

22ND
EDITION



LOVING THE LOST THROUGH PRAYER

A Prayer Guide for Some of the
World's Least Reached People Groups

LOSTNESS

All we like sheep have gone
astray; we have turned—
every one—to his own way;
and the LORD has laid on
him the iniquity of us all.

ISAIAH 53:6



59% OF THE WORLD HAS
NO MEANINGFUL ACCESS
TO THE GOSPEL.

Let's pray together for the lost and the 52
people groups represented in this guide.

**God works through your prayers
to impact lostness.**

Spreading the gospel to every people group is an impossible task that can only be accomplished by the all-powerful God. We completely rely on Him in prayer, and we need you to pray too. Intercessory prayer is an essential part of completing the Great Commission, and it is available to every believer.

This prayer guide will equip you with statistics, stories, and photos of some of the least reached people groups in the world. You will also find Gospel Transformation Stories—testimonies of God's faithfulness to answer the prayers of His people and transform lives. We've also included activities, discussion starters, and recipes to help you connect more deeply with these people groups.

Join us in asking God to impact these four key areas: lostness, gospel advance, the global Church, and missionary presence.

Let's get to work on impacting lostness around the world—let's pray.

The IMB Prayer Office

Additional resources available at imb.org/lovingthelost

You will notice a lack of photos of the people groups. Due to hostility to the gospel and missions in many areas of the world, we cannot show faces or reveal exact locations. But we can still pray.

FAST FACTS

AMERICAN PEOPLES



POPULATION

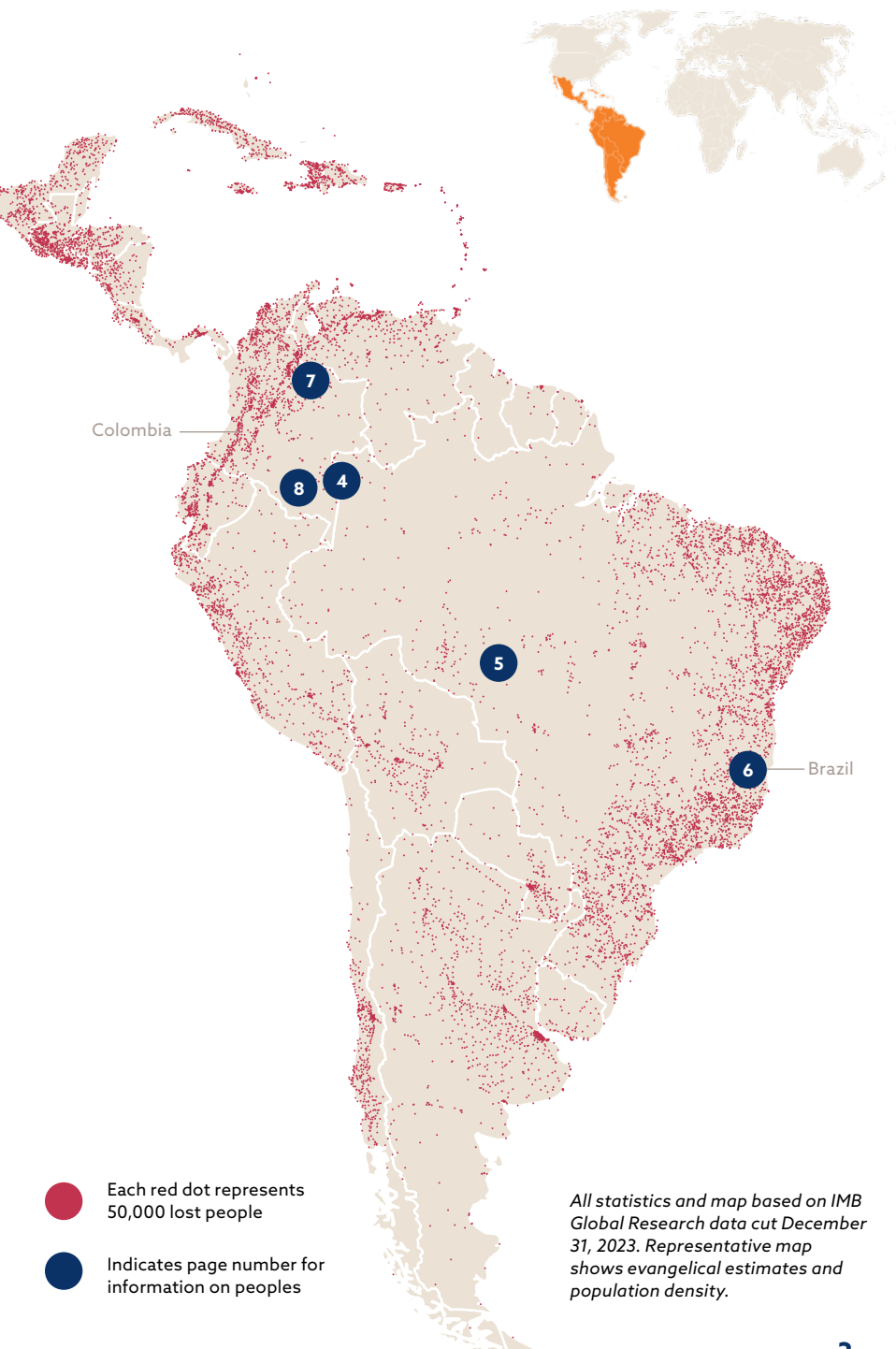
644 MILLION

989 people groups

18,000 souls enter a Christless
eternity every day

178 unreached people groups still unengaged
with church-planting strategies

99 people groups have no
known believers



Colombia

Brazil

Each red dot represents 50,000 lost people

Indicates page number for information on peoples

All statistics and map based on IMB Global Research data cut December 31, 2023. Representative map shows evangelical estimates and population density.

Makuna of Brazil

The Makuna (mah-COO-nah) live along jungle waterways in Brazil and Colombia. They believe deeply in the animistic traditions that their

ancestors have passed down. The Makuna believe they are descended from an anaconda that created the world from its mouth. They also believe in reincarnation, specifically, that all animals are people and that Makuna babies receive the spirit of a dead tribe member at their birth. Shamans speak spells over food and perform other spiritual rituals for tribe members. The Makuna have no hope for eternal life with the Creator God who loves them.

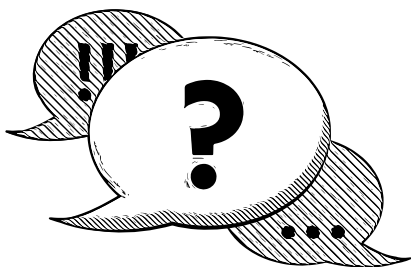
For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

2 Corinthians 4:6

DISCUSSION STARTER

Reflect on a time when God's light "shone in your heart" and helped you understand who He is. How does this compare to the Makuna's reliance on shamans? How might your

personal story resonate with the Makuna and help them trust in Jesus as their ultimate mediator with the Father?



LET'S PRAY

Pray the light of Christ reveals the darkness of animistic beliefs and illuminates the truth of the gospel.

Irantxe of Brazil

For I will satisfy the weary soul, and every languishing soul I will replenish.

Jeremiah 31:25



The Irantxe (air-AHN-she) live in the western part of Brazil. They have been decimated by disease, leaving only about 375 Irantxe alive today. They make decisions together as a community and elect a chief from the tribe. They have combined their traditional beliefs with Catholicism. In the 1960s they were moved to reservations. Each Irantxe family has a garden close to their village to grow things such as corn, potatoes, sweet potatoes, cotton, peanuts, beans, sugar cane, and rice. But this soil is not as rich as the farming soil of their traditional homelands between the Rio Craveri and Rio Sangue. Their struggles in the world have made the Irantxe desperately weary, and they don't have the hope found in trusting Christ alone.

RECIPE

Brazilian Cheese Bread: Mix 1 1/4 cup tapioca flour, 2 cups grated mozzarella, 1/2 tsp. baking powder and a pinch of salt. Add 4 Tbsp. butter and 1 egg, and mix until soft dough forms. Preheat oven to 500°F. Roll dough into 1-inch balls, and bake on cookie sheet lined with parchment paper for 7-10 mins. Serve warm.

LET'S PRAY

Pray the Irantxe will hear the gospel, trust in Jesus completely, and find true rest and hope in Him.

Krenak of Brazil

The Krenak people live on a reservation in southeastern Brazil.

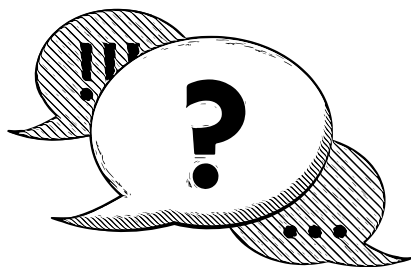
Only women older than 40 speak their traditional language, Borun. The men and children only speak Portuguese. The Krenak believe that many different spirits of nature govern the world and that a person has seven souls, which they receive only after they turn 4 years old. They believe a person's main soul leaves their body during sleep, illness, or death. The Krenak are terrified to go out at night because they believe that is when harmful spirits from the underworld wander the earth and threaten humans. They don't have the peace that comes from trusting in the all-powerful God who loves them.

Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Thessalonians 5:23

DISCUSSION STARTER

The Krenak live in fear of spirits. What truths from God's Word help you when you are afraid?



LET'S PRAY

Pray that the Krenak people would not live in fear of spirits, but that they would believe in the One who controls all things.

Macaguán of Colombia

The Macaguán (mah-cah-GWAHN) of Colombia traditionally live in the Colombian savannas. They are also known as the Hitnü, which means "human beings." In recent years, they have seen an increase in violence within their tribe, as outsiders have started to rob the Macaguán of their natural resources. The Macaguán look to their shamans for help, believing they have healing powers. These shamans often use hallucinogenic herbs that they believe help them communicate with the spirit world and heal members of the tribe. There are no known Macaguán believers, local churches, Scriptures in their language, or missionaries preaching the good news of Jesus Christ to their tribe.

ACTIVITY

Make a paper cover for your Bible. Inside the cover, write a prayer to Jesus, thanking Him for the way He has made it possible for you to talk directly with God. Pray for the Macaguán who believe they have to go to shamans and use drugs to communicate with the spirit world. Ask God to show them the truth.



This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time.

1 Timothy 2:3-6

LET'S PRAY

Ask God to send Christians to the Macaguán to learn their language and culture, and share the gospel with them. Pray they will trust in Jesus for help and call on Him for salvation.

Cabiyari of Colombia

Most Cabiyari (cah-bee-yah-REE) of Colombia live in the tropical Amazon rainforest, but some live in major cities. Their communities have a captain as the leader, and he or she has the most authority in the village. But overall, it is a communal society. The Cabiyari grow crops, hunt, fish, and gather food. They barter with other Indigenous groups who live in the area. There is no Scripture available in their language. A sacred, ancestral anaconda is the center of their animistic worldview, and they believe they are all its descendants. They don't have access to learn about the one true God in their language.

Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress. He brought them out of darkness and the shadow of death, and burst their bonds apart.

Psalm 107:13-14



DISCUSSION STARTER

Consider a time when God "delivered you from distress" or "burst your bonds apart." How might sharing your personal testimonies resonate with the Cabiyari's animistic beliefs and maybe even open doors for the gospel?

LET'S PRAY

Pray God will show the Cabiyari He is the one true Creator God and will break the bonds of animism.



