
Global Prayer Digest

June 2017 • Frontier Ventures • 36:6



GOD HAS NOT FORGOTTEN LAOS!

- 2—If I Follow God, Who Will Care for My Ancestors?
- 16—Keeping the Culture Alive Through Stories
- 17—Tattooed With Buddhist Scriptures
- 19—Sapuan People Literally Tied to Guardian Spirits
- 23—If She Has Braids, She is Married
- 25—Why the Mal People Love Baby Girls More Than Boys



Dear Praying Friends,

When you contemplate Southeast Asia, one of the last countries you would think of is Laos. It is small, landlocked, and is often forgotten. It contains approximately 126 unreached people groups, and it needs more frontier mission work than any country in Southeast Asia except Indonesia. People practice the darkness of traditional animistic religion blended with superficial Buddhism. Therefore, they have much fear of the spirit world.

While making assignments this month, I talked with one of my new writers who suggested that we use “freedom” as a theme for this issue. It makes sense to pray for spiritual freedom for people being controlled by a malevolent spirit world. You will notice a couple of times our prayer entries included this as a theme—and I didn’t even say anything to the writers about it.

Fortunately, Laos isn’t forgotten by believers. Thanks to the staff of Mekong Ministries and to other believers, I had plenty of feedback regarding what people groups to highlight this month. With so many needy groups to pray for, instead of including a three-day biography like we normally do, we will start this *GPD* with unreached Laotian people groups that need prayer.

In Christ,

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

[Globalprayerdigest.org](http://www.globalprayerdigest.org)

<http://www.globalprn.com/global-prayer-digest-magazine-downloads/>

June 2017

RECORDS AND SUBSCRIPTIONS

Frontier Ventures - GPD
PO Box 433303
Palm Coast, FL 32143
Tel: 888-903-3322 (US or Canada)
subscriptions@frontierventures.org

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Keith Carey

ASSISTANT EDITOR

Paula Fern

WRITERS

Eugena Chou
Patricia Depew
Patti Ediger
Karen Hightower
Wesley Kawato
Ben Klueft
Christopher Lane
Bianca Ontiveros
Ted Proffitt
Cory Raynham
Lydia Reynolds
Jean Smith
Allan Starling
Chun Mei Wilson

DAILY BIBLE COMMENTARIES

Keith Carey
David Dougherty
Robert Rutz

CUSTOMER SERVICE

Lois Carey

GRAPHICS

Garrett Inouye

PRINTER

Yuli Color Reproduction Co., LTD.
(Taiwan)

WEB SITE

www.globalprayerdigest.org

www.globalprn.com/global-prayer-digest-magazine-downloads/

ISSN 1045-9731
Contents of the *Global Prayer Digest* © 2017
Frontier Ventures
1605 East Elizabeth Street
Pasadena, CA 91104

Contents of this booklet may be reproduced if appropriate credit and subscription information are given.

For subscription information, call 888-903-3322 (US or Canada)
For comments on content, call 626-398-2241.

PRAY FOR

*a Church Planting Movement Among
Every Tribe in Laos*



WELCOME TO THE FORGOTTEN LAND OF LAOS!



(These are excerpts from the introductory article to the 1999 book, Faces of the Unreached in Laos by Paul Hattaway of Asia Harvest)

W elcome to the forgotten land of Laos! We hope as you read about the numerous needy people groups in Laos and see the faces of the unreached tribes, not only will your knowledge be expanded, but your heart will be touched to pray for the precious people within this Southeast Asian nation.

Laos is a land-locked country of about 6.75 million people. Surrounded by high, rugged mountains to the north, east and south, and by the mighty Mekong River along its western borders, it has managed to develop at a much slower pace than its neighbors. Today many Westerners still cannot locate Laos on a map of the world. In this age of instant information and the Internet, few places in the world remain as remote and unexplored as Laos. Information is also scarce about the culture, the customs, and the historical development of the Laotian people. There is almost no

record of missionary activity in Laos, partly because the bulk of mission work took place in the narrow timeframe between 1954-1975. In 1975 when communism took over Laos, all foreigners were expelled from the country.



THE DISGRACE OF ETHNIC DIVERSITY

To some degree the Lao majority people today see the diversity within their own country as the result of a failure on their part. This attitude frequently emerges in conversations with Lao people. They believe if Laos had been a unified and stronger country in the past, that the numerous tribal peoples would have willingly come into the fold and eagerly adopted the Lao language, culture, and religion.

HOW MANY GROUPS ARE THERE?

Although some linguistic material has hinted at a larger number of people groups and languages in Laos, only in 1995 did we have a clear picture of the true diversity of different peoples living in this country. In the publication of Frenchman Laurent Chazee's groundbreaking book, *The Peoples of Laos*, Chazee found there to be 130 different people groups. This book was the starting point for another book, *Faces of the Unreached in Laos*, and also indirectly for the Joshua Project's list of people groups in that country. We now have profiled 138 groups that we believe to be separate entities in Laos. (Editor's note: Since that time, the number has been reduced to 126.)

BARRIERS TO THE GOSPEL

Missiologist Lawrence Radcliffe has poignantly stated, "Ethnic identity is not so much in the blood as in the head and the heart of the subject or the observer."

From a Christian point of view, it is vital to understand the cultural and ethnic barriers that exist between people groups. These barriers often stop the flow of the gospel from one group to another. For example, in 1900,

WELCOME TO THE FORGOTTEN LAND

there were very few Christians in South Korea. But today at least 30-35 percent of the Korean population follow Jesus. Part of the reason for this growth is that Korea has one culture and one language, so it was easy for the gospel to spread far and wide. There are no tribal people with other cultures that need someone to reach them using a different language. Racial prejudice was not a factor to be reckoned with.

In Laos, by contrast, Christianity has gained widespread acceptance among a mere handful of the 11 ethnic groups, including the Khmu, Lahu, and Bru. The gospel has not penetrated other cultures and languages.

Most mission agencies have looked at the relatively small population of Laos and decided there are other needier nations. From a people group perspective,

however, Laos is one of the most needy and neglected countries in the world.



IS LAOS A BUDDHIST NATION?

