

Monday 26th November

The Missionary Task in India

32% of the world's unreached people groups live in India, making it the most unreached nation on earth. Yet India receives only 6% of the world's long-term workers, while Latin America in comparison, has 25 times as many workers per person as India.

Today in India there are 2,554 people groups, of which 2,289 (90%), are unreached.



Within these unreached people groups, there are over 450 languages spoken. Gospel workers only speak a few of the many languages needed to effectively communicate the gospel in India. While the Bible has been translated into the major Indian languages, many smaller languages do not have any Scriptures.

Anti-conversion laws make it difficult to share the gospel. Those who choose to follow Jesus are often threatened with losing their status, jobs,

homes and even lives. Many Christian organisations have been forced out, leaving many lacking physical and spiritual aid. However, despite the intense persecution, Christianity is a fast growing religion in India.

Nonetheless, until they meet a messenger of the gospel, many of the 190 million Indian Muslims will never have a chance to hear about a relationship with Jesus Christ.

- We thank God that the number of believers is growing in India, but this is being outstripped by the growth of Islam. Let's pray for believers to stand strong in their faith and search out people of peace who can reach those around them and see the numbers coming to faith multiplying.
- Let's cry out to God to draw workers who are able to quickly learn the language and culture and who are equipped to translate the Bible into the smaller languages for those groups that as yet do not have the Word available to them in a form they can understand.
- India desperately needs more labourers to reach its vast and growing population. Let's cry out to God to draw workers to this nation by His Holy Spirit and for churches to have this country as a priority for prayer and intercession.

Sources of material: <https://prayercast.com/india.html>
<https://www.pray4eurasia.org/India/>
<https://joshuaproject.net/assets/js/ppt/WhySouthAsia/WhySouthAsia.html>

Tuesday 27th November

Who are some of the unreached, unengaged people groups in North India?

North India's population of 670 million people is 82% Hindu, 13% Muslim and only 0.5% Christian.



13% may sound like a small percentage, but this equates to approximately 87 million Muslims. Most Christians live in the far northeastern and southernmost states of India, which is reflected in the tiny proportion living in the North; only 0.5% or 3.35 million.

This is why so many people groups in the North remain unreached and unengaged, especially the smaller groups that are even more difficult to access.

In Revelation 7:9 we read: "After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands."

Let's read about and pray for some of these smaller people groups over these next five days, that they will be added to the growing number of believers in India and that they will be a part of the great multicultural family of God celebrating before the throne and in front of the Lamb for eternity.

Watal People

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

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

The Watal people only number about 5,300, which in Indian terms is small, but they are known and loved by God. Someone needs to reach them with the gospel.

- Let's cry out for someone to want to come and share God's glorious message with the Watal people. He sees them, He knows them and has called them by name.
- Pray for the Watal to discover Jehovah Jireh, their provider and to put their security and hope in Him alone.
"Pray that the great God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ may give you the wisdom of His Spirit. Then you will be able to understand the secrets about Him as you know Him better. I pray that your hearts will be able to understand. I pray that you will know about the hope given by God's call. I pray that you will see how great the things are that He has promised to those who belong to Him." Eph 1:17-18

Sources of some material: <http://www.globalprayerdigest.org/issue/day/watal-people/>
<https://joshuaproject.net/assets/js/ppt/WhySouthAsia/WhySouthAsia.html>

Wednesday 28th November

Khadim people

The Khadim are a tiny Muslim group hidden away in India. The thumbnail profile on the Joshua Project offers only this information: population: 400; language: Urdu; largest religion: Islam; Christian 0 %. If you google the Khadim, you only find a tiny Wikipedia entry, which says they are a Muslim community in Rajasthan, a northern Indian state bordering Pakistan. The only other link is to a shoe shop!

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

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

- Workers are needed to reach the Khadim people. Let's ask the Lord to put the Khadims on the hearts and minds of mission organisations so that they will reach out to them.
- Ask God to soften the hearts of the Khadim people and to work mightily and miraculously to draw this unique and valuable people group into His Kingdom.
- Let's pray for the Khadim people to know they have significance in Christ Jesus.