A GOSPEL TRANSFORMATION STORY

Mixtecs of Mexico

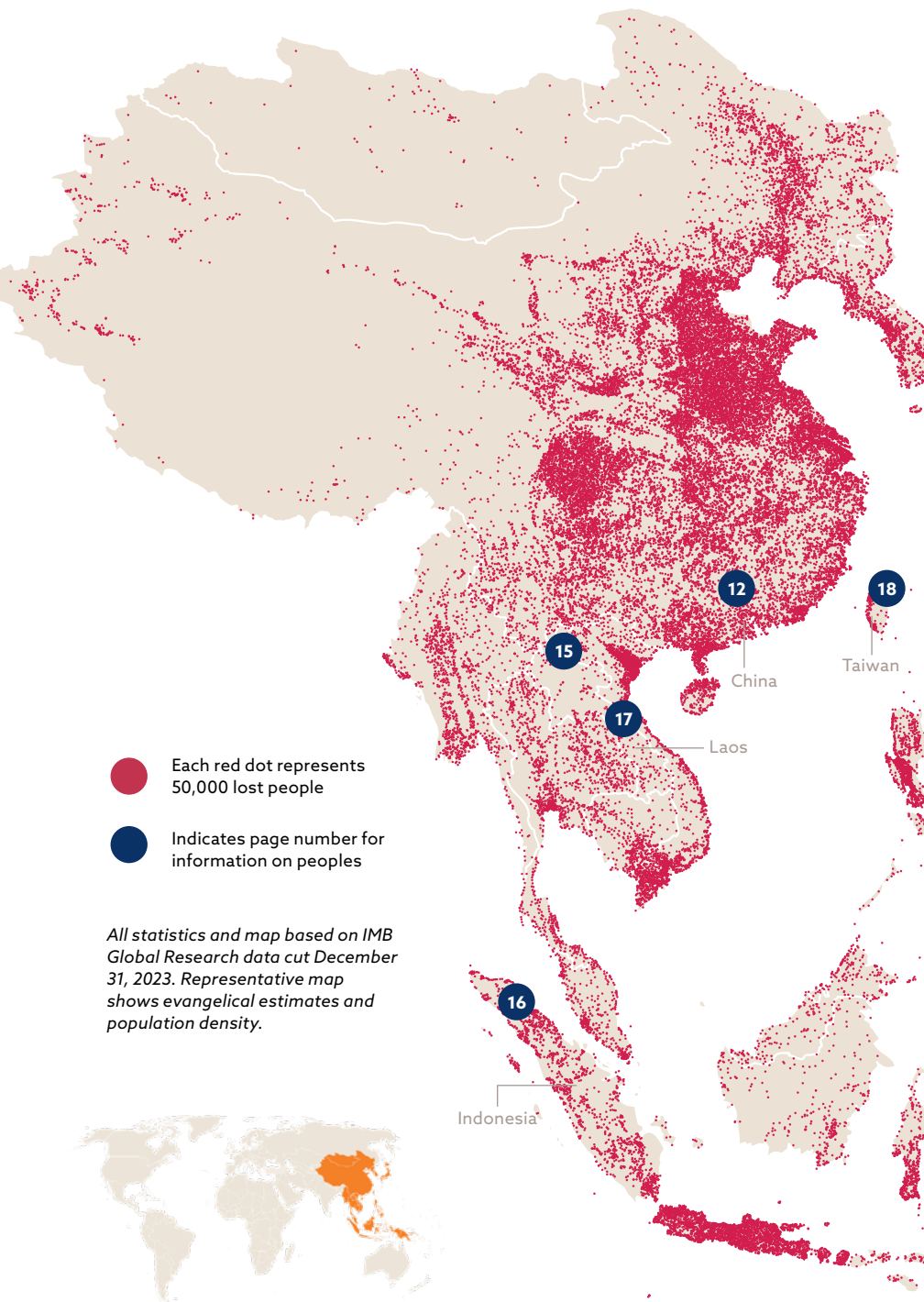
God has been moving powerfully among the Mixtec people of Guerrero, Mexico. For years, believers worldwide have prayed for these people who resisted the gospel, mixing Catholicism with the animism of their ancestors and relying on witch doctors for help. With a lot of prayer, God began to soften their hearts. In 2018, He provided opportunities for a team to share the gospel among Mixtecs through medical clinics, language classes, and other ministries. Then in 2022, He opened the door for team members to move into a Mixtec community. That year, the first Mixtec believers in the town were baptized. The Word spread rapidly, and by late 2022, 15 Mixtecs had been baptized and were being discipled. This group became a new church, which was officially planted in 2023. Now, there are 40 new believers, a direct result of years of faithful prayer. This story of the Mixtecs is a powerful reminder of how God responds to the persistent prayers of His people.

LET'S PRAY

Pray for Mixtec believers to continue growing in faith and learning to build healthy, godly families and a strong church.

Praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

Acts 2:47





FAST FACTS

ASIAN PACIFIC RIM PEOPLES

POPULATION

2.3 BILLION

3,379 people groups

47,000 souls enter a Christless eternity every day

478 unreached people groups still unengaged with church-planting strategies

Most among these peoples are Muslim and Buddhist. The largest group follows ethnic religions.

Solomon Islands

13

14

Japan



Pingdi Yao of China

Outsiders don't often visit the flatlands in southern China where the Pingdi Yao (PING-dee YOW) live. Generations ago, they were forced by the Han Chinese to these remote places where they are now rice farmers. The Pingdi Yao believe in a god of creation named Tin Zay, but they do not know the Creator God. They even have stories of a great flood, but they don't know the God who caused and calmed the flood. Of the 1.7 million Pingdi Yao, less than 500 are Christian. Gospel materials are available in their language, but for years they have lived in darkness with no local church or missionary to preach the good news about Jesus—the Light of the world.

Behold, the LORD's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save, or his ear dull, that it cannot hear.

Isaiah 59:1

ACTIVITY

The Pingdi Yao people painted scrolls to remember their ancestors and record history. Choose your favorite Bible story and draw a picture of it or write it artistically with colored pens. As you create your scroll, pray for the Pingdi Yao to hear the truth about God.

LET'S PRAY

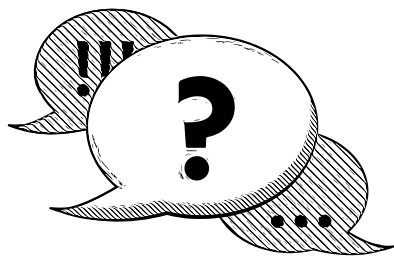
Pray the Pingdi Yao will cry out to God today, hear the gospel, trust in Jesus, and be saved.

Varese of the Solomon Islands

Formerly, when you did not know God, you were enslaved to those that by nature are not gods.

Galatians 4:8

The Solomon Islands in the South Pacific are a travel destination for people to enjoy fishing, beaches, and local history. The Varese (Var-EE-see) people live on the coast of one of the main islands. This area is prone to natural disasters. The people are some of the poorest in the Asia-Pacific Rim. The Varese are Roman Catholic, but few of them have read the Word of God. Instead, they trust in the words of bishops or priests, and bow down to saints they believe will protect them. They don't know Jesus as the Lord of lords.



DISCUSSION STARTER

The Varese identify as Roman Catholics but are unfamiliar with the Bible. Why is it important to read or listen to Scripture? How might you encourage them to do that?

LET'S PRAY

Pray for the Varese people to be freed from the traditions of man and become fervent disciple-makers for Jesus.



Oki-No-Erabu of Japan

The Oki-No-Erabu (OH-kee-noh-eh-RAH-boo) live on a small island southwest of Japan's modern, bustling cities. Fierce samurai once ruled this island. At another time, it was a prison settlement. Today, the island is called "Flower Island" because Easter lilies grow there. Even though Easter lilies are native to their island, the Oki-No-Erabu don't know the Easter story. They haven't heard that Christ rose from the grave, defeating the power of sin and death. Instead of worshiping Jesus, they worship ancestral spirits, and fear unseen powers called "kami" that must be appeased to keep them safe.

ACTIVITY

Easter Lily Bouquet: Trace hands on white paper and cut out. Create stems by painting sticks green, with top 2-3 inches painted yellow. For flowers, roll paper handprints into cone shape and tape to stems, with yellow stick at top as center of flower. Curl finger-petals outward. Add green leaves to stems. Pray for the Oki-No-Erabu to not fear spirits but trust in God (Isaiah 41:10).

Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

Isaiah 41:10

LET'S PRAY

Pray that the Oki-No-Erabu people will hear and respond to the gospel in faith and begin to glorify God in peace as they work the land and enjoy the beautiful island He made.

Tai Lu of China

Half of the 1.2 million Tai Lu live in China. The rest are in Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, and Vietnam. The first Tai Lu Christians faced great persecution and fled to start their own Christian village. Most other Tai Lu are Buddhists. They believe that living a good life now will earn them favor in the next life. Every year, they celebrate a water festival which symbolically washes away their sin and gives them a clean slate to start again. They worship spirits they believe will help them, not knowing that Jesus is the answer to their quest for spiritual cleansing and peace in eternity.

He put another parable before them, saying, "The kingdom of heaven is like a grain of mustard seed that a man took and sowed in his field. It is the smallest of all seeds, but when it has grown it is larger than all the garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

Matthew 13:31-32



DISCUSSION STARTER

The Tai Lu celebrate a water festival to symbolically wash away sin. What similarities and differences do you see between this practice and the gospel message of spiritual cleansing through faith in Jesus?

LET'S PRAY

Pray the small existing church will powerfully share the gospel with the Tai Lu, standing firm on God's Word even under oppression.

Alas of Indonesia

And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.

John 14:3

The Alas people of Indonesia have made their home in the valley between two mountain ridges in Aceh. They are often called the welcoming mat to Aceh because of their kindness and strategic location on the southern border. Many Alas grow rice and corn for the whole province. Others farm coffee, nutmeg, and hazelnut. Although the Alas are Muslim, they are often more open to other religions than other people groups in Aceh. They usually turn to witch doctors and pray to ancestors for help with day-to-day troubles and needs. They haven't heard the good news that Jesus is preparing a home for His people and they can live forever with Him.



RECIPE

Timphan Cake: Mix 5 eggs and 1 1/4 cups sugar. Add 1/4 cup flour, 1 cup coconut milk, 1 tsp. vanilla, and 1/2 tsp. salt. Cook, whisking constantly, until thickened. Set aside. Mix 5 mashed bananas with 3 1/3 cups rice flour and 1/2 cup coconut milk. Knead. Cut banana leaves or parchment paper into 6-inch squares. Oil squares. Add 1 Tbsp. flattened banana dough to each square. Drop 1 tsp. egg mixture in center of dough. Wrap dough in paper, rolling into sausage shape. Steam 30 mins. Serve warm.

LET'S PRAY

Pray the Alas people will welcome Jesus into their lives, casting aside all religious traditions to follow Him.

Bo of Laos



The Bo people live in central Laos on the east side of the mighty Mekong River. There are no known Bo believers, churches, or any gospel materials in their language. Many people in the surrounding area who have come to Christ have endured intense persecution from local authorities. New believers often suffer because their community sees their new faith as a betrayal. Reaching the Bo with the gospel will require an unwavering commitment and passionate prayer.

The people dwelling in darkness have seen a great light, and for those dwelling in the region and shadow of death, on them a light has dawned.

Matthew 4:16

DISCUSSION STARTER

The Bo risk intense persecution if they follow Jesus. How does this relate to Matthew 13:44-46, where Jesus compares the kingdom of heaven to a treasure worth selling everything for? How can we pray for the Bo to discover Jesus and see Him as the treasure He is?

LET'S PRAY

Pray that the Bo will become a redeemed people and will proclaim God's glory to those still trapped in darkness.



A GOSPEL TRANSFORMATION STORY

People of the Asia-Pacific Rim

In 2024, Vanessa left her home country in another part of Asia to study in Taiwan. A fellow Ph.D. student invited her to a Bible study. Vanessa had never heard the gospel back home, but after four months of learning God's Word in Taiwan, she chose to follow Jesus and get baptized! She has been instrumental in helping translate evangelism training into her heart language. She also went on a mission trip, regularly shares her faith, and has had the joy of seeing people believe in Jesus. When Vanessa nervously told her mom about her new faith, she was surprised to discover that her mom had also recently believed!

LET'S PRAY

Praise God for what He is doing in Vanessa's family. Pray for Vanessa to continue to grow in her faith and impact her home country as she shares the gospel with family and friends.

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

Romans 1:16

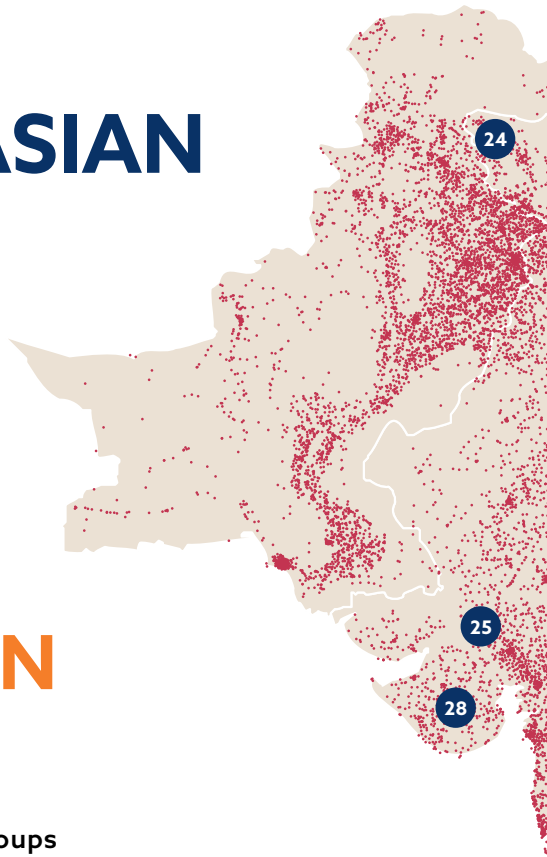
GOSPEL ADVANCE

And when the Gentiles heard this, they began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord, and as many as were appointed to eternal life believed. And the word of the Lord was spreading throughout the whole region.