Buddhism is commonly viewed as the dominant religion of Laos. As you will soon realize, however, animism (traditional tribal religion) plays an equal part in the daily lives of the people, particularly among the rural and tribal peoples. Even those who are professing Buddhists mix their faith with many rituals and ceremonies from pre-Buddhist spirit worship. For example, the central image


which is worshiped in the Si Muang Temple in Vientiane, the capital of Laos, is not a Buddha, as might be expected. It is the city pillar in which people believe the guardian spirit of the city resides. Local residents make daily offerings to it.

WELCOME TO THE FORGOTTEN LAND

Theravada Buddhism has mainly taken hold among the ethnic Lao majority and several other Tai-speaking groups. The Grand Stupa, a mound-like or hemispherical structure containing sacred relics of the country, is housed in Vientiane. The *That Luang* is the most sacred monument in the country. It supposedly contains the spirit of the Lao nation, and is the barometer of the nation's fortune, and simultaneously the cause of its prosperity. Every monarch has a *That*, just as it has its protective statue.

Two thousand years after Jesus Christ died for their sins, many peoples of Laos are still waiting to hear the gospel for the first time. We hope that believers all around the world will be motivated to pray for Laotians and seek God regarding what they might do to see all peoples of Laos worshipping Him who said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No man comes to the father except through me." (John 14:6, NIV)

LET'S PRAY!

- Pray for the Lord to thrust out workers from the reached peoples of Laos such as the Khmu to take  od news to the unreached groups of Laos.
- Pray for leaders among each of the unreached people groups in Laos to be prepared for the Lord's blessings through divine encounters.
- Pray for the Lord to push aside any hindrance to the gospel penetrating these unreached tribes and nations.

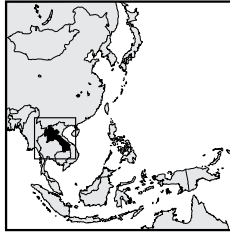


TAI DAM PEOPLE OF LAOS

2 COR. 3:17, NIV

Now the Lord is the Spirit,
and where the Spirit of the
Lord is, there is freedom.

*Make this your prayer for
the animistic peoples of
Laos this month.*



Going home should be enjoyable, but it ends up being miserable for Vinh. He is the only follower of Jesus in his family or village. **They** say they don't follow any religion, but that means that they don't have a temple or church, and that they don't follow an ethical code from a holy book. It doesn't mean they are unaware of spiritual realities. The Tai Dam people are deeply entrenched in animism and ancestor worship. Vinh is repeatedly reminded of this when he's with his family.

Vinh pleaded with his parents not to, but they ignored him and continued to visit the shamans for him and give gifts to the village witch on his behalf. When Vinh was young, he was very sick and seemed to be close to death, so his parents took him to shamans and witches in the village. Because he lived, the witch now claims him as her own child and requires offerings and monetary gifts every year.

When he shared the gospel with his grandparents they seemed intrigued, but eventually responded, "We are Tai Dam and follow the Tai Dam way. If I followed God, who will care for my ancestors?" Vinh's family, like the rest of the Tai Dam, need the freedom that only Christ can bring.

Pray for the one million Tai Dam to be freed from bondage to evil spirits and ancestor worship. Pray that they will find life in Jesus.—TE, guest writer

TAI DAM BREAKTHROUGH



Tai Dam woman

“If this is true, why does everyone around me follow the spirits?” Bien asked sincerely. He had just heard a story of the Creator God that explained how sin brought about our enslavement to evil spirits. The story

promised a Savior, and told of his coming. Bien had never heard anything like it. Hoa, Bien’s wife asked, “I want to follow Jesus and be free from the evil spirits, but I’m afraid my ancestors would never forgive me. Can I do both?” Like most of the Tai Dam, she felt a strong responsibility to make offerings to her ancestors and continue to care for them beyond their death.

In the months that followed, they heard more stories from God’s Word. As ~~they~~ began to be convinced of the truth, they also witnessed God’s power. A relative was delivered from demonic activity as they watched. Immediately afterward, Bien gathered several relatives and neighbors. He told what had happened and urged them to turn to Jesus with them. Together nine family members now follow Jesus.

Pressure to conform to societal expectations is strong; but new believers encourage each other. Most do not read, but they are learning and retelling the stories from God’s word.

Thank the Lord for this new harvest! Pray for these new believers to boldly declare Jesus’ power to save us from evil and for the message to spread to every Tai Dam village.—TE, guest writer

PS. 106: 36, NIV

They worshiped their idols, which became a snare to them.

Pray for the Tai Dam people to find freedom from the spirit world.

SO PEOPLE

EPH. 3:12, NIV

In Him and through faith in Him we may approach God with freedom and confidence.

Make this your prayer for the So people of Laos.



So woman

The Lao-Thai name So ("elder brother") refers to the fact that the So were present in this area long before their "younger brothers," the Lao, the very people their country is named after! They speak So in their

homes, but converse in Lao, the trade language, with their neighbors. There are about 140,000 So people living along the Mekong River in Laos. They are subsistence farmers. The father is the head of the family, and there is usually a headman who is the leader of the village.

They live with the consequences of numerous wars that have been fought in their homeland. Many unexploded bombs remain as a constant danger, especially among children who ~~can~~ have their limbs blown off.

One obstacle to reaching this group for Christ is their remote location. They are a naturally hospitable, curious people, so it is easy to talk to them about Jesus, though few have heard much about Him. However, when it comes to surrendering their lives to Christ, many cultural barriers arise.

Although they are nominally Buddhist, they also practice ancestor worship and animism, believing good and evil spirits indwell everything. To believe in Jesus, they need to forsake all other gods. This would mean isolation from their villages and their families. They would be looked upon as traitors. Their lives revolve around their cultural identities.

BREAKTHROUGHS AMONG THE SO PEOPLE

DAY

04



So men

Yesterday we read about the So people who live along the Mekong River in Laos. There are many barriers to reaching them. They are very remote, and their language is mainly an oral one; but that does not stop our Heavenly Father! He

can touch lives that others cannot reach.

Remember the story of Jesus healing the demoniac in the Bible? When he was found and bound by chains, he broke them. When Jesus asked him his name, the demon-possessed man replied, “Legion,” because many unclean spirits lived in him. Jesus commanded those demonic spirits to come out of him.

Jesus is still doing the same thing. In 2009 a man roamed the jungles by the Mekong River. He too was possessed by demons. Finally, his neighbors captured and caged him. Like the demoniac in the Bible, this So man was touched, healed, and delivered from demon possession. He was a transformed man. When he told others that Jesus saved him, he was urged to recant, but he replied, “I can’t recant, not even a little bit.” Since that time 17 other families have come to know Jesus, and there are now three churches. It takes a transformed life to witness to others and draw them to Jesus.