"The son got up and went to his father. While he was yet a long way off, his father saw him. The father was full of loving-pity for him. He ran and threw his arms around him and kissed him." Luke 15:20

Source: <http://www.globalprayerdigest.org/issue/day/khadim-people/>

Thursday 29th November

Namdagur People

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

They have poor literacy and low self-esteem and are looked down on by other communities.

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

They practice Sunni Islam. As they speak Kashmiri, they have Bible resources available to them including gospel translations and recordings, the Jesus film and radio broadcasts. But they have no-one to take this good news to them and introduce them to the One who esteems and values them.

In Matthew 9:36 it says: "When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd." The Namdagur are shepherds whom Jesus has compassion for, but they too are like sheep without a shepherd.

- Pray for God's Holy Spirit to draw them to Jesus, the gospel, gospel recordings and Christian radio broadcasts. We know of many Muslim Background Believers who heard about the Saviour and come to faith through social media.
- Pray they will find self-esteem and value in Jesus, the Good Shepherd.
- Pray for churches and believers to disciple them in the ways of Christ.
- Pray that when there are believers among the Namdagur people, they will share this boldly with others.

"I pray that because of the riches of His shining-greatness, He will make you strong with power in your hearts through the Holy Spirit. I pray that Christ may live in your hearts by faith. I pray that you will be filled with love. I pray that you will be able to understand how wide and how long and how high and how deep His love is." Eph 3:16-18

Source: <http://www.globalprayerdigest.org/issue/day/namdagur-people-of-jammu-and-kashmir/>
<http://www.peoplegroups.org/Explore/groupdetails.aspx?peid=49069>

Friday 30th November

Node people

The Node is a powerless nomadic people group with only 3,400 people. They started their own caste association to help the welfare of their people; they call their caste association the Node Jamat.

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

The Node people originally lived in Pakistan's Sindh Province, but came to Kutch, the biggest district in the region of Gujarat on the northwest coast of India.

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

- Pray that the leaders of this people group will come to know Jesus Christ in such an amazing way that will be desperate to share this good news and see their people saved for eternity.
- Pray for workers, filled with the fruit and power of God's Holy Spirit, who will go out as His ambassadors and bring the available resources to the this people.
- Let's pray for openness and for miraculous encounters that will lead them to see and recognise God for who he truly is and for the gift He has to offer them.

“Paul went to see them, and because he was a tentmaker as they were, he stayed and worked with them. Every Sabbath he reasoned in the synagogue, trying to persuade Jews and Greeks.” Acts 18:3-4

Source: <http://www.globalprayerdigest.org/issue/day/node-people/>

Saturday 1st December

Bafan people

How do you like your meat? Fried, barbequed, grilled, or boiled? There is a Muslim people group numbering a mere 600 in Gujarat that has their name because of their preference for boiled meat. They are the Bafans.



Bafans are a clan from the more numerous Thaheem tribe. Like the Node people who we prayed for yesterday, they too have their origins in what is now Pakistan’s Sindh Province, but moved to Kutch, in Gujarat.

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

This clan is entirely Muslim. There are Bible resources available to them in their Kacchi language, but they do not know Jesus as their Saviour, who longs to draw them to Himself.

- Though there are no known workers yet among the Bafan people. Let’s ask God to put them on the heart of labourers who will be drawn to them with love and compassion.
- Let’s pray and believe for new Bafan believers, eager to reach out to others with the word of life.
- Let’s pray the Bafan who find Jesus, are grafted into the vine and bear much fruit for His glory.

“I am the vine and you are the branches. Get your life from Me. Then I will live in you and you will give much fruit. You can do nothing without Me.” John 15:5

Source: <http://www.globalprayerdigest.org/issue/day/bafans/>
<http://www.peoplegroups.org/explore/GroupDetails.aspx?peid=48936#topmenu>