ACTS 13:48-49

FAST FACTS

SOUTH ASIAN PEOPLES



POPULATION

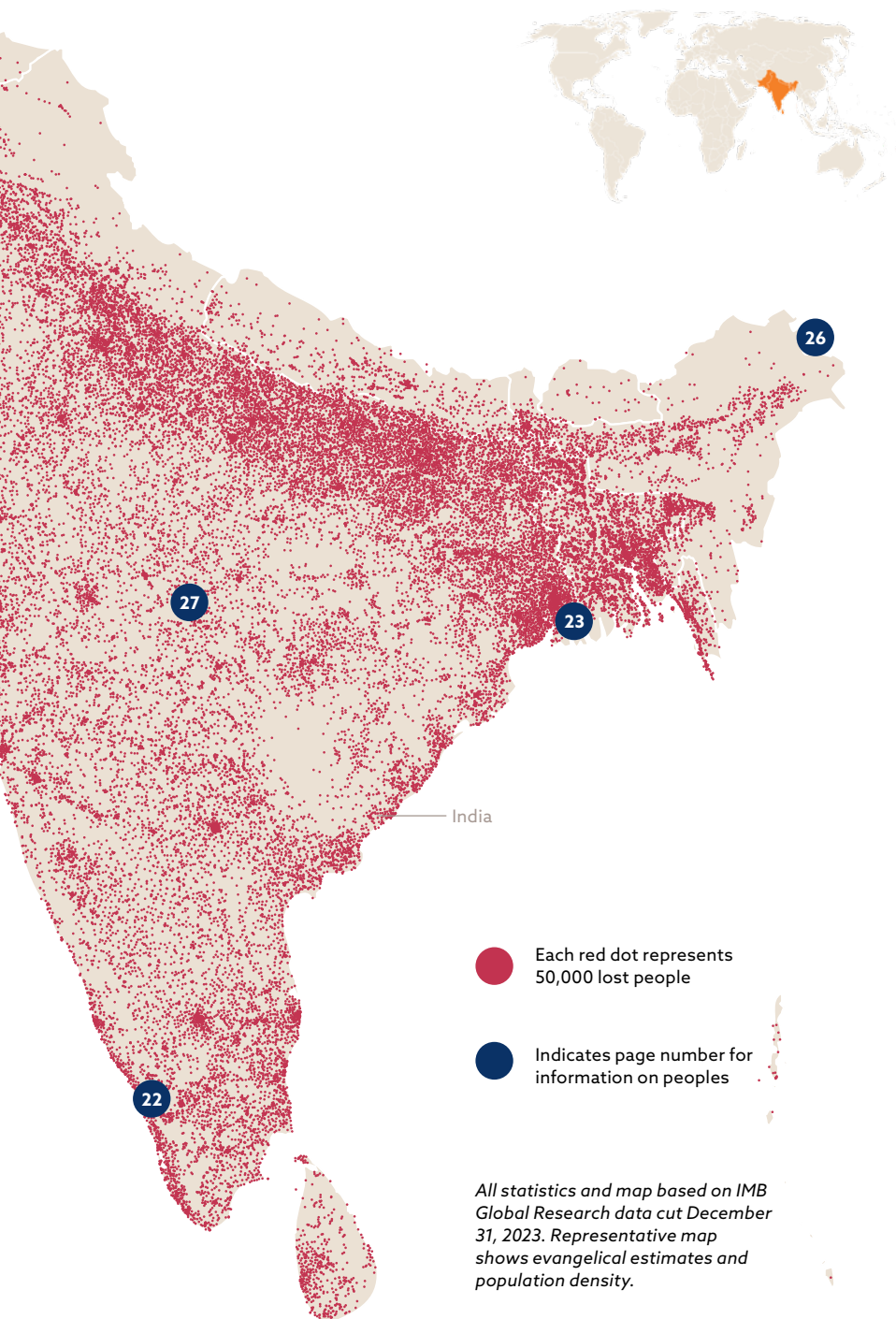
1.9 BILLION

2,678 people groups

43,000 souls enter a Christless eternity every day

987 unreached people groups still unengaged with church-planting strategies

Almost 1/3 of the world's Muslim population lives in South Asia.



● Each red dot represents 50,000 lost people

● Indicates page number for information on peoples

All statistics and map based on IMB Global Research data cut December 31, 2023. Representative map shows evangelical estimates and population density.

Kalanadi of India

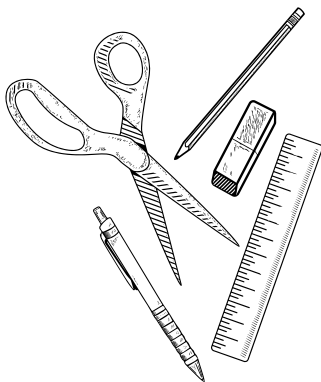
Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

John 14:6

Believers in Kerala, India, trace their Christian heritage to A.D. 52, yet most people in their state, including the Kalanadi (kuh-luh-NAH-dee), have never heard the gospel. Instead of following Jesus, the Kalanadi follow Hinduism. They are known for performing ritual dances at village shrines. Through these rituals, Kalanadi people hope to achieve happiness and oneness with Hindu gods and goddesses. They do not know that Jesus is the only way to the Father.

ACTIVITY

Can you trace your Christian heritage? Who shared the gospel with you? Who shared it with them? Trace it as far back as you can, and praise God that His good news reached you as you pray for it to reach more Kalanadi.



LET'S PRAY

Pray that believers will have compassion for the Kalanadi and share the good news of Christ with them. Pray that the Kalanadi would turn from worshiping idols and worship the true and living God.

Modaks of India



This Hindu group of 158,000 people in the eastern states of West Bengal and Jharkhand make sweets for a living. God's Word invites us to "taste and see that the Lord is good" (Psalm 34:8) and tells us of the sweetness of His teachings. The Bible is in their language, but they have not tasted of the Lord's goodness or been nourished by the living Word of God. There are no known believers among them.

The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; the rules of the LORD are true, and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb.

Psalm 19:9-10

RECIPE

Fried Sweet Dumpling (Modak): Mix 1 cup flour and 2 Tbsp. hot ghee. Add hot water and knead until dough is firm. Cover. Let rest 10 mins. Roll dough and cut into thin biscuit sized discs. Mix 1 cup coconut, 1/2 cup jaggery, 1/4 tsp. cardamom, and 8 chopped cashews. Add water until sticky. Roll into balls. Fill dough discs with balls. Pinch to close. Fry.

LET'S PRAY

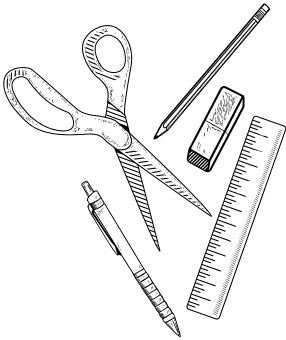
Pray that God will send Christians to proclaim the gospel among Modaks so that they might believe in His words that are "sweeter than honey" and have new life.

Kraal of India

The Kraal [CRAWL] of India are a historically marginalized Muslim community of 6,900 people. Their ancestors were artisans who specialized in making earthenware pottery in all shapes and sizes. The Kraal still create pottery today. They enjoy salty hot tea and dress in long tunics like the other people in Kashmir, India, with the women adding a "dupatta" head covering. Even though the Bible and gospel videos have been translated into their language, Kashmiri, there are no known Kraal believers. Most Muslim Kraal practice a mystical version of Islam. Instead of trusting in God and His Word, they wear amulets with verses from the Quran to protect them from illnesses or evil spirits.

And he said to them,
"The harvest is plentiful,
but the laborers are
few. Therefore pray
earnestly to the Lord of
the harvest to send out
laborers into
his harvest."

Luke 10:2



ACTIVITY

Make a clay bowl by using store-bought air-dry clay or make your own by cooking 1 cup baking soda, 1/2 cup cornstarch, and 3/4 cup water until thick. Roll to 1/4 - 1/2 inch thickness. Cut circle using upside-down glass bowl. Shape by placing in glass bowl. Dry overnight. Sand edges. Enjoy as a decoration only, not safe for food.

LET'S PRAY

Pray for the Kraal people of India, who are like empty and broken jars that cannot carry water, to gain access to the living water of Jesus Christ through gospel witnesses.

Kamalia of India

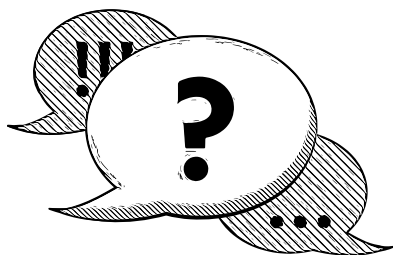
The Kamalia (kuh-MAH-lee-uh) live in the western part of the Indian state of Gujarat, far from the big cities. Some among the Kamalia sell metal idols that they believe will bring healing to anyone who prays to them. The full Bible and many audio and video gospel resources are available in Gujarati, the language that the Kamalia speak. Still, most Kamalia practice Hinduism. Less than 2% of them believe in Jesus and have the hope of eternal life with God.

In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

2 Corinthians 4:4

DISCUSSION STARTER

When you read 2 Corinthians 4:4, what do you think it means to be blinded to the truth of the gospel? How does this verse help you have more compassion for the Kamalia who do not know Jesus? How will it affect the way you pray for them?



LET'S PRAY

Ask God to make a way for the Kamalia to hear and respond to the gospel through repentance and faith in Jesus.

Zakhrin of India

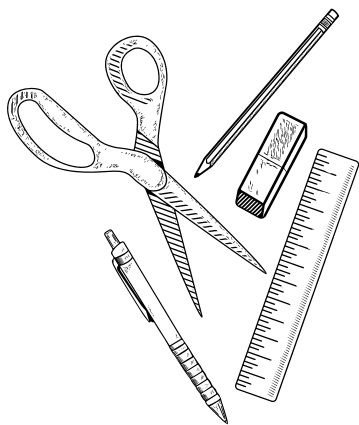
I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come? My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.

Psalm 121:1-2

Among the hills of northeast India, a small group of people called the Zakhrin (ZAHK-rin) make their home. They are very hard to reach. The limited roads and hilly terrain contribute to this people being unengaged and unreached with the gospel. The Zakhrin are mainly animistic, but they also blend traditional Buddhist practices with magic and superstition. When they need help, they hope in those unbiblical customs to save them. Anthropologists claim the Zakhrin are on the verge of extinction. But God has a place for them before His throne and will be their help.

ACTIVITY

Make a list of verses or attributes of God you like to remember in prayer when you need help. Is there someone you can share the verses with—someone who needs them like the Zakhrin?



LET'S PRAY

Pray for the Zakhrin to find their help in the Lord, to understand that God is the One who holds all things together and is the only One worthy of their worship. Ask God to send believers from nearby villages to share the gospel. Ask for open hearts to receive it.



Hindi-speaking Jains of India

The Hindi-speaking Jains throughout India are known for their radical commitment not to harm or kill any living thing. Not only are they vegetarians, but many also avoid root vegetables, believing that eating these roots causes the unnecessary death of the entire plant. Many Jains wear a cloth mask over their mouth, hoping to keep themselves from accidentally inhaling or swallowing a small organism. Others carry soft brooms and sweep the ground ahead of them as they walk to avoid stepping on insects. Jains painstakingly keep these rules because they're afraid of earning bad karma or even causing harm to their ancestors in the afterlife.

DISCUSSION STARTER

Jains strive to avoid harming any living thing. How might this affect their understanding of Jesus' sacrificial death? Pray for wisdom and sensitivity to share the gospel, asking the Holy Spirit to reveal the profound love behind Christ's sacrifice for our sins.

LET'S PRAY

Ask God to move among the Hindi-speaking Jains. Ask Him to embolden His Church to share the gospel with them and that many Jains will joyfully receive the truth, repent of their sins, forsake their human traditions, and become His faithful followers!

See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ.

Colossians 2:8



A GOSPEL TRANSFORMATION STORY

Wagheri of India

The Wagheri (Wah-GEH-ree) are a Hindu group of 1,500 people in India. Most of their communities are tent villages made from trash and plastic found on the side of the road. Until February 2024, there were no known believers among them. A Wagheri man was searching for his family's daily meal when he met a Christian who shared the gospel with him. "I thought Jesus was only for other people," he replied. The Christian shared that Jesus came to save Wagheri people too. The man was dealing with a persistent illness, and the Christian began to pray for him and asked others to pray. He began to experience relief for the first time in years. God brought physical and spiritual healing to the man. He put his faith in Christ and was baptized. Since then, God has provided for his family so that they no longer need to rummage through trash for sustenance. Several Wagheri in other villages have also chosen to follow Christ. Praise God for moving among this people group!

LET'S PRAY

Ask God to continue to draw the Wagheri to Christ. Ask for the gospel to continue to bear fruit among this people group.