Ask God to transform other lives so that their witness draws many to the saving knowledge of Jesus. Pray that transformed lives will overcome cultural barriers.—JS

MK 5: 15-17, NET

They came to Jesus and saw the demon-possessed man sitting there, clothed and in his right mind—the one who had the “Legion”—and they were afraid. . . . Then they began to beg Jesus to leave their region.

Pray that fear will not stop the So people from embracing the Savior who gives life and freedom.

TAI LUE PEOPLE


GAL. 5:1, NIV

It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.

Pray for the Tai Lue people to be set free from sin by the power of Christ.



If someone were to ask a multiple-choice question about where the Tai Lu people live, they can rightfully say this tribe lives in China's Yunnan Province, Vietnam, Thailand, Laos, and even Myanmar. There has been a Christian witness

among them for a long time, starting in the 1800s with Presbyterian workers. They rode elephants in Yunnan Province, going from village to village sharing the gospel. Scriptures have even been translated into their language, but still the Tai Lue remain mostly  unreached people group.

The Tai Lue are Theravada Buddhists, meaning that they believe that if they live good lives, they will be reborn into a higher social position. But, if they are wicked, they will come back as animals. Many of their customs and rites revolve around this belief system. Once a year the Tai Lue celebrate the Songkran Festival when people splash water over each other, symbolizing the cleansing of sin from the previous year and a fresh start for the new year. So, there is obviously a God-given conviction of sin in their lives, and their need to be forgiven, even if it is only for one year.

Pray for them to hear of Jesus, the one and only Savior who can cleanse them from sin permanently, and can answer their search for a new and better life.—JS

TAI LUE BREAKTHROUGHS

DAY

06

Working with the Tai Lue people is a slow process, but God has provided an opportunity. Many of them suffer from physical, mental, and even demonically caused illnesses. One missionary, Amy (not her real name), has been witnessing to “Auntie Andrea” who suffers from glaucoma. Auntie Andrea complained that she felt hopeless about her failing eyesight. Amy told her the Bible story of Jesus and the man who was blind from birth. Amy then asked her if she would like prayer for her eyes. She said, “yes.” Startled after the prayer, she said, “I can see the mountains now that I could not see before!” Amy prayed for her eyes two more times, and each time her vision improved. Auntie Andrea then asked Amy, “Does this mean I have to follow Jesus?” Amy told her no, but added that Jesus did love her and wanted her to know him.

This kind of opportunity and response has been repeated several times with Tai Lue villagers suffering from demon possession, addiction, and depression, as well as other illnesses. Amy faithfully shares Bible stories with all of them and gives them tapes to listen to. Even though the Tai Lue are touched by Jesus, forsaking all other gods is a very difficult decision for them to make.

Pray for Amy and other workers who are ministering as Jesus did, praying for healing, praying for deliverance, and faithfully discipling them in God’s love. Pray that the Tai Lue will be convicted and convinced of God’s love for them.—JS

JN. 9:27, NET

He answered, “I told you already and you didn’t listen. Why do you want to hear it again? You people don’t want to become his disciples too, do you?”

Pray that those healed by the Lord will have the boldness to stand up for Jesus like the man born blind did.

PHUTAI PEOPLE

ACTS. 2:17, NET

“And in the last days it will be,” God says, “that I will pour out my Spirit on all people, and your sons and your daughters will prophesy, and your young men will see visions, and your old men will dream dreams.”

Pray for a genuine move of the Holy Spirit to transform the Phutai people of Laos.

Asia Harvest



A Phutai woman

And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them (Acts 2: 2-3, [NIV](#)).

Each year the Phutai people of Laos gather together for the “Spirit of Heaven” festival. As one, the community offers sacrifices and prayers to induce spirits to descend from their heavenly abode. They believe that on that day a spirit truly communes with the people in a moment of celebration where some receive healing and others are struck with fits of laughter and revelry.

The event evokes the Christian day of Pentecost, though the true joy found in the presence of the Living God and the Holy Spirit is unknown to them. Most Phutai people are animists who worship 25 different spirits and rely on a female shaman who mediates with the spirit world.

There are around 154,000 Phutai people living in Laos, as well as large populations in Vietnam and Thailand. Of that number, there are only 150 Phutai known believers in Laos. They have no access to Christian radio broadcasts, the JESUS Film, or Scripture in their language.

Pray for the day of Pentecost to come to the Phutai people, in which the Holy Spirit would be the one who touches hearts and transforms lives, and for the Phutai to know and love their true heavenly mediator, Jesus Christ.—EC

KHUA PEOPLE OF LAOS

DAY

08

The Nakai-Nam Theun National Biodiversity Conservation Area in Laos is home to a wide variety of wildlife, including over a dozen threatened species. Elephants share this space with muntjac deer, saola long horn deer, leopards, tigers, and several varieties of bears. But more importantly, there is a people group in this area called the Khua that Christ loves, and wants to become part of His family.

The Khua are a deeply spiritual people, with strong roots in spirit worship and an ingrained fear of demonic power. Their religious practices are based entirely around appeasement of demons and spirits, and the fear of falling victim to their wrath. There is no love or affection whatsoever towards the spirits in the animistic religion of the Khua. As this spirituality is a major component of the Khua ethnic identity, religious conversion, in essence, would equate to a cultural assimilation with some other people.

Currently, there are no known professing believers amongst the Khua in Laos. In a nearby area, however, resides a people known as the Bru, who do have a significant Christian presence. It is possible that some Khua have been exposed to the gospel through interaction with Bru evangelists from the area.

Pray that in Christ the Khua people will find freedom from their spiritual bondage. Pray that local evangelists would be burdened to reach their Khua neighbors, and that the hearts of the Khua would be open to hearing and receiving the good news of the kingdom of God.—BK

JAMES 1:25, NIV

But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do.

Pray that the Khua people will find perfect freedom in obedience to the God who controls the universe.

PHUNOI PEOPLE

ROMANS 8:21, NIV

... that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God.

Pray for this blessing for the nations!