And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven... The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.

James 5:15,16b

THE CHURCH

Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

COLOSSIANS 2:6-7

FAST FACTS

CENTRAL ASIAN PEOPLES

POPULATION

386 MILLION

394 people groups

9,000 souls enter a Christless eternity every day

168 unreached people groups still unengaged with church-planting strategies

Most believers in Central Asia are first-generation believers, with a small number having known Jesus for more than 30 years.

All statistics and map based on IMB Global Research data cut December 31, 2023. Representative map shows evangelical estimates and population density.



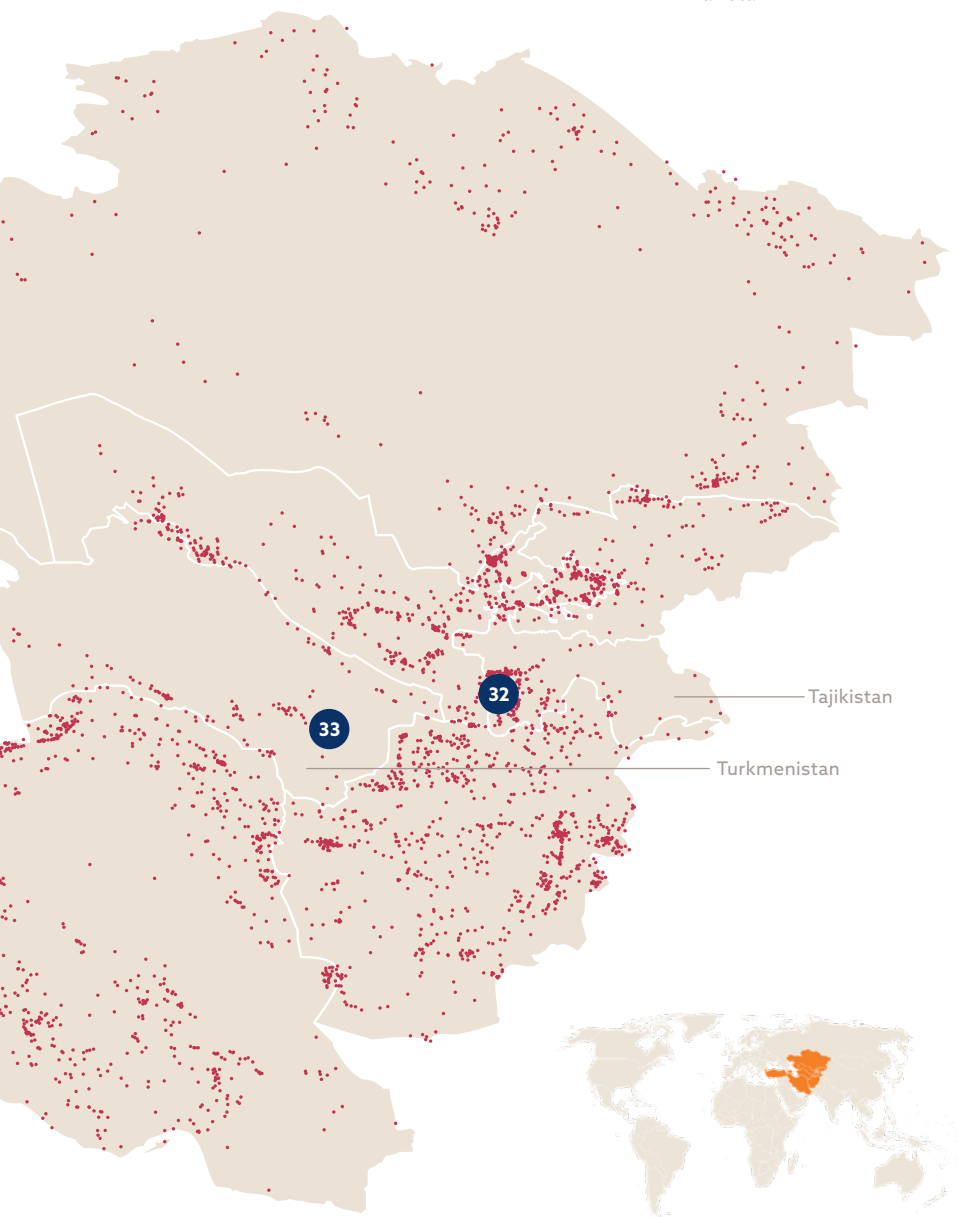
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34 People group located in Germany

36 People group originally from Russia

37 People group located in Pakistan



Tajiks of the European Diaspora

And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.

Ezekiel 36:26

Tajikistan is a rural, mountainous country with nearly 10 million people. The economy has improved over the past 15 years, but it still faces high unemployment and remains one of the poorest countries in Central Asia. Almost one-third of the working population (mostly men, ages 18-40) migrates to Europe seasonally and sends money back home to Tajikistan. Many leave families behind.

Recently, more young women are migrating, too. Due to limited opportunities in Tajikistan, many young people strive to move to Europe for better work or education. These needs often feel more urgent to them than their spiritual need for new life in Jesus.



RECIPE

Tajik Bread: Combine 1 cup each hot water and plain yogurt. Add 1 tsp. sugar, 2 tsp. instant yeast, 1/2 cup whole wheat flour. Rest 1 hour. Mix in 4 cups flour, 1 tsp. salt. Knead into smooth ball. Rise 2 hrs. Preheat to 500°F. Shape 8 flat round pieces, indent each middle. Brush with egg wash, add black sesame seeds. Bake 15-20 mins.

LET'S PRAY

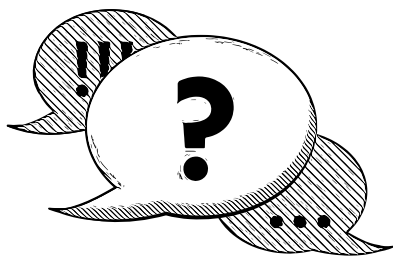
Pray that Tajik migrants in Europe will see their spiritual need, not just their financial needs. Ask God to give them a longing for truth.

Western Baloch of Turkmenistan

The small Baloch (buh-LOOCH) minority in Turkmenistan are part of the larger Baloch population spanning Iran, Afghanistan, and Pakistan. The Baloch foster a profound sense of solidarity. They are united by their rich traditions, shared history, Balochi language, and Muslim religion. Baloch women wear intricate red designs that show their remarkable skills in embroidery. Rug weaving is also a prevalent craft. Family is central to their culture, and they are forbidden to marry outside the Baloch community. It's hard for Baloch to seek truth outside of Islam because their community would see that as being disloyal.

Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ.

Philippians 3:8



DISCUSSION STARTER

In Philippians 3:8, Paul speaks of "knowing Christ" as having "surpassing worth." How can we communicate the value of a relationship with Jesus in a way that resonates with the Baloch's strong sense of community and tradition?

LET'S PRAY

Pray the Lord will send believers to share the gospel with the Baloch in Turkmenistan whose hearts are seeking truth.

Yazidis of Germany

Yazidis are originally from northern Iraq. They are a religious minority there and have endured persecution, even genocide, by the Islamic State (ISIS). During the 1990s, around 20,000 Yazidi refugees fled Iraq. Many made a new home in Germany, host of the world's largest Yazidi community outside Iraq—between 60,000 to 200,000 people. Some Yazidis have gotten involved in Germany's society and have become influential voices in human rights activism, academia, and politics. Despite being displaced, the Yazidis in Germany have staunchly preserved their culture and religion, which blends ancient Mesopotamian and Abrahamic traditions. They worship through a mediator called the "Peacock Angel." They do not worship God through Jesus Christ.

But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.

John 1:12

ACTIVITY

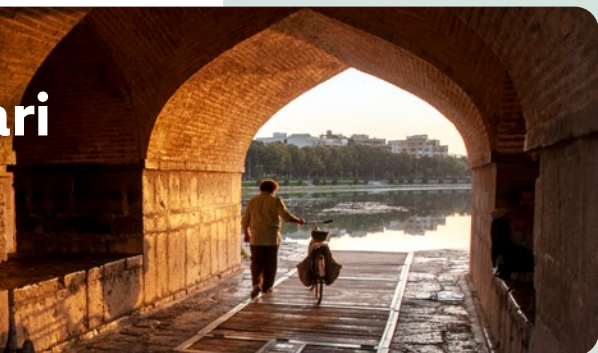
Yazidis who move to Germany will probably taste soft pretzels for the first time in their lives. Try a recipe for making homemade soft pretzels or buy a bag of pretzels at the grocery store. As you eat, think of the Yazidis in Germany and pray for them.



LET'S PRAY

Pray that Yazidis who know German will hear the gospel through interactions with German Christians and believe in Jesus' name.

Khunsari of Iran



The Khunsari (Khan-sar-ee) people follow Islam and live mainly in rural areas near Esfahan, Iran. Iranian tourists are drawn to the region for its stunning mountains and springs. Most Khunsari earn their livelihood through farming and herding, yet rural life has its challenges in Iran. They struggle to get access to healthcare and education. And Iran's ongoing economic crisis only makes their high unemployment rates worse. Many Khunsari migrate to cities, hoping for better opportunities. With all the problems the Khunsari face, their greatest problem is lostness. There are no Bible resources in their primary language or any known believers among them to share the solution to lostness—the gospel.

When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.

Matthew 9:36

DISCUSSION STARTER

Think for a minute about the fact that there is no Bible in the Khunsari language. If you could choose one passage to be the first Bible translation project, which passage would you choose? Using this passage of Scripture, pray for the Khunsari people.

LET'S PRAY

Ask God to raise up faithful men and women to translate Scripture into the Khunsari language so that many may believe.

Chechens of the European Diaspora

The Chechens are an ancient group from Russia's Caucasus Mountains and proudly call themselves the "descendants of Noah." They're known for being strong fighters. Many Chechens in Europe fled from conflicts back home. Even though they've faced difficult times in history, they're committed to keeping their culture alive. While they learn the local languages and work in their new countries, they make sure to teach their kids their own traditions and language. Even though they're far from their homeland, many Chechens in Europe miss it and hope to go back someday. Most Chechens follow Islam, seeking righteousness through religious practices rather than through faith in Jesus.

For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

Ephesians 6:12

ACTIVITY

Chechen men are famous for wrestling and martial arts and have even received Olympic medals for wrestling. Read Ephesians 6:10-18. How might God use their understanding of martial arts to one day grow their faith in Him?

LET'S PRAY

Pray that the Lord will give Chechens in Europe the opportunity to hear the true gospel clearly and that they will respond to it in faith.





A GOSPEL TRANSFORMATION STORY

Baloch of Central Asia

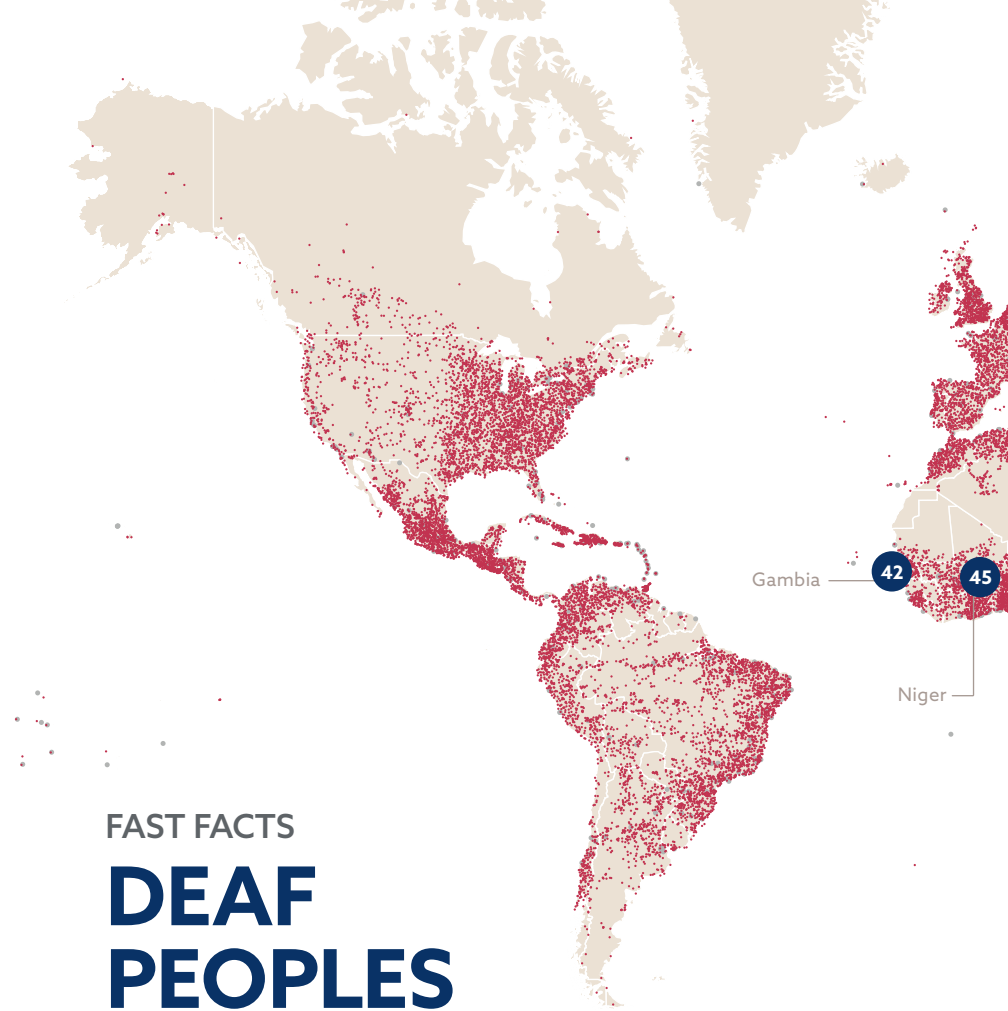
In the 2015 edition of *Loving the Lost*, you prayed for the Baloch people. You asked God to give many of them dreams about Jesus and more access to Scripture so that they might believe. You also prayed that the few Baloch believers would boldly proclaim truth. The Lord has answered! One Baloch man believed after encountering Jesus in his dreams and watching a gospel film. He has suffered persecution because of his love for Jesus but is still boldly sharing the gospel with his family. Two Baloch brothers, who are also being bold witnesses, have led two other family members to faith in the Lord.

LET'S PRAY

Praise God for drawing the Baloch of Central Asia to Himself. Ask that He will establish His Church among them.

Oh give thanks to the LORD;
call upon his name;
make known his deeds
among the peoples!

Psalm 105:1



FAST FACTS

DEAF PEOPLES

POPULATION

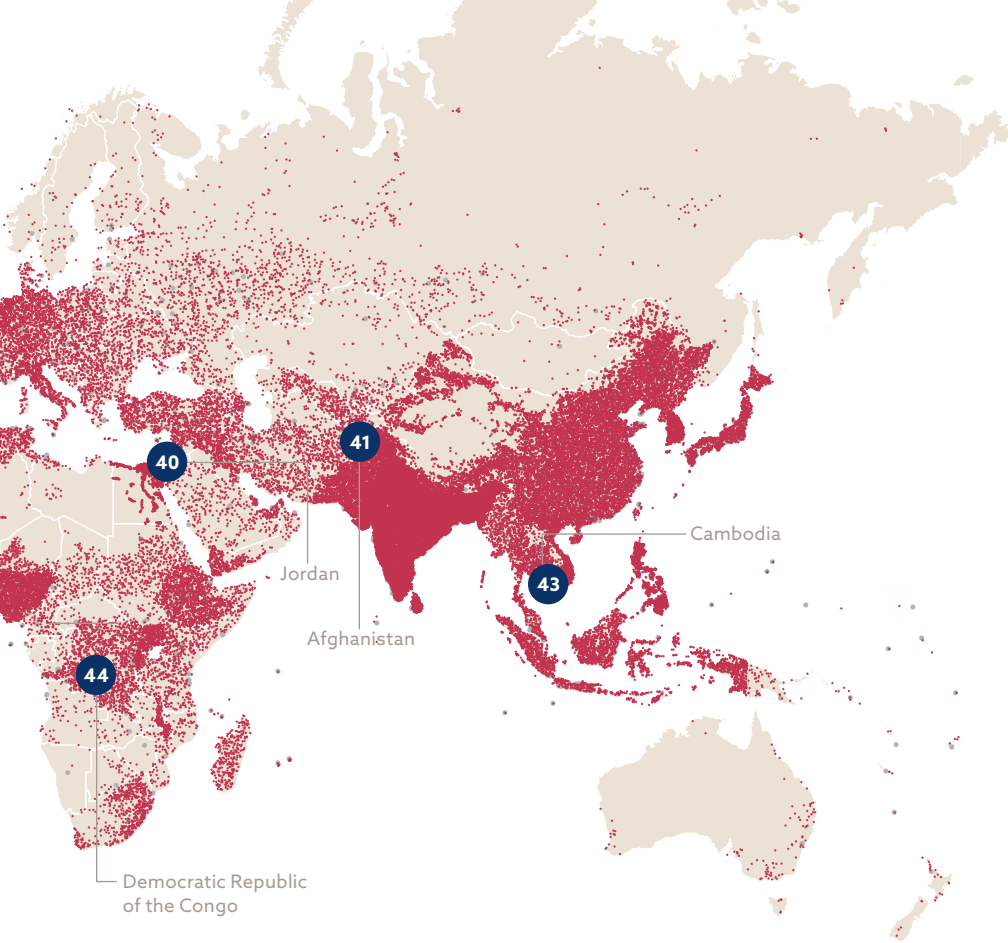
75 MILLION

234 people groups

1,720 souls enter a Christless
eternity every day

● Each red dot represents
1,000 lost people

● Indicates page number for
information on peoples



145 unreached people groups still unengaged with church-planting strategies

There are around **300** distinct sign languages in the world, and IMB missionaries use sign roots as they translate Bible stories into the different languages.

All statistics and map based on IMB Global Research data cut December 31, 2023. Representative map shows evangelical estimates and population density.



Deaf of Jordan

The Kingdom of Jordan is home to a small group of Deaf believers. Most of the 109,000 Deaf in the country follow Islam, hoping to please Allah through works without any assurance that they've done enough to earn salvation. Believers have been working for several years to translate Scripture passages in Jordanian Sign Language, but the Deaf community really needs more Christians to engage them with the gospel message.

And he said to them, "Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation."

Mark 16:15

RECIPE

Jordanian Za'atar Spice Mix: Heat 2 Tbsp. sesame seeds in pan until golden brown. Cool. Mix with 2 Tbsp. dried oregano, 2 Tbsp. sumac, 1 Tbsp. dried marjoram or additional oregano, 1 Tbsp. dried thyme, 1 tsp. fine sea salt. Serve with olive oil and pita bread (2 parts za'atar and 1 part oil).

LET'S PRAY

Pray for partnerships to develop among church planters and Deaf believers who will share Christ, disciple and train leaders, and witness the kingdom of God grow among the Deaf of Jordan.

Deaf of Afghanistan

The Deaf population of Afghanistan is nearly 400,000. Few, if any, of these people have been told the story of the Creator God and His Son's sacrifice on the cross to bring them full and eternal life. There are no known Deaf believers or evangelical Deaf churches in Afghanistan to share the truth with them and no known missionaries trying to reach them. No part of the Bible or any gospel resource is available in Afghan Sign Language. A few Deaf schools are available, and some Deaf communities network together, but most Deaf in Afghanistan live marginalized lives without much hope to access the good news of abundant, eternal life in Jesus Christ.

The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.

2 Peter 3:9

ACTIVITY

Rice is a staple food in Afghanistan. Measure out 4 Tbsp. of rice and pour in a jar. Imagine these 4 tablespoons multiplied by 100,000 to represent the 400,000 Deaf of Afghanistan. What do you think needs to happen for them to hear the gospel? Keep your 4 tablespoons of rice in a jar to help you remember to pray for God to make a way.



LET'S PRAY

Ask God to open doors for His Word to be translated and to spread among the Deaf of Afghanistan. Pray for His Church to engage them with the gospel and for many Deaf people to trust in Jesus for salvation.

Deaf of Gambia

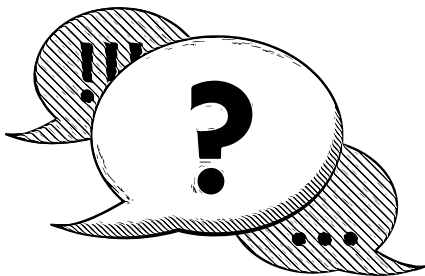
For the Son of Man came to
seek and to save the lost.

Luke 19:10

The Deaf of Gambia number 25,000 people. They have no access to the Bible or opportunities to learn the truth about who Jesus is in their sign language. There are a few Deaf Gambian believers, but they are scattered and live secluded from hearing people in their community. In 2023, several Deaf from Gambia attended a Scripture translation camp with other West Africans, where they saw Bible stories signed in their own language for the first time.

DISCUSSION STARTER

Think about your favorite Bible stories and the ways God has grown your faith through them. Imagine what your understanding of God might be if you had never had the opportunity to hear these stories. Pray for the Deaf of Gambia to have the opportunity to know the goodness of God.



LET'S PRAY

Pray for missionaries and local believers to have more opportunities to reach Deaf Gambians with the gospel—discipling and planting churches among them.



Deaf of Cambodia

Cambodia has endured profound tragedies in its history, such as war, famine, and genocide. Ministries bring humanitarian aid to Deaf schools in some places, but the Deaf do not have much, if any, opportunity to see the story of God's good news signed in Cambodian Sign Language. Over 160,000 Deaf are without meaningful access to the gospel. Less than 2% of Deaf Cambodians have a personal relationship with the God who made them in His image for His glory.

So it is not the will of my Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish.

Matthew 18:14

ACTIVITY

On a piece of paper, draw a timeline of Scripture from creation to Christ: Adam and Eve's sin, the flood, Abraham and Isaac, the prophets, the birth of Jesus, one of Jesus' miracles, Jesus' death on the cross, and His resurrection. How could you use these pictures to share truth with someone who didn't have the Bible in their language?

LET'S PRAY

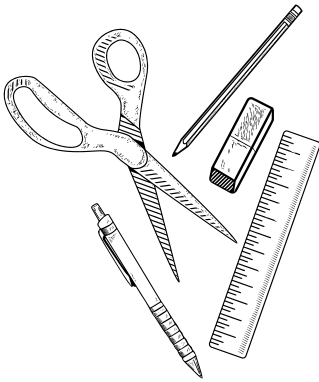
Pray for open doors for workers to engage the Deaf of Cambodia with the stories of the Savior and His love for them. Pray for more Christians to join in these efforts.

Deaf of the Democratic Republic of the Congo

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed.

Luke 4:18

Over 1.4 million Deaf call the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) home, living among one of the fastest growing populations in Africa. As in many countries, the Deaf in the DRC experience more poverty than the average citizen. They are seen as unable to work. If they do work, they are often given menial jobs that don't pay much. A handful of Deaf believers are scattered throughout the country, but there are no Deaf churches or any missionaries of whom we are aware to help take the stories of God's message of salvation to the Deaf there.



ACTIVITY

Cassava, also known as yucca, is a highly important (and delicious!) food in the DRC. Have you ever eaten cassava? If not, find a restaurant locally that serves it or go online and find a recipe so you can make some for yourself. Can you imagine eating this regularly?

LET'S PRAY

Pray that Christians will step forward and share the hope of the gospel among these poor and unreached Deaf communities in the DRC. Pray for opportunities to translate Scripture stories into the local sign language for those still waiting to see God's story signed for the first time.



A GOSPEL TRANSFORMATION STORY

Deaf in West Africa

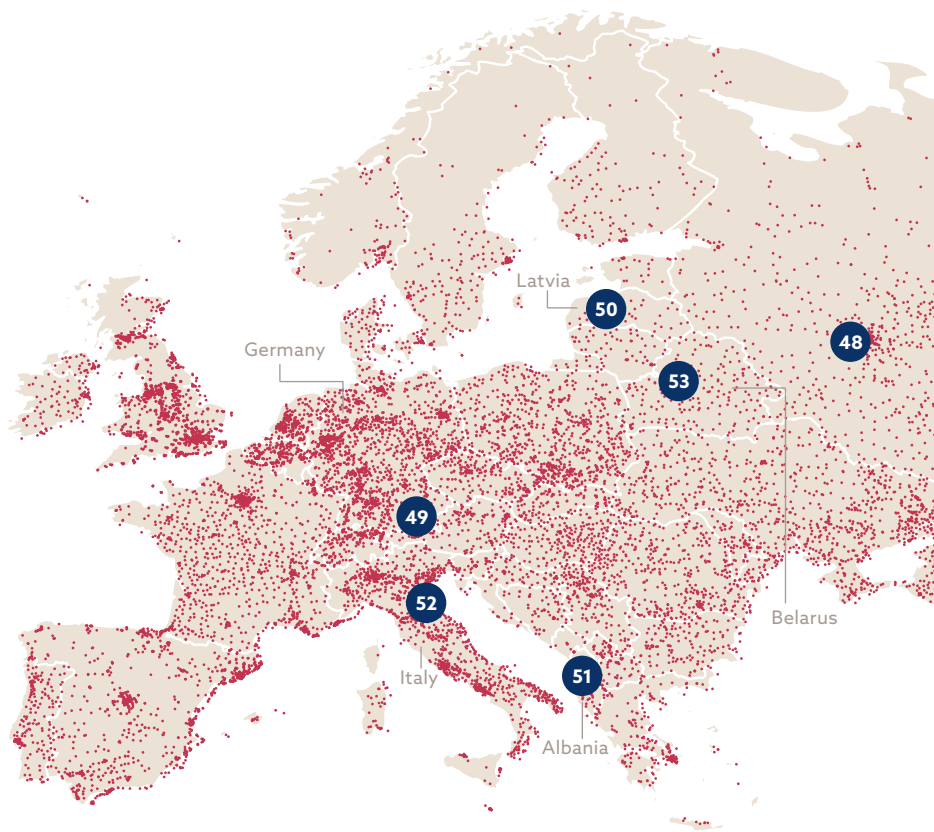
We have been praying for the Deaf in West African countries for years: Senegal (2024), Niger (2023), and Sierra Leone (2021) in *Loving the Lost*. "Your prayers are critical to our work—I've seen the results," Paul Yount said. He leads the Deaf work in West Africa, translating the Bible and hosting camps where Deaf can come learn Bible stories. At one of these camps, a Deaf man watched, riveted. "As a Muslim, he knew the risks of following Jesus," Paul said. But the man believed and was baptized. He didn't stop there. "Once the camp ended, he hurried to contact a Deaf friend and told him the stories he'd learned. His friend understood his need for Jesus and was baptized! Then he went to another Deaf friend and shared the same stories. The Spirit convinced that man to trust in Jesus for salvation too. This is an exciting time, and I am thankful you are a part of it!"