Asia Harvest



A Phunoi boy



The sound of a recorder floats gently amongst the percussive rhythm of small hand-drums and cymbals. It is soon joined by voices, by no means smooth, yet intertwining in harmony. The performers sing and dance, and before long they are carrying weighted earthenware jugs between their teeth. This is a dance of the Phunoi hill people of northern Laos.

Like other hill peoples, the Phunoi are primarily agricultural, though they hunt and forage as well. Due to their practice of changing the location of where they farm, the Phunoi do not establish permanent villages. Some say the Phunoi migrated from China, although their own oral traditions maintain that they came from Myanmar.

The Phunoi have their own traditional blend of animism and ancestor worship. Many, though, have been converted to Buddhism through the influence of neighboring peoples resulting in a cultural blend of the two religions.

The Vietnam War has had a tremendously negative impact on the nation of Laos, especially in the northern provinces where leftover mines and bombs dropped from U.S. planes over 40 years ago still pose a serious danger. Health problems and malnutrition are also widespread throughout Laos.

Ask the Lord to send Christian medical teams to the Phunoi and other peoples of Laos. Pray for open hearts and open doors for the spreading of the kingdom of God into Phunoi communities. Pray that the Lord will use the Phunoi to take Christ to other tribes.—BK

KATAANG PEOPLE

DAY

10

(This account is intended to explain the beliefs of this people group).

“**B**ut they must come to live in the longhouse!” Lae said, his face growing red with anger. “Father,” the younger man named Vin replied, “the world is changing. Young people need their own homes.” “I did not have my own home!” Lae said defiantly. “When I was young, I lived with my family in the longhouse. When I married, we came to live in the longhouse. I have lived here all of my life.” He gestured at the 100-meter structure. “There is room. And this is where they belong.” Vin nodded and walked away. When he reached his own son, he said, “Your grandfather wants you to live in the longhouse.” “~~But~~ father...” He silenced his son with a hand. “Don’t worry. He will come around in time.”

Like culture everywhere, the lifestyle and traditions of the Kataang people of Laos are changing. Once living in groups of as many as 30 families in one giant house, the young Kataang are leaving the area, some moving to towns and cities.

There is only one church among this people group. But as this cultural shift takes place, there will be opportunities for more of them to hear the good news of Christ.

Pray for the Kataang church to grow and for believers to share the gospel with those around them. Pray for the Kataang people to have soft hearts to receive the message of salvation. Pray for a movement to Christ among this people group.—CL

1 CHRON. 16:26, NIV

For all the gods of the nations are idols, but the Lord made the heavens.

Pray for the Kataang people to respond to God’s invitation to worship Him rather than useless idols.

BRAO PEOPLE

GAL. 5:13, NIV

You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love.

Pray for the Brao people to find freedom in Christ that will spread to other peoples in Laos.

Asia Harvest



A Brao man

(This fictitious account is intended to explain the beliefs of this people group.)

“How will we ever reach 40 villages?” asked Akamu. Keon, the other young man, shrugged and replied, “We start with one and we go to the next, and the next, and the ~~next.~~” Akamu commented, “It will take forever!” Keon raised an eyebrow and said, “Perhaps. But if we share the gospel and some choose to follow Christ, these disciples will help us. They will share, and others will follow. And eventually, all will hear about the God who loves them. It will only take forever if we don’t get started.” With that the two men walked into the village.

Most of the Brao people are animists, worshiping and seeking to appease spirits of the earth that they have worshipped for generations. Animal sacrifice is involved in this practice.

There is one known church among the Brao people. Hundreds of Brao have come to Christ, but many still have yet to encounter or respond to the good news that Jesus came as the final sacrifice.

Pray for the Lord to prepare the hearts of the Brao people to receive the message of forgiveness in Christ. Ask God to send those from the Brao church to begin a disciple making movement. Pray for churches to be planted, and for the kingdom of God to be firmly established among this people group.—CL

KHUEN PEOPLE

DAY

12



Asia Harvest

A Khuen teenaged girl

(This story illustrates the lifestyle of this people group.)

Droplets of water coming down from the roof of Keopersuth's home are the only sense of calm at this time. Bodies are writhing and screaming in unknown languages during Rang Song.

Keopersuth joins the rest of the people in the room in praying the spirits would be pleased with their offerings. For hundreds of years Khuen people have practiced this common ritual which blends elements of animism and Buddhism, opening doors to unclean village and household spirits.

Over 100 years ago Christian missionary William Clifton Dodd began evangelizing this part of Laos. He reported many were incredibly responsive to the gospel and requested to hear it every day. Out of the current population of over 12,000 Khuen people, 1.5 percent now identify as Christian. Though they do not have access to the Bible in their language, believers are still rising up.

Originally from the northwest region of Laos, the Khuen are one of the least reached groups in the country. A small portion of the Khuen people now live in the United States in areas like Richmond, California and Seattle, Washington.

Ask the Lord to break the spiritual ties that bind these people to unclean spirits. Pray there will be breakthroughs among the believers to begin evangelizing, and there will be Khuen believers to translate the Bible into their language. Pray the Khuen people in the U.S. will receive salvation and take Christ back to Laos.—BO

JER. 16:19, NIV

Lord, my strength and my fortress, my refuge in time of distress, to you the nations will come from the ends of the earth and say, "Our ancestors possessed nothing but false gods, worthless idols that did them no good."

Pray for the Khuen to realize the truth of what Jeremiah said to the Israelites thousands of years ago.

KUI PEOPLE

JER. 34:14, NIV

Recently you repented and did what is right in my sight: Each of you proclaimed freedom to your own people. You even made a covenant before me in the house that bears my name.

Pray for the Kui people to repent and give their entire allegiance to the Lord.

Asia Harvest



A Kui musician

Sisera and all his chariots and army by the sword, and Sisera got down from his chariot and fled on foot (Judges 4:14-15, NIV).

During a short season, Israel was ruled by Deborah, a woman, but around the world, this is not unusual. The Kui people of Laos are one of the few “matriarchal” societies in Laos. That means that women manage finances and their family’s possessions. Once married, the couple must live with the bride’s family. Deborah was appointed as a judge to free the people of Israel from its oppressor. On a similar vein, the Kui people need deliverance from oppressive spirits.


The Kui people are spread across three countries, Laos, Cambodia, and Thailand. Their limited resources tightly bind them to their beliefs in animistic spirits and Buddhism. They even invite spiritual possessions. With a population of 410,000 and only two percent identifying as Christians, there is much to be done for these people to be freed from the spirits.