LET'S PRAY

Praise God for bringing these Deaf men to salvation in Jesus Christ. Pray that the gospel will continue spreading among the Deaf in West Africa.

Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving.

Colossians 4:2



FAST FACTS

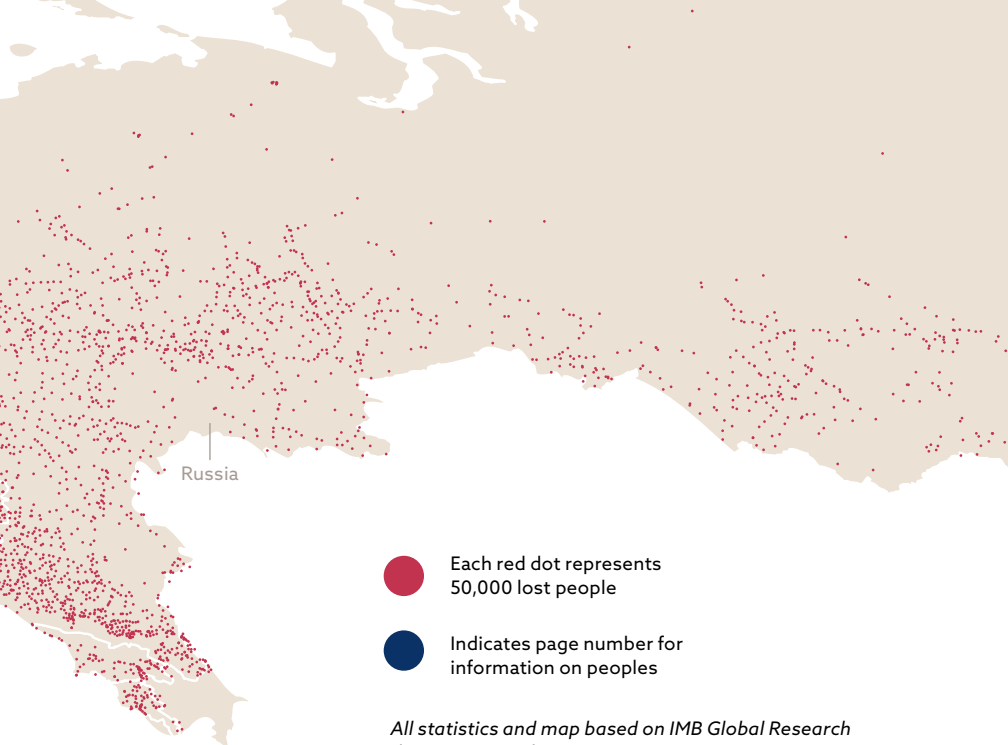
EUROPEAN PEOPLES

POPULATION

782 MILLION

691 people groups

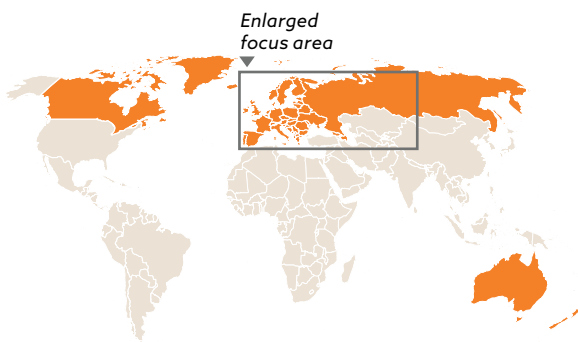
18,000 souls enter a Christless eternity every day



All statistics and map based on IMB Global Research data cut December 31, 2023. Representative map shows evangelical estimates and population density.

238 unreached people groups still unengaged with church-planting strategies

Only about 1% of the people living in Europe are evangelical Christian.



Georgians of Russia



Over 150,000 Georgians live in Russia. They share their culture, especially their food, in the restaurants and grocery stores they own throughout Russia. Most Georgians in Russia identify as non-religious, and few know or have heard the gospel of Jesus. There is now a resurgence among local Orthodox Georgians to bring back the old religious ways after years of living under communism and atheism. But Georgians of Russia don't know that their religious traditions cannot save them; only faith in Jesus can.

And he said to them, "You have a fine way of rejecting the commandment of God in order to establish your tradition!"

Mark 7:9

RECIPE

Khachapuri Cheese Bread: Grate Georgian cheese or substitute with 2 cups shredded mozzarella, 1/2 cup crumbled feta, and 1/2 cup ricotta cheese. Mix with 1/2 tsp. salt, 1/2 tsp. dill, and 1 egg. Cut puff pastry into squares. Add filling. Fold pastry corners to the center. Brush cheese bread with egg wash. Bake at 400°F for 15-20 mins., until golden brown.

LET'S PRAY

Pray for the Georgians of Russia to hunger for relationship with the one true God instead of embracing empty religious rituals.

Vlax Romani of Germany

Vlax Romani have lived in Germany for centuries and have preserved their distinct languages, customs, and traditions. They have integrated into German schools and workplaces, but they face discrimination and social marginalization. Many struggle to access higher education, good jobs, and quality healthcare. Despite these hardships, they maintain strong family ties and a vibrant, resilient spirit. Prejudice against them, socioeconomic challenges, and a lack of trust in faith communities keep the Vlax Romani in Germany from hearing the good news of Jesus Christ and joining His family.

How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent?

Romans 10:14-15a



ACTIVITY

Make a Romani-inspired friendship bracelet. Cut strands of brightly colored embroidery floss or yarn, 24 inches long. Gather strands together and knot one end. Secure the knotted end to a flat surface to keep steady. Separate strands into three and braid until desired length. Knot and trim excess floss. Make another for a friend! Let these bracelets remind you to pray for the Vlax Romani, who keep strong ties with family and friends.

LET'S PRAY

Pray for believers in Germany to reach out to Vlax Romani people in their neighborhoods and workplaces. Ask that believers will pray for the Vlax Romani people and intentionally start gospel conversations with them.

Balkan Romani of Latvia

Balkan Romani in Latvia value family, show respect to others, and discourage harmful and selfish behaviors in their communities. They want to live good lives, but their circumstances are often challenging. The Balkan Romani live at a high risk of poverty.

Around 35% of their households earn the equivalent of less than \$65 USD per month. The Balkan Romani often suffer from discrimination, and they don't have many opportunities for good jobs. They speak Baltic Romani and aren't a part of any organized religion. The social divide and language barrier make it difficult for Latvian believers to reach this people group with the good news of abundant life in Jesus Christ.

Sing to God, sing praises to his name; lift up a song to him who rides through the deserts; his name is the LORD; exult before him! Father of the fatherless and protector of widows is God in his holy habitation.

Psalm 68:4-5



RECIPE

Romani Sarma Cabbage Rolls: Boil cabbage leaves until softened in salted water. Mix 2 lbs. ground turkey and pork, 1 1/2 cups uncooked brown rice, 2 eggs, 2 chopped white onions, and mixed herbs and salt to taste. Spread a dollop of the mix on each cabbage leaf and roll. Bake rolls in covered dish for 60-70 mins. at 400°F.

LET'S PRAY

Pray for the Balkan Romani of Latvia to hear the good news that they are beloved by God, and ask that they receive salvation.



Gorani of Albania

The Gorani people live in the mountainous intersection of Kosovo, Albania, and Macedonia. The Gorani keep to themselves and seldom marry anyone outside their people group. At traditional Gorani weddings, the bride wears a headscarf and holds a decorated umbrella as she rides a white horse to the home of her future husband. Islam remains a central part of their identity and, because of their isolation, the Gorani have limited access to the gospel.

Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me.

Revelation 3:20

DISCUSSION STARTER

The Gorani find their identity in their cultural traditions and Islam. How can you pray for them to discover a new, deeper identity in Christ? What challenges might they face in this transition, and how can you intercede for them?

LET'S PRAY

Ask God to knock on the hearts of the Gorani people. Despite their isolation, pray they will hear His voice and open the door to Him so they can experience true fellowship with God. Pray that they will find their identity in Him rather than in religious traditions.

Sammarinese of San Marino

Sammarinese people live in the tiny, landlocked country of San Marino, surrounded by Italy. Their population is 3,000, and they host 3 million tourists each year. Sammarinese are generally wealthy, educated, and secular.

They claim a Catholic heritage, but they have not unlocked their hearts to Christ. San Marino is the oldest continuous republic in the world. The people proudly call their country the “Ancient Land of Liberty,” but they do not know freedom from the power of sin. The people blindly give their hearts to worldly wisdom and modern comforts that keep their hearts locked away from the truth of the gospel.

ACTIVITY

Think about the truths Sammarinese people need to receive for their hearts to be opened to the gospel. On key-shaped pieces of paper, write out truths from Scripture such as Romans 3:23, Romans 6:23, Romans 5:8, Romans 10:9-10, and Romans 10:13. Who do you know who might need to hear these truths? Pray God will give you boldness to share with them.

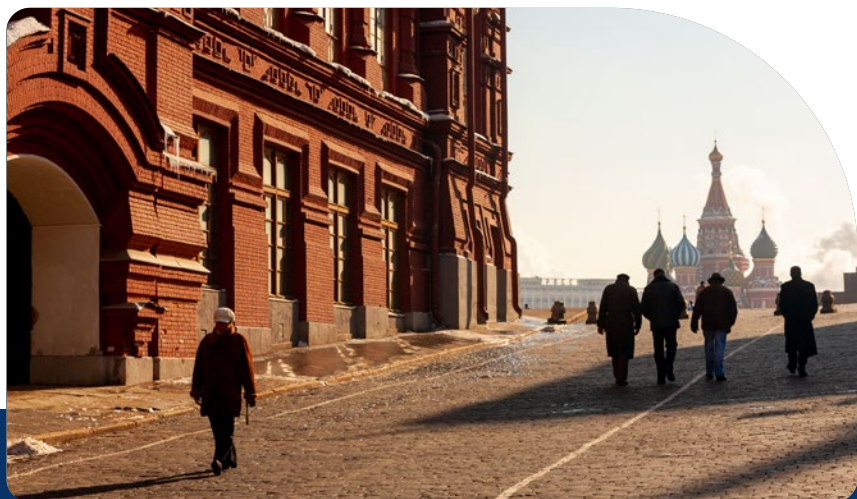
LET'S PRAY

Pray for Christians to go and share the gospel in San Marino. Ask God to free the Sammarinese from bonds that keep them from embracing the truth of Christ.

So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

John 8:31-32





A GOSPEL TRANSFORMATION STORY

Russian Speakers of Eastern Europe

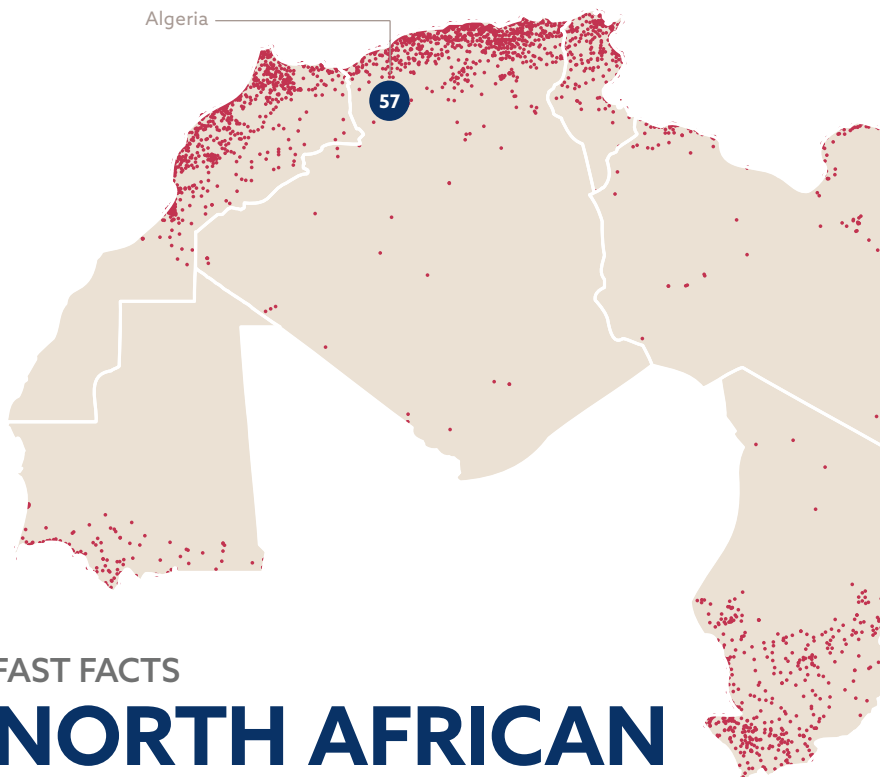
When believers in Eastern Europe offered a medical outreach event for Russian-speaking people impacted by the war in Ukraine, they prayed for and served over 80 patients, including Lola. They invited this grandmother to another outreach event, and she loved it. She started joining a local group of believers for worship each week. Lola was so interested in hearing the Word, she joined a weekly Bible study. After a few months of reading and studying the Scriptures, Lola surrendered her life to Christ and was baptized.

LET'S PRAY

Praise God for using medical missions, the local church, and prayer to make an eternal impact in Lola's life. Ask Him to continue spreading the gospel among Russian speakers across Eastern Europe.

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

2 Corinthians 5:17



FAST FACTS

NORTH AFRICAN AND MIDDLE EASTERN PEOPLES

POPULATION

614 MILLION

813

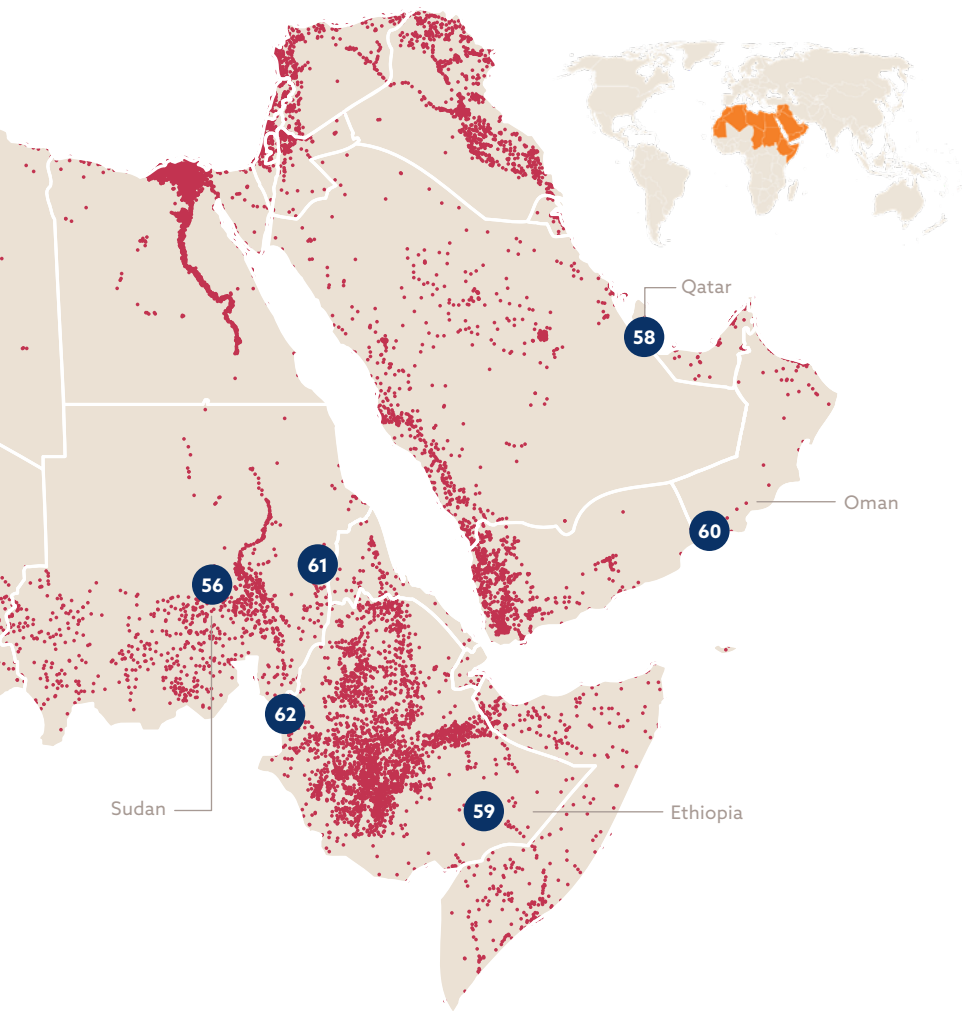
people groups

14,000

souls enter a Christless
eternity every day

476

unreached people groups still unengaged
with church-planting strategies



All THREE of the world's major monotheistic religions (Christianity, Judaism, and Islam) have significant populations among these peoples.

- Each red dot represents 50,000 lost people
- Indicates page number for information on peoples

All statistics and map based on IMB Global Research data cut December 31, 2023. Representative map shows evangelical estimates and population density.

Yazeed of Sudan



Camels are valuable to the Yazeed of Sudan. The people live in fabric tents covered with roofs made of camel hair. They also drink camel milk and occasionally eat camel meat. Typically, the women and children stay in their family camps, tending their gardens and the smaller animals while the men travel the desert with their camels in desperate search of food for their herd. Although the people call themselves Muslim, most don't follow Islam's core requirements. Jesus died for these isolated, desert-dwelling people, yet most of the Yazeed population have no knowledge of God's steadfast love for them.

Your steadfast love,
O LORD, extends to the
heavens, your faithfulness
to the clouds.

Psalm 36:5

ACTIVITY

With family or friends, spread a blanket under the evening stars, sip cups of warm milk, and imagine that you are sitting on the desert sands with only the twinkling stars above you. Share how you are experiencing God's steadfast love. Discuss how the Yazeed people can also encounter God's love.

LET'S PRAY

Pray for the Yazeed people to hear and believe the wonderful news that God loves them and has made a way for their salvation.

Sidi Bedouins of Algeria

In the stark, gritty beauty of Northwest Algeria's mountains and valleys, the Sidi Bedouins (see-Dee BEH-doo-ins) make their home. They number 139,000 and are Sunni Muslim. They speak Hassaniyya, a type of Arabic. Traditionally, they raised livestock and traversed the Sahara to find food and water for their animals. Their tribal and nomadic lifestyle, as well as their unique language and commitment to Islam, make it difficult to find them and communicate the gospel in their language.

That they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us, for "In him we live and move and have our being."

Acts 17:27-28a

RECIPE

Algerian Mint Tea: Hospitality is a hallmark of Bedouin culture. Invite friends over to hear about the Sidi Bedouins and sip Algerian Mint Tea. Steep 1 Tbsp. green tea with 4 large spearmint sprigs for 15 mins. Add sugar and serve hot.



LET'S PRAY

Pray for God to reveal Himself through visions to the Sidi Bedouins, much like He did with Saul on the Damascus Road. Ask God to make a way for these nomadic people to hear the gospel and believe it.

Egyptian Arabs of Qatar

Egypt, the most populated country in the Middle East, exports laborers everywhere in the region, and Qatar is no exception. Of the 57,000 Egyptian Arabs in Qatar, few have family members with them. Most of these Egyptian gardeners, building attendants, and construction workers send their salary back to their family in Egypt. These men and women follow Sunni Islam, a works-based religion, to try and find favor with Allah. It is considered blasphemy to question their faith. To leave Islam and follow Jesus can mean losing their job, being kicked out of their family, or even being sentenced to death.

If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.

John 8:31b-32

ACTIVITY

Remembering that many Arab Egyptians in Qatar work as gardeners, plant seeds in your garden or in a pot. As you water them and wait for the seeds to sprout, pray for these people who need to hear about Jesus' love for them.

LET'S PRAY

Pray that these Arab Egyptians, who are loved by God, will want to know the truth about Him. Pray for them to see the treasure that Jesus is, follow Him no matter the cost, and find freedom in Christ.



Gibe of Ethiopia

The Gibe (GEE-beh) live in southwest Ethiopia. Although most of the people groups around them are Muslim, the Gibe are Ethiopian Orthodox. They know about Jesus and believe He is important, but they don't believe He is enough to provide for their salvation. They don't know about salvation by grace through faith in Jesus alone. Instead, their lives are dominated by observing many holy days and rituals of the church, fasting more than 200 days a year and praying to Mary, saints, and angels.



After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

Hebrews 1:3b-4

DISCUSSION STARTER

How many times is the angel Gabriel mentioned in the Bible? Where? What is he doing? What about the angel Michael? Both angels are revered by the Ethiopian Orthodox. Read Hebrews 1:3-14 and talk about angels and their relationship to Jesus, who is far superior.

LET'S PRAY

Pray for Ethiopian believers to go to the Gibe with the good news of salvation by faith in Jesus.

Jibbali of Oman

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

Psalm 119:105

Pristine and isolated beaches lead to rugged mountains that rise over the coast of southern Arabia. This is home to 46,500 Jibbali (jih-BAH-lee) of Oman, independent and proud Muslims who have relied for centuries on tending camels, goats, and sheep to make a living. They speak South Arabian Shehri, known as Jibbali or “mountain language” in Arabic. There are no Scriptures written or recorded in this language. Very few outsiders speak it. Unless something changes, the Jibbali of Oman will continue facing each day without the comfort and guidance of God’s Word.



ACTIVITY

If you live near a mountain, plan a hike (or a trip to your favorite local park) and pray for the Jibbali as you walk.

LET'S PRAY

Pray that God’s Word will be translated in Jibbali, recorded and heard by every Jibbali in Oman.

Shukria of Sudan

The Shukria (shook-REE-ah) live in villages along the Nile and Atbarah Rivers in Eastern Sudan. They were once nomadic, and they proudly claim a heritage with ancient tribes in the Arabian Peninsula. Throughout their colorful history, the Shukria have skirmished within their tribe and with rival tribes. Today, regional and local conflict persists. In the middle of this tension and warfare, the Shukria work to support their families through agriculture. Most claim to follow Islam, but they also practice folk rituals. Their beliefs offer no assurance of salvation. No matter how much they try, the Shukria never know if they've done enough to please Allah.

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Romans 5:1

RECIPE

Sudanese Foul Beans: Saute 1 chopped onion, 3 cloves garlic, 2 tsp. cumin, salt, and pepper. Add 2 cans partially mashed Fava beans and 1 cup water. Simmer 15 mins. Add a splash of lemon juice and hot pepper (optional). Spread beans on a platter. Top with 1-2 diced tomatoes, 1 1/2 cups parsley, 3 boiled eggs. Eat with bread.



LET'S PRAY

Pray for the Shukria of Sudan to come to faith in God through Christ and know everlasting peace.



A GOSPEL TRANSFORMATION STORY

Beni Shangul of Ethiopia

In 2022, *Loving the Lost* featured the Beni Shangul (BEH-nee SHAN-gool), a Muslim people group in western Ethiopia with no known gospel presence. Since then, people have been praying, and God has been working. God burdened two groups of Ethiopian believers to reach the Beni Shangul. A believer from another country began to research the Beni Shangul and visit their small, isolated farming villages. He discovered more than a dozen Beni Shangul believers! In 2023, despite major challenges with communication and transportation, these Beni Shangul believers gathered in a large city to learn how to share their faith. Now, Beni Shangul believers are growing in discipleship and starting small groups where there are no churches.

LET'S PRAY

Praise God for growing His kingdom among the Beni Shangul. Pray that these farmers will confidently share the gospel with the lost in their families, communities, and beyond.

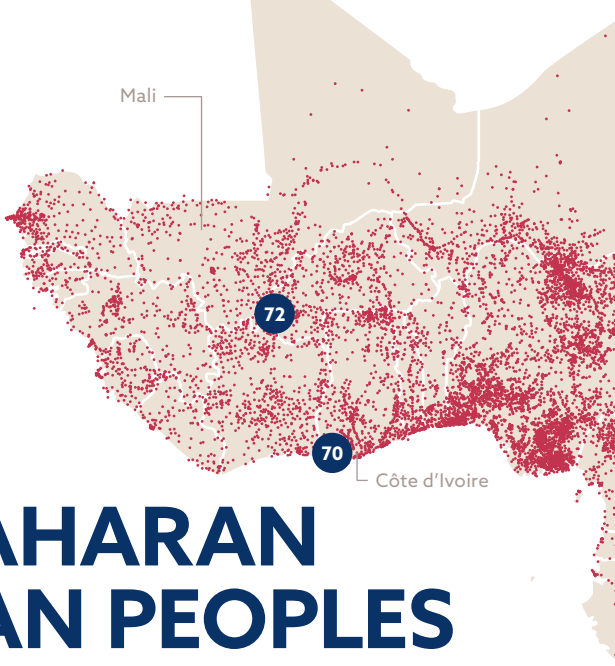
As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!"

Romans 10:15b

MISSIONARY PRESENCE

To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that by all means, I might save some. I do it all for the sake of the gospel, that I may share with them in its blessing.

1 CORINTHIANS 9:22-23



FAST FACTS

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN PEOPLES

POPULATION

999 MILLION

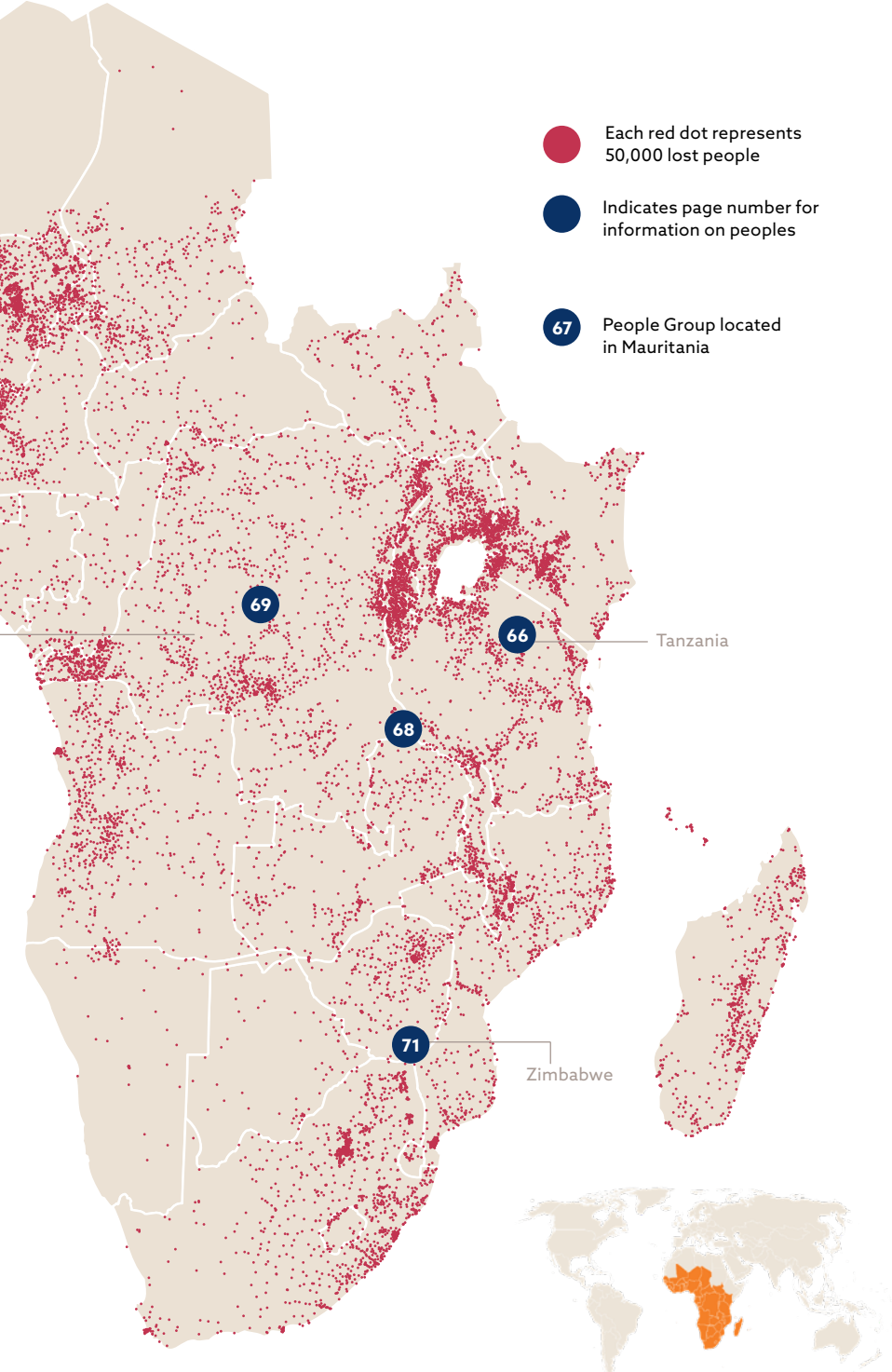
2,592 people groups

22,000 souls enter a Christless eternity every day

463 unreached people groups still unengaged with church-planting strategies

They live in sprawling cities, barren deserts, rainy forests, and on tropical islands.

All statistics and map based on IMB Global Research data cut December 31, 2023. Representative map shows evangelical estimates and population density.



Wasi of Tanzania

The Wasi (wah-SEE), also known as the Alagwa (ah-LAH-gwah) people, are found only in north-central Tanzania.

They number around 60,000 people and live in 15 villages on a rocky hill terrain. The

Wasi are farmers, growing maize and millet, and they work together to meet community-wide needs. They practice folk Islam, blending Islamic practices and beliefs with those of traditional African religions. The Wasi are very reserved and don't easily allow outsiders to live among them. Some Bible portions, gospel recordings, and the JESUS film are available in their language. But they have yet to hear the good news of Jesus Christ, and they have no missionary presence among them.

This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

1 Timothy 2:3-4

RECIPE

Kachumbari (kah-CHEW-mbah-ree)

Salsa: Mix 2 chopped tomatoes, 1 chopped onion, 3 crushed garlic cloves, 1 small hot pepper (optional), 1 tsp. salt, 1/4 tsp. black pepper, 2 Tbsp. lemon juice. Serve this salsa as a side to any meal.



LET'S PRAY

Ask God to send someone to go and make disciples among the Wasi people.



Wolof of Mauritania

The Wolof (WAW-lawf) are renowned for their culture and language. Known as skilled fishermen, dancers, and wrestlers, they have a rich cultural heritage. They primarily cultivate peanuts or work as merchants. Church-planting efforts are underway among the Wolof in Senegal, but in Mauritania, where they are a minority group, there is no known effort to reach them with the gospel. The Wolof are Muslim with deep animistic roots, believing a verse from the Quran can serve as a curse or blessing. A marabout, or Muslim spiritual leader, holds significant authority in their community. The Wolof in Mauritania believe the word of their marabout, not the Word of God, is final.

God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth, and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will.

2 Timothy 2:25b-26

DISCUSSION STARTER

Imagine meeting a Wolof man in a vibrant desert head wrap. Invited into his simple home, you see soccer stars and family photos on the walls, with a prominent portrait of his marabout. As he prepares *ataya* (black tea), he speaks of a protective bracelet with verses from the Quran on it. How would you share your faith with him?

LET'S PRAY

Ask God to call out believers from Senegal and around the world to share His Word with the Wolof in Mauritania. Pray for the lost to repent and for God to protect Wolof believers.

Taabwa of the Democratic Republic of the Congo

The Taabwa (tah-BWAH) live near Moba on the shores of Lake Tanganyika (tang-guh-NYEE-kuh). Because of rebel fighting in their area, they have been the victims of many hardships. Many Taabwa fled and lived in refugee camps in Zambia but have since been relocated back to the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). Fear of violence and another war looms heavy over them. Local authorities gave two IMB missionaries permission to occasionally enter the area to provide medical care. They praise God for this opportunity to help the Taabwa amid such chaos but know that these people need a consistent gospel witness. Most Taabwa are Roman Catholics, trying to earn righteousness before God through their good works.

For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law.

Romans 3:28

DISCUSSION STARTER

Reflect on a time when unexpected kindness opened your heart. How might similar acts of compassion help the Taabwa, who focus on earning righteousness, understand God's grace and faith-based justification?

LET'S PRAY

Please pray for missionaries and believers from neighboring tribes to share God's love with the Taabwa and establish a consistent gospel witness among them.



Yela of the Democratic Republic of the Congo

The Yela (YAY-luh) are believed to be a group of over 130,000 people, living in the deep jungles of the Democratic Republic of the Congo's (DRC) Kasai Orientale province. Centuries ago, Catholic missionaries ventured into these jungles and reported mass conversions among the Yela. Today, the spiritual state of the Yela is completely unknown by the outside world. The jungle landscape, poor infrastructure, and literal roadblocks make this people group extremely difficult to access. There is desperate need for a missionary presence among this people group to research more about them and to share the gospel.



And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.

Matthew 24:14

DISCUSSION STARTER

Why is research so crucial before engaging in missionary work? What kinds of information would be most valuable to gather about the Yela?

LET'S PRAY

Pray that God will call out believers to research this remote people group. Ask Him to make a way for the Yela to hear and respond to the gospel.



Bisa of Côte d'Ivoire

Now living in the center of Côte d'Ivoire, the Bisa [BEE-suh] were originally brought from another country to work on plantations. These are hard-working people. Although most of them would say they are Muslim, many still practice animism. One barrier they face in believing the gospel is the challenge of overcoming animistic traditions that have been deeply rooted in their culture for generations. These traditions teach the Bisa to perform unbiblical rituals that they fearfully hope will heal them and save them from harm.

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

Ephesians 2:8-9

ACTIVITY

The Bisa of Côte d'Ivoire are known for their peanut products. Make your favorite peanut or peanut butter recipe. As you make it and share it, pray for the Bisa.

LET'S PRAY

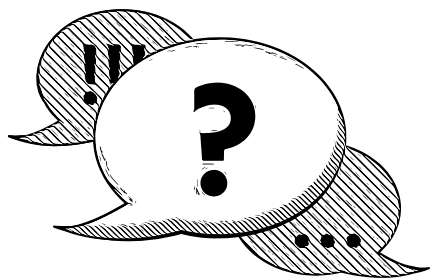
Pray the Bisa will stop putting hope in works and will place their faith in the finished work of Christ.

Tswa of Zimbabwe

The Tswa (TS-WAH) of Zimbabwe are related to the Tsonga [SONG-uh] people group. Several generations ago, they worked in farming and herding. Due to the challenge of annual drought in the southeastern lowlands, many have left the rural area to find jobs in town. They live among lots of other people and are not easily distinguished as a people group. Those who live in towns have had opportunities to hear the gospel, but it is unknown how many are true followers of Jesus Christ. Those remaining in the rural areas continue to fear their ancestors, worshiping these spirits who they hope will bless and protect them and curse their enemies.

O God, you are my God;
earnestly I seek you; my
soul thirsts for you; my
flesh faints for you, as in a
dry and weary land where
there is no water.

Psalm 63:1



DISCUSSION STARTER

The Tswa were traditionally farmers and herders. How might Jesus' parables about sowing seeds or shepherding resonate with them?

LET'S PRAY

Pray that the Tswa will hunger and thirst so desperately for spiritual truth that they would seek and find God. Pray that His living water and bread of life satisfy their parched souls.



A GOSPEL TRANSFORMATION STORY

Jula of Mali

"How can the Word of God help us?" That was what the Jula chiefs asked when missionaries and local believers sought permission to visit their villages and share stories from God's Word. From mid-2023, new Jula believers from Burkina Faso traveled to share the gospel with Jula in Mali, who are 99% Muslim. They saw God change people's hearts by the power of His Word. Two brothers who had not spoken to each other in years listened as the believers told the Bible stories about Joseph and his brothers. In front of the whole group, the two men reconciled in tears. Over the next year, eight Jula people of Mali chose to follow Christ! God's Word helped the Jula not only reconcile with each other, but also with God Himself through faith in Jesus Christ.

LET'S PRAY

Praise the Lord for working among the Jula and ask that He will reconcile more Jula people of Mali to Himself.

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD, and all the families of the nations shall worship before you.

Psalm 22:27

The world's
greatest problem is
LOSTNESS,
and it's growing every day.

God has given us the solution—
THE GOSPEL.

We must work together
to reach the nations.

Join us in
THE GREAT PURSUIT.



[IMB.ORG/GREATPURSUIT](https://imb.org/greatpursuit)

REVELATION 7:9

"After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb..."

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Cover Image: Portrait of a man in Paro, the Kingdom of Bhutan.

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