Pray God will do a powerful work among Kui women so they can deliver their people, like Deborah did, from the evil they face. Pray for a church planting movement that will lead them to Christ.—BO

SOU PEOPLE

DAY

14

Yes, I am sending you to the Gentiles to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God (Acts 26:17, 18, NLT). 


In southern Laos, over 3,000 Sou people live entrapped by spirits and ghosts. These unreached souls reside in an isolated mountainous region along the Laos-Cambodia border. Each Sou village has a resident spirit-priest or shaman. These spiritual leaders mediate between the animistic villagers and the realm of the spirits. One Lao author writes of mediums in such rural communities who have been possessed by “lords and princes” of past kingdoms, drawing on spiritual power to overcome present sufferings.

In 1962, a gospel recording was done in the Sou language with missionary help. However, this recording has been heard in only a small number of Sou households. Most Sou people know nothing of the gospel. To be reached, the Sou will need gospel material to be prepared in their own language, since very few speak or read Lao. The best hope for evangelizing the Sou may come through other people groups in Southeast Asia.

Pray for revival fire to flow throughout Laos. Pray for the Lord to call, equip, and empower workers to reach the remote Sou people. Ask God to prepare Sou hearts, bringing them gospel resources in their mother tongue. Pray for a strong church planting movement among the Sou people.—CR

1 TIM. 2:5-6, NIV

For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all people. This has now been witnessed to at the proper time.

Pray that the Sou people will recognize Jesus Christ as this sole mediator between us and God  spirit that matters.

LAMET PEOPLE

ISAIAH 61:1, NIV


The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives, and release from darkness for the prisoners. . .

Pray for the Lamet people to be set free from spiritual darkness.

Many evil spirits were cast out, screaming as they left their victims. And many who had been paralyzed or lame were healed. So there was great joy. . . (Acts 8:7-8, NLT)

In Samaria Philip proclaimed Jesus and performed miracles to bring freedom and healing. Today in northwestern Laos the unreached Lamet people group number about 24,000 souls. Like the Sou we prayed for yesterday, the Lamet live in remote mountainous villages. They too are trapped in animism, believing that evil and good spirits are found everywhere in non-living objects.

The Lamet also worship their ancestors. They believe these ancestor spirits provide well-being for their households. Spirit practitioners sacrifice to the village spirits and conduct ceremonies and celebrations that the Lamet enjoy.

This isolated people group does farming, hunting, and fishing. They trade with Lao and Thai peoples for tools, clothes, and pottery. Some Lamet find part-time jobs in the lowlands where they are called “k  slaves).

The people speak a language called Lamet, but they have no written language. There are a small number of Lamet audio Bible teachings available to them. Work is in progress to translate scriptures into their language. As yet, however, few Lamet people have heard the gospel.

Pray for protection and blessing for those translating the Bible into Lamet. Ask God to stir and anoint the few Lamet believers so they will share Christ with their people. Pray for evangelists and church planters to help start a Lamet church, leading to a disciple making movement.—CR

CHUT PEOPLE

DAY

16



Asia Harvest

A Chut teenaged girl

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

As the firelight illuminated his grandfather's scars, the little Chut boy's eyes widened with every detail about the tiger attack. He loved his grandfather's true stories, but even more he loved it when the tribe gathered together to sing the folk songs. The Chut take great care to pass down tribal legends to the young generations.

The Chut are a small ethnic group living in the mountains of eastern Cambodia, sometimes spilling over into Vietnam and Laos. Locked away in inaccessible mountain villages, the Chut are difficult to reach, much less to count. However, according to estimates, possibly as many as 2,300 or as few as 800 Chut remain. Three subtribes, the Chut-Ruc, the Chut-May, the Chut-Sach, used to fight among themselves. But now they all speak a general Chut language which serves as the trade language between them. The Ruc and May subtribes remain hunter-gatherers, whereas the more advanced Sach have adopted farming.

The Chut tribes share a common belief in a Creator God. So far, though, no one in any of the Chut tribes has been reached with the story of who this Creator God is. They believe that their spirit-priests have the power to communicate with a hierarchy of spirits.

Pray that the Chut peoples will hear the gospel in a culturally-relevant manner. Ask God to send believers to tell the Chut tribes the true story of Yahweh as Creator and Savior.—LR

PS. 19:1, NIV

The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands.

Pray that the Chut people will be freed from the spirits as they give their undivided allegiance to the God who created the heavens.

SAMTAO PEOPLE

HEB 9:12, NIV

He did not enter by means of the blood of goats and calves; but he entered the most holy place once and for all by his own blood, thus obtaining eternal redemption.

Pray for the Samtao people to understand and embrace the final sacrifice of Jesus Christ as payment for their sins.

Asia Harvest




A Samtao woman

The young Samtao man's face quivered between a grin and a grimace. He anticipated participating in the annual agricultural ceremony and looking impressive with his new tattoos.


Samtao men often tattoo their

bodies with passages from Buddhist scriptures. Converted to the Theravada tradition 900 years ago, they retain a proud identity as Buddhists. Yet they mix Buddhism with animism.

An example would be their agricultural ceremony. They gather after harvest to sacrifice chickens and pigs to the mother of rice. They also venerate the spirits of their ancestors, house, age, forest, trees and sky, as well as perform animal rituals.

More than 2,000 Samtao people live in Laos. However, a report from 2010 indicated there were 3,100 of them. The Samtao of Laos live in the northeast part of the country. They depend on an agricultural economy, and they grow crops such as coffee, sugarcane, maize, rice, and cotton. Often a man has more than one wife (polygamy). But he must first gain permission from the village chief to have multiple marriages. Some Samtao still arrange infant marriages.

A few Samtao people follow Christ in surrounding countries; but there are no Samtao believers in Laos. There are no Scriptures or missionaries available to them.

Pray that God will reveal Himself more fully to the Samtao, so that they will see Him as the provider, healer, and Savior.  for them to have dreams and visions of Jesus. Pray for a church planting movement




A Bit girl

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

Aelan, which means “flower,” fingered her shell necklace and silver bracelets as she bowed low and prayed to her ancestors. Her husband,

Tong, burst through the door wearing a troubled look. “What happened to him?” he demanded. She responded, “He was climbing a tree in the forest and fell to the ground.” Aelan stroked her child’s forehead. In deep despair, the parents had only spirit gods and long-dead ancestors to turn to.

Eight small villages in the north of Laos located in a high forested valley are home to the 1,600 Bit people. Each village contains 30–50 houses where the women work in their traditional dress. Those villages closest to civilization are rapidly dropping their language, ethnic religion, and becoming assimilated into other cultures. This is a time of transition that will eventually spread to their most distant villages.

Pray that while the Bit are seeking identity, they will find it in Jesus Christ. Pray that the nearby Khmu evangelists will focus on the Bit and share the gospel with great power at a  undant harvest. Pray for a flourishing Bit church to spring up to the glory of the Savior. Pray that Bit people like Aelan and Tong will soon experience the comfort, provision, and salvation of the Lord.—PE


PSALM 119:45, NIV

I will walk about in freedom, for I have sought out your precepts.

Make this your prayer for the Bit people.

SAPUAN PEOPLE

2 PET. 2:19, NIV

They promise them freedom, while they themselves are slaves of depravity—for  they are slaves to whatever has mastered them."

Pray for true spiritual freedom to come to the Sapuan people of Laos.

Asia Harvest



A Sapuan woman

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

Liko scolded his son. “The spirit over your lungs has left you. That is why you are sick.” The teenager’s congested cough prevented him from protesting. Liko began tying 32 strings on his son’s wrist to represent the 32 guardian spirits, each of whom “guards” an organ of the body. Trying to keep the spirits on watch had to be accomplished by physically tying their representation to the body as the spirits were known to wander off, thus creating illness in the organ they were supposed to guard.

The Attapu Province of southern Laos is home to 2,400 Sapuan people. In forests still containing tigers and rhinos, the inhabitants can even watch the Irrawaddy dolphins playing in the rivers. However, in this unspoiled land there is a vacuum of spiritual truth. The freedom to worship the true and living God is supplanted by binding spirits, keeping the Sapuan in fear and without hope. Although they have a gospel recording in their own language it sits unused like an unlit candle.

Pray that believers in Cambodia will cross the border and evangelize this tribe in Laos. Pray that God will call godly believers to the Sapuan to disciple and teach them about Jesus. Pray that the Holy Spirit will woo and call the Sapuan to search for and find the One True God.—PE

ALAK PEOPLE



Alak woman

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

The shaman squatted over the boiled chicken and examined the liver and folds of the stomach. He raised himself slowly as the numerous village

elders, all women, surrounded him awaiting his diagnosis. “You have offended the god of the harvest. Your rice harvest will be poor unless you sacrifice a white buffalo.” The clan of the buffalo began to weep as their namesake was sacred to them just as the pig is sacred to the clan of the pig.

Most of these 17,000 matriarchal Alak people live in southern Laos. They rarely see people from outside of their villages. Only the inhabitants of one village occasionally sees tourists arriving on elephants to gaze at them and peer at their houses built on stilts. Most Alaks work on coffee, rubber, or banana plantations. It is thought that there are about 10 believers among the 17,000 animistic Alak people. However, there are gospel recordings in each of the five existing dialects, which could be a great help to any believer who is called to evangelize these people.

Pray for these recordings to find their way into the Alak homes. Pray for the Holy Spirit to send the winds of revival to sweep through the Alak community. Pray that He calls believers to live among them and help to birth a vibrant, victorious church as they learn to thank Him for making the final sacrifice.—PE

DAY 20

ROM. 3:25, NIV

God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of His blood—to be received by faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished...

Pray for the Alak people to embrace this sacrifice from God's only son.

LAVEN PEOPLE OF LAOS

EX. 20:20, NIV

Moses said to the people, “Do not be afraid. God has come to test you, so that the fear of God will be with you to keep you from sinning.”

Pray that the Laven people will trade their unhealthy fear of the spirits for a healthy fear of the Lord that will lead to eternal life.

Asia Harvest



An elderly Laven woman

Operation World, a key mission book, reports rapid church growth in Laos, despite restrictions and persecution. It says, “Almost all of the evangelism (and the churches that result) are led by the indigenous Laotians.

Growth is happening among several different peoples in rural and urban areas and throughout the country.”

Unfortunately, the good news has not yet reached the animistic Laven people. Some of them have heard the gospel, but few have responded. Their religion is deeply rooted in their ethnic identity. A typical response to the gospel might be, “If we should follow your way and forsake the customs of our ancestors, the spirits might become angry with us. Then we’d all get sick and die.” As a result of this fear of the spirits, there are currently only a handful of Laven believers.

There are no Bibles, JESUS Films, radio programs, or audio gospel messages available in the Laven language. About 38,000 refugees who speak Laven live near Fresno, California. They may be the key to reaching others in Laos.

Pray for indigenous Laotian believers to find an open door to preach the gospel to the Laven. Pray for a church planting movement among the Laven people. Pray that Christian churches in Fresno will reach out to their new neighbors. Ask the Lord to break up the spiritual soil of Laos and plant seeds among every tribe in that nation.—Allan Starling, GRN

TAI DAENG PEOPLE OF LAOS



A Tai Daeng girl

The Tai Daeng people of Laos have been refugees from China for many years. They are scattered in several countries, including Laos, where they are also known as Red Tai because of the adjacent Red River. In the 1960s, a large group of refugees fled from Vietnam to Laos to

escape the war. They live in communities with other related Tai groups. Past outbreaks of cholera and typhoid have wiped out thousands of Tai Daeng.

The Tai Daeng people are extremely polite, respectful, and hospitable. Families are the core of their society. In rural areas the entire immediate family lives together. Many of the Tai Daeng work as blacksmiths. This is an important occupation, especially in villages along trade routes.

Most Tai Daeng are animists. They believe that non-living objects have spirits. About one-third of them follow Buddhist teachings. They seek to improve their future by gaining merit in pursuit of perfect peace, or nirvana. They believe that merit can be acquired through feeding monks, donating to temples, and attending worship services.

There are no known believers among them. They do not have the ~~scriptures~~, the JESUS Film, or audio gospel recordings available in their language.

Pray that God will open the way for the gospel message to be presented to the Tai Daeng people of Laos in their own language. Pray for a movement to Christ among them that will change their communities in such a way that others will take notice and give God the glory.—Allan Starling, GRN

EPH. 2:8-10, NET

For by grace you are saved through faith, and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God; it is not from works, so that no one can boast. For we are his workmanship, having been created in Christ Jesus for good works that God prepared beforehand so we may do them.

Pray for the Tai Daeng people to have the gift of faith that they need to perform good works for the glory of God, not for spiritual merit.

JEH PEOPLE

IS. 42:8, NIV

I am the Lord; that is my name! I will not yield my glory to another or my praise to idols.

Pray for the Jeh people to put their faith in the one who gives perfect freedom. Pray for them to throw out their idols.

You can tell if a Jeh girl is married or not by looking at her hair. Single Jeh girls wear their sleek black hair loose around their shoulders. Once married, they show off their new status by braiding their hair and putting it up in a bun. Jeh boys are permitted to engage sexually with girls at the age of 10, but do not marry until around the age of 15. The bride is expected to bring a gift of 100 logs of firewood to the groom's family. This shows the woman's willingness to work hard. When a woman is ready to give birth, she must deliver the baby in a hut built especially for the purpose by her husband. A celebration is held 10 days after the baby's birth.

The 11,000 Jeh people are animists. They believe that a person's soul resides inside his ears. At death, the spirit becomes a bird and flies away to join other ancestors. The Jeh live in fear of evil spirits, and until recently, strangers were captured and sacrificed to appease the spirits.

Thanks to the work of missionaries, some 300 Jeh people profess trust in Christ. Portions of the Bible are available in Jeh, as are gospel recordings and radio broadcasts.


Pray for these materials to reach every Jeh village. Ask God to provide missionaries to reach more Jeh and to plant churches among them. Ask God, in his almighty power, to release these people from the bondage of demons.—CMW

KATANG PEOPLE

How does a people group lose their culture? In the case of the Katang people, it involves migrating from remote mountain dwellings to live on the plains. The Katang people are adopting the Laotian language and lifestyle.

The signs of change are big and small. For generations the longhouse was the standard shelter for the Katang people. Extended families lived together, and when a young couple married, they made additions to the house to accommodate future children. In Tumlan Village, tourists can still view a 320-foot longhouse, home to 30 families. Katang men and women used to stretch their earlobes and decorate them with bamboo rings, but no more. Both the longhouse and big bamboo earrings are becoming relics of the past.

About 100 Katang people know Jesus, but the rest of the 100,000 have little or no knowledge of him. Katang believers face great opposition from their shamans and communities, and they are afraid to abandon the spirits whom they have served for as long as they can remember.

Ask God to bless the small Katang church with growth in numbers and spiritual depth. Pray that God will give the Katang people courage to embrace the  who is infinitely more powerful than the spirits. Pray that the Holy Spirit would convict the Katang people of sin. Pray that they would find righteousness and salvation in Christ.—CMW

DAY

24

1 PETER 2:16, NIV

Live as free people, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as God's slaves.

Make this your prayer for the Katang people of Laos.

MAL PEOPLE OF LAOS

2 COR. 1:3-4, NIV

Blessed be the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our afflictions so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.

Pray the Mal people of Laos would gain the comfort and security that is only found in Jesus Christ and share that comfort with others.

How many of you love baby girls? Most of us do. Unlike many people groups of the world, the Mal people of Laos do, too, but not just because girl babies are cute. They value girl babies more than boys because the girls stay within their original families after they marry. For many parents in the developing world, children are their only means of support after they are too old to work and must retire.

The Mal people live in villages in the mountainous section of northwestern Laos near the Thai border. They practice slash and burn agriculture to grow dry rice and vegetables. Their main commercial crop is *miang*, the fermented leaves of a wild tea tree which produces a mild stimulant when chewed. They marry within their village, and they often marry their first cousins.

The majority of the Mal people cannot read or write, so how can we get the gospel message to them? For centuries people have relied on oral methods of singing gospel like music and performing skits, and dramas. There are currently missionaries working with the Mal people and there may be a few hundred Mal believers among them.

Pray that the Mal believers will be trained and have a burden for their own people and others. Pray that missionaries will be encouraged and give them God's wisdom and energy to reach every Mal community. Pray that more Mal people would turn away from animism and ancestor worship and become vibrant believers in our savior.—DK

TA OI PEOPLE OF LAOS

DAY

26



A Ta Oi woman

When is a gift not a gift? When it is given because one has to give it in order to avoid hardship. The Ta Oi people believe evil spirits and dead souls can bring disease, poor harvests, and harm to their people if the spirits are

not appeased through ceremonies and gifts. Their “gifts” to these spirits are given much like what a small shop owner would give as protection “gifts” to criminals who would otherwise harm them. They believe they must sacrifice some of their meager harvests to these spirits.

The Ta Oi of the southern highlands of Laos are one of the most demon-oppressed people in this country where most people groups live in fear of the spirit world. They frequently perform elaborate rituals to appease evil spirits and the spirits of the dead. Only a small group of Ta Oi people have become believers in Christ. The others are in bondage to spirits that come to kill, steal, and destroy.

Ask the Holy Spirit to soften the hearts of the Ta Oi people to the word of God when they hear it. Pray that God would raise up strong churches in their midst. Pray that the Christian Tai Oi people would mature in their faith and be led to share the gospel with their neighbors. Pray for a strong disciple-making movement to emerge in every Ta Oi community and village.—DK

PS 103:2, NIV

Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and forget not all his
benefits, who forgives
all your sins, who heals
all your diseases, who
redeems your life from
the pit.

Pray that the Lord would deliver the Ta Oi of Laos from their fear of evil spirits. Pray that the Ta Oi will find the supernatural peace that comes from having all their iniquities forgiven in Christ.

WHITE LAHU PEOPLE

REV. 21:4, ~~NET~~

He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.

Pray that the White Lahu people will get rid of their fear of spirits who want to drag them to eternal death and believe and receive the wonderful God who loves them and wants them to experience eternal joy and life.

(This story is intended to illustrate the beliefs of this people group.)

Tears filled his eyes as the young White Lahu ran out of his house. He shot twice into the air with his small, old rifle. He was announcing the death of his father to the people of his small village located in the dense jungle of northern Laos. He began to shout in a loud voice, “go away you evil ghosts; you cannot have my father! You cannot take him to the dead house!”

Then he heard the sweet, calm voice of a woman say, “Don’t worry about your father. Remember how I talked to him about Jesus and the beautiful place called heaven where he could go if he accepted him? He believed in Jesus and is now in heaven.” The boy listened to her words and was comforted.

About 2,500 White Lahu people live in an isolated mountainous region of northern Laos. Almost 85 percent of them adhere to animistic beliefs. For example, they believe that there is a death ghost which tries to take the spirit to a place of permanent death.

Praise God that almost 15 percent of these people have become believers in the living Lord, even though many face persecution for their faith. Pray that these White Lahu believers will remain strong in their faith and be used of God to bring their people into God’s kingdom of peace. Pray for a movement to Christ among the White Lahu people.—PD

AGA LAHU PEOPLE OF VIETNAM AND LAOS

(This story is intended to illustrate what is happening among this people group.)

Today we are praying for the Aga Lahu people, who believe in a god of creation, but they worship the sun and the moon. Gui Sha is their creator god, but they think he is too distant and unapproachable to answer their prayers. They usually turn to shamans when they have a practical problem.

The first efforts to reach the Aga by missionaries dates back to 1892. Although these early attempts were unsuccessful, recent outreaches have brought over 600 Aga Lahu to the Lord! They are so excited to know who the creator God is and all the wonderful things He has done, including giving the world Jesus. The light and passion to know more about God is very real to these people. Most of them cannot read or write, and their literacy rate is less than two percent. So hearing about God through [translators](#) is very important. This is definitely one of the most reachable people in this region.

There are about 9,000 Aga Lahu people living in remote villages spread out over the mountainous terrain of northern Vietnam and Laos. After years of darkness, these people are eager to know about the biblical God. The need for workers among them is vital.

Pray that God will bring the needed workers to reach the Aga Lahu with the gospel and cause their fellowships to grow strong. Pray for a full harvest among them.—PD

DAY

28

1 KGS 8:10-11, NIV

When the priests withdrew from the holy place, the cloud filled the temple of the Lord. And the priests could not perform their service because of the cloud, for the glory of the Lord filled His temple.

Pray that the Lord will become as real to the Aga Lahu people as he was to the Israelites who experienced His presence in the temple.

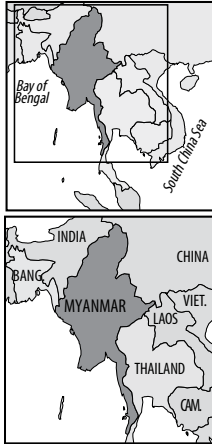
FEBC RADIO FOR SHAN TAI OF MYANMAR

IS. 42:11, NET

Let the desert and its cities shout out, the towns where the nomads of Kedar live!

Let the residents of Sela shout joyfully; let them shout loudly from the mountaintops.

Pray that there will soon come a day when the Shan Tai people will shout God's praises from their mountain homes!



There are many Shan Tai people that live in hard to reach areas of Myanmar. One method of gospel communication with them that overcomes this obstacle daily and enters into Shan homes and hearts is the Far East Broadcasting Company (FEBC). FEBC is bringing God's word, testimonies, Shan worship music, and gospel radio programming to anyone with a shortwave radio. In addition to

reaching remote areas, many Shan believers have been strengthened and encouraged by the radio programs. Some Shan report having listened to the programs for years prior to coming to Christ.

Over 4.6 million Shan Tai are found living in various regions spread across Myanmar. They are constantly fighting Myanmar's military forces which are trying to maintain control of them and the other ethnic groups. However, some Shan have freedom from Myanmar's military influence by living in remote mountainous regions.

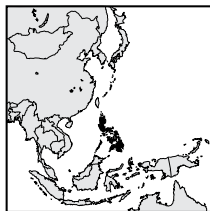
The Shan are Buddhist. Many blend their Buddhist rituals with spirit worship that is associated with nature. There are only a few Shan that have come to the Lord, and they are often persecuted. Many living in the mountains have never heard the gospel.

Pray that the FEBC broadcasters will be guided by the Holy Spirit as they bring God's word to the Shan people. The Shan Bible is now available on an app, so pray for ways to get the word of God to spiritually hungry people. Pray that the Shan will open their hearts to the Lord

RADIO FOR MINDANAO ISLAND, PHILIPPINES

DAY

30



“Thank God the Bible radio broadcasts are being heard throughout the island of Mindanao!” A local pastor was talking with a group of believers who had come to Mindanao on a short term medical outreach. He continued, “In the last three years ISIS has gained a growing number of supporters on Mindanao. Persecution of Christians has increased. Many have lost their lives and homes. Before we were on friendly terms with our

Muslim neighbors. Even at Christmas our Muslim Maguindanao friends came to our home to celebrate with us. These social times allowed us to share the gospel with them.”

“All of that has changed. Christians are cautious around Muslims. Mosque leaders have instructed Muslims not to socialize with Christians. Added to the problems are the communists who want Christian work to end. Radio broadcasts will allow God’s word to be heard among the Muslims, communist rebels, and everyone else in Mindanao no matter what happens!”

Most 70 percent of Mindanao’s population of 22 million are Christians with the majority identifying as Catholic. Most of the others are Muslims, who are divided into several ethnic groups. A new 50 foot FM radio tower is allowing Christian programs to be heard throughout the island. Pray this powerful mission tool will change the lives and hearts of thousands on this island in the Philippines where Christian outreach has become increasingly difficult.—PD

EX. 19:5, NET

And now, if you will diligently listen to me and keep my covenant, then you will be my special possession out of all the nations, for all the earth is mine...

Pray that all the people groups in Mindanao will heed the Lord’s voice when they hear FEBC radio, and that they will become a special possession.



RESOURCES

- AAP Introductory Literature and Brochures available in print and on the web
- Adoption Agency List, available in print and on the web
- Global Purpose (a 20 minute DVD introduction to mission)

All Resources available from:

William Carey Library:
1-800-MISSION

Need more details? See:

www.adopt-a-people.org
www.frontierventures.org

ON THE WEB

www.globalprayerdigest.org
(downloadable GPD issues!)

www.joshuaproject.net/peopctry.php
(listings of UPGs, profiles)

www.ethne.net/prayer/prayer-resources
(more resources!)

www.prayerguard.net/?page_id=209
(timeless prayer requests!)

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT NO. 298
SANTA CLARITA, CA

FRONTIER VENTURES
FRONTIER FELLOWSHIP
1605 E. ELIZABETH STREET
PASADENA, CA 91104-2721
ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED