



BLESSING INDIA

Loving the OBC families

14 DAYS OF PRAYER

“For what we preach is not ourselves
but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves
as your servants for Jesus’ sake.”

-2 Cor. 4:5



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14 DAYS OF PRAYER

Thank you for joining in prayer for the 850 million people living in the “Other Backward Classes” (OBCs) as defined by the Indian constitution (Hindu, Muslim, etc.). They are by far the largest cluster of least-reached people groups in the world. These groups, comprising nearly 60% of the Indian population, have virtually no knowledge of the gospel because they have been historically overlooked by outreach in India. This prayer guide highlights the largest OBC people group clusters in India.

The OBCs of India do not yet know the good news is for them too. They are still Frontier People Groups (FPGs), which are ethnic groups with no movements to Jesus and no sign of understanding that the message of Jesus is for them too. Either no one has come to tell them, or they have been warned against Jesus with false information.

“How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?” -Rom. 10:14

“For what we preach is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus’ sake.” -2 Cor. 4:5

850 MILLION people—more than 40% of the population of ALL Frontier People Groups—live in the Other Backward Classes of India!

The 2 billion people in Frontier People Groups are missing out on their inheritance of eternal life in God’s kingdom—surprisingly 47% of the world’s FPGs are in the “Other Backward Classes/Castes” (OBCs) of India (over 950M total). Join us in praying for the largest of the OBC groups in India, Hindu, Muslim and Sikh, because their faith will impact hundreds of smaller groups associated with them.

Thank you for joining us in these 14 days of prayer, where we set aside time to pray for and bless these people. The Lord has already blessed these people so much and wants to see them use their gifts for His glory. We hope this prayer guide is an encouragement to the Church to join in what God is already doing in the OBCs traditions and cultures.

**“May they receive the blessing God promised to all the families of the earth through Abraham.”
-Gen.12:3**

WHY PRAY FOR THE OBCs?



For many centuries, foreign missionaries reached out to either the high castes, or the outcastes (Tribals and Untouchables). However, no concerted effort has been made to reach the lowest and largest caste of various kinds of laborers---called Shudhras in the Hindu Caste System, now called Other Backward Classes and Backward Classes in the Indian Constitution. About 60% of the population of India is in the OBC category. Even the outreach by national believers has followed the pattern of ignoring the OBCs.

In the last 2000 years, most of the people groups in India that have come to Christ have come through "people movements," where a whole group has decided to accept faith in Jesus together. In fact, 80% of the Protestant Christians, and 50% of the Catholic Christians, in India have come through mass movements within a specific people group. Very few of these people movements have been in people groups from the Other Backward Castes.

Are OBCs the key to India?

Some believe that the Other Backward Castes are the key to winning India to the Lord. The OBCs are very influential in Indian society, not only within Hinduism, but also in Islam and other religious groups. 80% of the Muslims in India are OBCs. The current prime minister of India, Narendra Modi, did not hide his OBC background, but instead used his OBC caste status proudly to challenge upper caste candidates and to win the popular vote of the people.

The OBCs represent a huge population in both India and globally, nearly 1 billion people. They are becoming an educated, economically stable middle class owning land and having government jobs. They are widely involved as political and community leaders, such as judges, teachers and other professions. In addition, the OBCs are increasingly open to the gospel because they are less deeply Hindu, less committed to rituals, and are not usually oppressed for entertaining different beliefs; however, most still seek an identity that keeps them related to their caste family.

One of the great obstacles preventing the UPGs/FPGs of India from being reached is that there is no awareness of people group concept among the church and mission leaders. Some of them simply do not know about it and others don't accept it, saying it is the propagation of the caste system.

The OBCs covered in this prayer guide

Population
in Millions

80

60

40

20

0

Yadav

Jat

Teli

Kurmi

Kunbi

Kumhar

Mali

Nai/Hajiam

Ansari

Lohar

Koiri

Pinjara



GOD'S HEART FOR THE OBCs

God promised to bless all the families of the earth when he made a covenant with Abraham 4,000 years ago, and confirmed it through His prophets. He will redeem people from every tribe, language and people group. Today, this promise is being fulfilled as movements of believing households grow in many formerly unreached people groups. "People of Peace" (Mt. 10:11; Lk. 10:6) have welcomed believers into their families to tell them about Jesus. These families then spread the news quickly to relatives and their community. Jesus says in Matthew 24:14 that His message of the Kingdom will be told to all the peoples of the earth before the end comes.

Why are there so few Jesus movements among the OBCs?

India's OBCs are not isolated from knowing Jesus geographically like many Frontier People Groups. They are spread throughout India in all the cities and villages, but they are behind barriers of understanding, culture, identity and tradition. Many tribal groups and Dalit groups (formerly called "Untouchables" outside of the caste system) became Christians. So the OBCs often do not want to associate with Jesus or Christianity. They are not orthodox Hindus, however, but usually more animistic "popular" Hindus or else folk Muslims.

Secondly, few people have tried to reach them. The vast majority of global prayer, giving and laborers focuses on strengthening believers where Christians are already present. Only about 1% goes to the FPGs— a quarter of the world's population. Likewise, in the last 2000 years of outreach in India, very little prayer, resources or people have been focused on the OBC people groups.

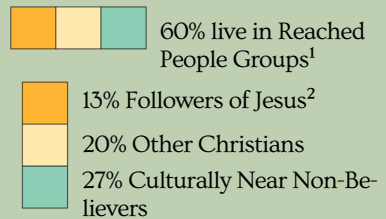
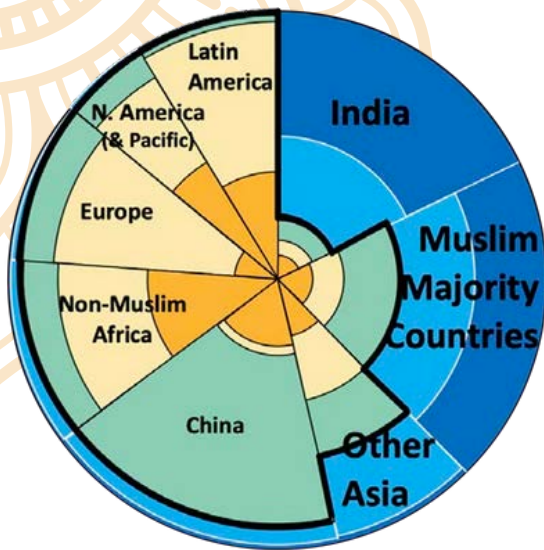
While a few OBCs still see Christianity as a Westernizing political/religious force, seeking to undermine their identity as a people, new and younger generations have open minds and positive attitudes towards other non-Hindu religions including Christianity. People don't understand Jesus' real message: that God is looking for all people who will worship Him "in spirit and truth" (Jn. 4:24). The OBCs don't know that Jesus' love and power can strengthen their families and communities, without tearing them apart. As you pray, please pray for God to send witnesses that will love the families of OBCs deeply from their heart.

Jesus movements are needed within the almost one billion people in the Other Backward Classes, so that the population of believers is growing much faster than the general population. Rapidly spreading Jesus movements will bless whole households and communities, as they did in the book of Acts.



OUR WORLD TODAY

The Remaining Mission Task



The Good News of Jesus has been spreading very quickly around the world! Only 50 years ago, the world's population was 4 billion, and 60% of the people of the world (2.4 billion) lived in Frontier People Groups with no known Jesus movements. Now the world's population is 8 billion but only 25% of the world's people live in FPGs (2 billion). (See www.joshuaproject.net/greatprogress)

This chart shows where all of the Christians and non-Christians live in the world today, including the Unreached and Frontier People Groups. Note particularly the 25% represented in dark blue. 94% of the Frontier People Groups live in Muslim-majority countries and India.

Pray for the people groups living in the areas of the world shown in blue. Never before has a generation had opportunity for such a great harvest—with the world's population at 8 billion, a harvest in our day could eclipse the total harvest of all previous generations combined. Pray that our generation will rise up and meet this incredible opportunity God has given us.

¹ 60% of the world live in people groups that are not unreached, where the gospel is well known and has had significant impact (greater than 2% Evangelical or greater than 5% Christian Adherent.)

² Estimate based on published figures for Evangelicals, Charismatics & Pentecostals.

³ A group must be both less than or equal to 2% Evangelical & less than or equal to 5% Christian Adherent to be Unreached.

All percentages are estimates based on published figures and a world population of almost 8 billion people.



THE CHALLENGE OF INDIA

The Unique Difficulties

India has a lower percentage of Christians than almost any other country in the world, in spite of nearly 2000 years of Christian outreach. The barriers to the spread of the gospel in India are unique. India has more people in Frontier People Groups than all the other countries of the world combined. Another way to phrase it is more than half of the remaining least reached people groups left in the world live in just one country - India.

In most of the world, people groups are concentrated by geography - with everyone in a tribe or a village, sharing common identity and interacting in ways that facilitate the spread of the gospel. But in India, and people groups or castes (except in the tribal areas) were traditionally defined rigidly by profession, marriage (rule of beti) and diet (rule of roti) practices. Because of this, while the people groups are spread throughout the country, they are still isolated from their neighbors in how they live, break bread, and commune together. Strong caste prejudices hinder social interactions in India which greatly impacts the spread of the gospel, even within the same village or geographic area.

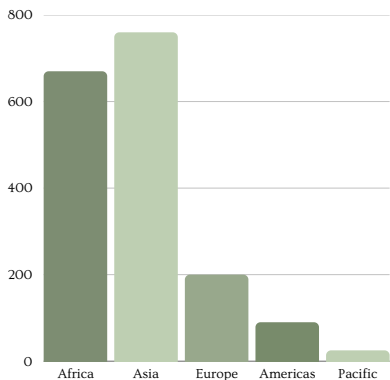
The Good News: Movements are Multiplying, Even in India

Some movements to Jesus are spreading through villages of India among the Dalit (outcaste) people groups, which are unfortunately considered ritually "unclean" or "untouchable" by the caste Hindus. If only 10% of each village is Dalit, then the other 90% of each village (in households of upper castes or OBCs) sometimes conclude that following Jesus is not possible for their people group. Because Jesus becomes a "god" associated with the "outcaste" groups, the higher caste groups may stay resistant to the gospel, unless a work of God occurs to change their hearts - their culture will keep them separate from the movement. Nevertheless, there are some movements developing within higher castes as well.

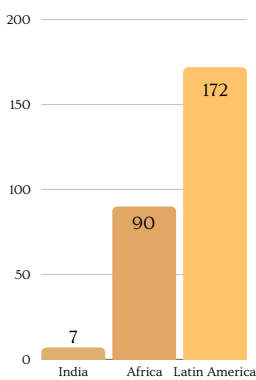
The official government census in India says that the population is 2.3% Christian, but it is widely accepted that the actual number must be much closer to 7%. Why the divergence?

Well, often the new believers don't want to confess that they have converted to Christianity. If they do they will lose their government benefits - this is for all BC/OBC and SC castes. The government census is also not reliable when it comes to religion. They usually go by the name - if it is a Hindu name like Rama, Sita, Vishnu, etc., they will categorize such persons as Hindus without any further investigation. On top of it all, the government also has a policy not to give the accurate census when it comes to the religious minorities like Muslims and Christians. They fear that the Hindu-majority population will be upset if they hear that religions like Islam and Christianity are growing.

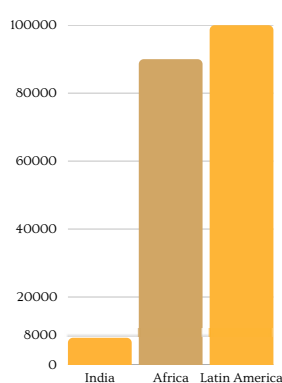
Movement Locations in 2022



Workers per Million



Total Workers Received



The biggest challenge India faces is the need for more laborers to reap the harvest.

DAY 1–YADAV (YAH-dav)



The traditional occupation of the Yadav was that of herdsmen, cowherds and milk sellers. more recently they have taken on occupations in transportation, construction, business, dragon fruit cultivation, innovative farming techniques and political and government employment. In the past decades, Yadavs have led political parties and governments in the two largest states: Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. However, they have largely remained socially and educationally backward and they are now categorized as Other Backward Class (OBC).

At over 47 million, Yadavs constitute the largest single caste grouping among India's OBC. The Yadav cluster includes many languages and sub castes totaling 75 million: Ahir in the Hindi belt of Punjab and Gujarat, Gavli in Maharashtra, Golla in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka. The main Yadav group mostly lives in Northern India, and particularly in Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.

The Yadavs love their oral traditions and group singing about their gods: Krishna, Vishnu and others. They claim Krishna as

their blood ancestor and so are especially devoted to him. For protection from curses the Yadav also put their faith in amulets, astrologers and traditional healers. In recent years there are some families and villages of Yadavs moving towards Christ, some led by Yadav followers of Jesus.

“Lord, raise up Yadav believers to reveal to the Yadav that You care about their history and legacy and that You have a calling in Your kingdom for them as a people.”

Population: 41,186,000
Religion: Hinduism
Language: Hindi
Christians: Less than 0.1%*
Movement: None Reported
Written Scripture: Complete
Bible Oral Scripture: Complete
Bible Workers Needed: 824**



*Per census reports, etc. **For 1 worker per 50,000

“The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death, a light has dawned!”

-Is. 9:2





DAY 2—YADAV (YAH-dav)

The Yadavs are a cluster of people groups that contain more than 75 million people, with many subgroups that do not intermarry with each other. On the first day we prayed for the majority people group which is 47 million. There are other smaller groups. Most of them speak Hindi but a few speak other languages as they are spread throughout India. Please pray for the following Yadav groups that each have millions of people in them (you can see all the groups in the Yadav cluster by going to <https://joshuaproject.net/clusters/450>):

The Yadav Gaoli, also known as the Raut, with a population of 5,583,000. The Yadav Golla, with 5,505,000. The Yadav Golla people speak Telugu as well as Hindi and other regional languages. They live in Odisha and other southern states of India. They are landowners or are involved in agriculture and animal husbandry for dairy products.

The Yadav Gualbans, with 5,483,000 people, practice Hindu traditions. The Yadav Sadgope have a population of 3,138,000. They speak Bengali and live mostly in the state of West Bengal and in Kolkata (Calcutta). Their name means “good/clean rope,” as they have tried to lift themselves higher in the caste system. The Yadav Ghosi, traditionally herdsmen, have 1,776,000. The Yadav Dhindor, with 1,742,000. Lastly, the Yadav Rawat, who are concentrated in Bihar, number 1,620,000.



“Lord, bless the Yadav families through stories shared, songs sung, and audio Bible stories they can listen to in their homes on their phones then share with others.”

“The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death, a light has dawned!”
—Is. 9:2

Population: 24,847,000

Religion: Hinduism

Language: Hindi

Christians: Less than 0.0%

Movement: None Reported

Written Scriptures: Complete

Bible Oral Scriptures: Complete

Workers Needed: 930

*Per census reports, etc. **For 1 worker per 50,000



DAY 3–JAT (JOT)



The Hindu Jat people of India have a history as brave and ready fighters. In 2020 they led a successful worldwide protest for farmers using the tractor as their symbol. They are independent in character, value respect and offer heavy resistance against any foreign force who treats them unjustly. Historically, they have been farmers and nomadic herdsman. They are thought to be the original inhabitants of the Punjab area, though at the time they did not have a formal religious identity, instead taking on the religion of the local rulers. The Hindu Jats adhere to the traditional Hindu practices, as well as a wide variety of additional beliefs and practices.

The Jat peoples in India are majority Hindu and we will be praying for them today. The Jat people living in the Punjab area also have large numbers which are Muslim (India and Pakistan) and Sikh (India), but we will pray for them tomorrow. The Jat are hard-working people who possess both the desire and ability to rule. Many of India's finest sportsmen have been Jats (leading to the

saying, "Jats do it!"). Also large numbers of Jats serve in India's vast armed forces. The Jat Regiment is an infantry regiment of the Indian Army, of which it is one of the longest-serving and most decorated regiments. In the last few decades there have been demands by Jats in some of India's northern states to be classified as OBC (Other Backward Class) so they can claim government benefits.

"Lord, bless the Jat families with forgiveness, healing, visions and miracles, raising up Jat warriors who fight with the sword of Truth and serve with the heart of Jesus."

Population: 16,163,000

Religion: Hinduism

Language: Hindi

Christians: Less than 0.1% *

Movement: None Reported

Written Scripture: Complete

Bible Oral Scripture: Complete

Bible Workers Needed: 325 **

*Per census reports, etc. **For 1 worker per 50,000



"Give thanks to Your name for Your steadfast love and Your faithfulness, for You have exalted above all things Your Name and Your Word."

-Ps. 138:1-2





DAY 4—JAT (JOT)

The Jat cluster contains many subgroups, with nearly 10 million Jats in India that are Sikhs instead of Hindus. In the Punjab region Jats are 60% of the Sikh population in that state. They speak Eastern Punjabi and mostly live in the Punjab area of India, although over 200,000 have moved to British Columbia, Canada, and northwest Washington State, USA, starting as early as 1920.

What are Sikh beliefs? Sikhism originated from a 15th century teacher named Guru Nanak Dev as a reform movement. He rejected the Hindu caste system, taught that all people were equal and that all have equal access to God. Sikhs worship only one God who is formless and preexisted but permeates all of creation, and is worshipped in various forms. Like Hindus, Sikhs believe in reincarnation and the law of karma; you reap what you sow in your previous life. Sikh teaching mandates that a person not cut his or her hair, and the men wrap their hair in distinctive turbans.

There are 600,000 Muslim Jats in India where they speak Urdu like the 14 million Muslim Jats in Pakistan. Muslim Jat people were converted to the Sunni branch of Islam hundreds of years ago. They believe that the one supreme God, Allah, spoke through his prophet, Mohammed, and taught mankind how to live a righteous life through the Koran and the Hadith. The two main holidays for Sunni Muslims are Eid al Fitr, the breaking of the monthly fast and Eid al Adha, the celebration of Abraham's willingness to sacrifice his son to Allah.



“Lord, send your workers to live out Jesus’ teachings in Sikh and Muslim Jat communities and build strong movements to Jesus as the ultimate revelation of the One True God.”

“Those who drink the water I give will never be thirsty again. It becomes a fresh, bubbling spring within them, giving them eternal life.”

-Jn. 4:14

Population: 10,556,000
Religion: Islam and Sikhism
Language: Urdu and Punjabi
Christians: Less than 0.1% *
Movement: None Reported
Written Scripture: Complete
Bible Oral Scripture: Complete
Bible Workers Needed: 212**

*Per census reports, etc. **For 1 worker per 50,000





KEYS TO OPENING OUR HEARTS to the OBCs

Give Us A New Heart

We cannot keep doing the same thing and expect a different outcome. We need to discover why these large OBC clans are not receiving the Good News - are they not hearing or not having any witnesses sent at all? As disciples of Jesus, we are called to follow Him as "workers in the harvest" - we must be guided by the Holy Spirit into fresh practices in order to overcome the daunting barriers to the Good News. Pray for the potential keys to open hearts in faith to pray these things below, and for other keys to be discovered, that will enable them to understand that Jesus is their Savior and Healer too.

**Please take a few moments to pray in a general way for the OBC clans:
"Father, may all families on Earth be blessed and moved by Your passion,
recognizing You as their ultimate source of blessing."**

JESUS MOVEMENTS:

Households of faith realize that Jesus is speaking to them and guiding them when they read the scriptures together in their own home. This leads them to encourage and disciple others to also study the Bible to receive and pass on the blessing within their communities.

Lord, pour out your Holy Spirit so that every Frontier People Group has its own Jesus movement. Raise up prayer teams to advocate for each of the largest OBCs.

TRANSFORMING COMMUNITIES:

Households of faith are increasingly able to discern and address the influences destroying their families and communities, when they grow in personal holiness, servanthood and godly wisdom.

Lord, raise up committed godly believers within OBCs, like Daniel and Joseph, to positions of influence, transforming their communities and destroying the works of the evil one.

SHARED HUMANITY:

People of all faiths are attracted to follow Jesus on the basis of our shared challenges and desires when they find that God is seeking all those who will worship Him in Spirit and in Truth (John 4). Lord, help us to see all the FPGs as our brothers and sisters, so that Your love and Your Word bring peace and love between peoples. Turn us away from a "war of religions" like You did the Samaritan woman, to finding those You are calling to worship You in Spirit and Truth.

PIONEERING WORKERS:

People can go "partner" with believers in the non-Frontier UPGs when there are churches or believers in their midst, however; that is not possible in the FPGs. Pioneering is required to establish the very first believing "households of peace" which can then disciple others in what it means to follow Jesus (Lk. 10).

"Father, please send forth pioneering laborers to OBCs and other Frontier People Groups who have no believers to partner with. Send out Your laborers to sow Your Word among these largest FPGs (Mt. 9:37-28, Lk. 10:2). Lead them to worthy households of peace that You have prepared in advance (Mt. 10, Lk. 10), that will reproduce 30-, 60- or even 100-fold (Mt. 13, Mk. 4, Lk. 8), like the good soil."



JESUS MOVEMENTS

In most FPGs, people believe following Jesus means betraying their family to join a different "Christian" people group. When early believers leave their people group, they hinder God's blessing from spreading within their families. But in God's Word we see Jesus pours out love on His followers everywhere, sending them back into their Samaritan or Gentile communities, to bring blessings and peace to those there (Jn. 4; Mk. 5:1-20). In the book of Acts, the Spirit of God spread the Good News of Jesus' resurrection and forgiveness of sins rapidly from household to household – even without printed scriptures, church buildings or salaried preachers (Acts 6:7, 9:31, 12:24, 16:5).

Movements in Acts were the way that faith in Jesus grew faster than the population, among the Jews, Samaritans and Gentile peoples. When God's Spirit sparks movements to Jesus, they transform existing communities and people groups by bringing God's blessings into families.

Defining Movements

A people group is considered to have an indigenous "movement to Jesus" when believers are rapidly winning families to the Lord. When there is a movement, groups of disciples are multiplying from household to household and the number of believers is growing faster than the overall population.

Movements to Jesus flow mostly through same-culture witness within a people group.

Why are movements necessary?

No people group in history has ever become identified with Jesus without an indigenous movement to Him taking place. Each generation of believers will die out if there is no movement to faith. The OBCs and other Frontier People Groups have never had a growing indigenous movement, even if they have had many witnesses come to tell them about Jesus for centuries.

In places like China, over 100 years of witness happened before the people realized that the



(image used with permission from Zume.training)

Creator God is their God too, and that Jesus also frees them from sin and death. Believing widows in China and Korea spread the Good News quickly from town to town. Now over 10% of the Chinese people, and 30% of the Koreans are committed to Jesus.

Frontier People Groups tend to believe that Jesus is only for foreign Christians and drive away those who follow Him. But once they see households among their own group become believers, and households of faith experience and tell of healings and blessings from Jesus, the people group begins to understand Jesus is the Savior of the whole world, including themselves (Jn. 4:42). We long for God's Kingdom to come on earth as it is in heaven! So let us pray persistently for rapidly spreading Jesus movements to bring God's promised blessing to the families of the earth. Pray especially for those people groups who have not yet had any movement to Jesus– like the OBCs and other Frontier People Groups.



Beyond CPM



ECC Train & Multiply

DAY 5—TELI (TEL-ee)



The Teli are predominantly Hindu, but there are 2 million Teli who are Muslim. The Muslim Teli are members of the Teli caste who follow Sunni Islam. They are found in India and Pakistan. Their surname is Malik or they are known as Shaikh Mansuri. Both groups are known for doing the hard job of pressing and extracting oil (tel) by hand, horse or a process now done by machine, the Teli have had to turn to farming or raising animals. Many have expanded their small oil shops into small food stores in the villages.

In some states like Bihar, they are popularly known as “Banias” (merchant class) though they are of Shudra (laborer) lineage. They are officially classified as OBC (Other Backward Class), because they own no land and are not well educated. The current Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi, is from the Ganchi caste in Gujarat, who were also traditionally groups who are forward caste.

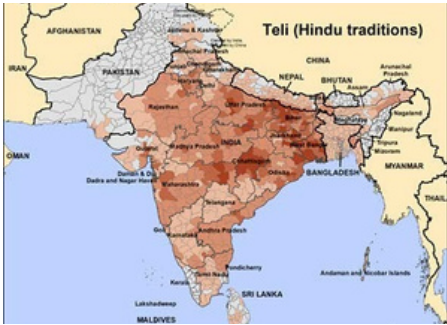
The Teli are slowly changing occupations in modern India, becoming businessmen, managers, metal workers, cart pullers, and

common laborers. They are not usually poor, but they do need better access to higher education and good job opportunities. The Teli are mainly Hindus who also worship their ancestors and seek protection from evil spirits. Their worship is transactional, making offerings to gods who they hope will fulfill their wishes.

“Lord, send believing families to bless the Teli families and make Jesus known to them. May they listen to Your Word in their shops, and share what they learn with customers.”

Population: 22,446,000
Religion: Hinduism
Language: Hindi
Christians: Less than 0.1% *
Movement: None Reported
Written Scripture: Complete
Bible Oral Scripture: Complete
Bible Workers Needed: 449 **
*Per census reports, etc. **For 1 worker per 50,000

“Those who drink the water I give will never be thirsty again. It becomes a fresh, bubbling spring within them, giving them eternal life.”
-Jn. 4:14





DAY 6—KURMI (koor-MEE)

The Kurmi are the chief agricultural farmers in north India, especially throughout the southeastern regions of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. Their name may have come from “krishmi” which means “ploughman.” They are known for doing great work at tilling the land and getting it ready to plant grains. Although highly regarded for their agricultural skills and hard work, most often they are not the land owners. There is a proverb, if you see a field flourishing better than the surrounding fields it will surely be a Kurmi field!

Due to their history of labor without land ownership, the Kurmi are categorized as Other Backward Class (OBC). This political status provides them many benefits such as quotas in government jobs and reserved seats in medical and engineering colleges. The Kurmi have made good use of these benefits, getting professional and government jobs, making many among them part of India’s growing middle class.

The Kurmi worship Hindu gods as well as deities of their family and region such as Hanuman, the monkey god. A small number of Kurmi have identified themselves as Jesus followers, but unfortunately, many Kurmi fear that “Christians” want to win their children away from their families and are therefore resistant to efforts by believers to share the blessings of Jesus with them.



Lord, bless Your Holy Scriptures to be spoken in the Kunbi homes and in the fields where they work. Open their hearts to understand that Jesus is speaking to them through His word, to give them a future and a hope.

“Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.”

-Mt. 11:28-29

Population: 22,664,000

Religion: Hinduism

Language: Hindi

Christians: Less than 0.1% *

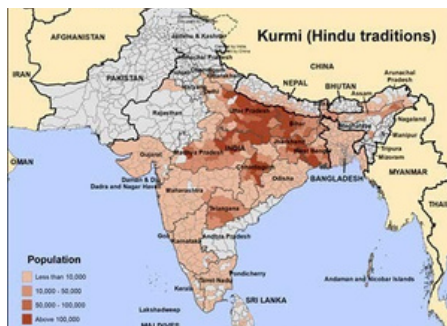
Movement: None Reported

Written Scripture: Complete

Bible Oral Scripture: Complete

Bible Workers Needed: 453 **

*Per census reports, etc. **For 1 worker per 50,000



DAY 7—KUNBI (koon-BEE)



The Kunbi name means farmer, derived from “kun” and “bi,” meaning “people” and “seeds,” which is the main occupation of this people group. They speak many different languages, but they also speak their own language called Konkani. They work in rice cultivation and the women have a traditional red sari that showcases a rice design and pattern. Other family names that fall under this cluster are the Dhonoje, Ghatole, Masaram, Hindre, Jadav, Jhare, Khaire, Lewa (Leva Patil), Lonare and Tirole communities of Vidarbha.

They are hard workers who live a simple life. From the Shudra (laborers) lineage, most of them are classified as OBC (Other Backward Class) across the states of western and central India. They account for around a third of the people in Maharashtra, where 7 million Kunbi speak Mar-

atha. Many efforts have been made to improve the social and economic status of the Kunbi. They are increasingly making use of the government educational opportunities available to them as OBC. Some families in Kunbi villages near the major metropolitan areas like Pune seek affordable English-medium schooling for their children; admission to Christian-run schools is highly esteemed.

The Kunbi fear Christianity’s many associations with Western culture, so it would be wonderful for them to meet Jesus-followers who reflect His holiness and love so they can embrace the Good News.

“Lord, bless Your Holy Scriptures to be spoken in the Kunbi homes and in the fields where they work. Open their hearts to understand that Jesus is speaking to them through His word, to give them a future and a hope.”

Population: 15,725,000

Religion: Hinduism

Language: Gujarati

Christians: Less than 0.1% *

Movement: None Reported

Written Scripture: Complete

Bible Oral Scripture: Complete

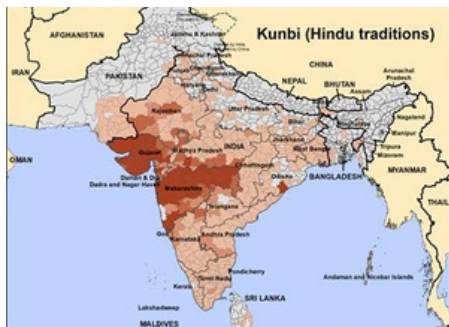
Bible Workers Needed: 315 **

*Per census reports, etc. **For 1 worker per 50,000



“Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.”

-Mt. 11:28-29





DAY 8—KUMHAR (koom-HAR)

The Kumhar are tied to ancient Indian culture by creating clay idols, artwork, and pottery for daily use. Their name in Sanskrit means "maker of pots" and some go by the name of the Hindu supreme Creator God, Vishwakarma. Known for their hard work, the Kumhar are a large caste group of Shudra (laborers) that includes many different clans. They are usually classified as Other Backward Class (OBC) though some places classify them as Scheduled Caste (Dalit/out-caste) status. Like most Indian peoples, the Kumhar are primarily Hindu, worshipping Shiva in addition to a number of local deities, though 300,000+ are Sikh and speak Punjabi. Four million Muslim Kumhar people live in Pakistan.

With the decreasing demand for clay containers and dishes, it has become much more difficult for the Kumhar to earn enough money to survive. If they cannot find other work,

they become more dependent on producing clay idols which tends to be only seasonal work. Education is a challenge for the Kumhar since many of them lead nomadic lives. Children often quit school after a few years to help their parents earn a living working the pottery wheel. Additionally, the Kumhar frequently lack access to modern medicine and clean water.



“Lord, show the Kumhar that you are the best potter, lovingly planning and shaping our lives. Reveal Your Power as stronger than any idol created by human hands and bring healing, health and wholeness to their families.”

“For God, who said, ‘Let light shine out of darkness,’ made His light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ. But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us.”

-2 Cor. 4:6-7



Population: 18,743,000

Religion: Hinduism

Language: Hindi

Christians: Less than 0.1% *

Movement: None Reported

Written Scripture: Complete

Bible Oral Scripture: Complete

Bible Workers Needed: 375 **

*Per census reports, etc. **For 1 worker per 50,000



BIBLE ACCESS & LITERACY



Pray for Bible Access: Hearing God Speak

Having scriptures is crucial: Scripture is the authority for believers in every gospel movement. Even in non-literate cultures, where it is shared through audio recordings or oral storytelling, it is crucial for guiding believers in obedience and doctrine. Great progress has been made in scripture translation—over 90% of the world's population have at least the New Testament available to them! Among the OBCs in this prayer guide, all have the NT in an "official school language" they can read if they have been educated into their adult years, and most have the complete Scriptures.

However, due to outdated translations, speaking a significantly different dialect, low levels of literacy, and poor distribution of bible resources, most of the population of these OBCs don't actually have access to Scripture in a way they can understand for heart transformation. Some of these OBCs have a complete oral Bible in their primary language or mother tongue! For oral communicators, oral Scriptures in a heart language is central to understanding of the Gospel. Even poor families in India now have cell phones and can listen to audio bibles if they know how to access them.

And now, with most of the translation work done, doors can open for other resources to be created in their languages, such as films and videos. For each of the FPGs we have included whether that group has written and oral Scriptures. And for a complete list of Bible translations and resources go to: joshuaproject.net/languages/prs#resources or find.bible/languages/.

Pray for modern translations, audio and oral Bibles and other resources to be completed, particularly among peoples who are non-literate or oral communicators within each of the OBCs. Pray for God's Word and other resources to be made known and acquired by those seeking them. Pray for each person to find the Word of God in their own heart language and to understand and apply it.
(2 Th. 3:1; Eph. 4:16).

Literacy: A Bridge to Hope

The benefits of literacy are many: Literacy creates opportunities to learn and develop skills that will help people provide for their family, and bring social and economic development to their community. It can benefit health, significantly decrease infant mortality rates and help people gain access to education and government programs. Whole communities can be raised out of poverty by becoming literate in their own language and/or trade languages. And last, but not least, it enables people to read the scriptures.

Great progress has been made: in 1820 only 12% of the world's people could read, and now the percentage has risen to 86%. Yet, the poorest people are often the least educated and least literate. Over 75% of the world's 781 million illiterate adults live in South Asia, West Asia, and sub-Saharan Africa and most are women. With few written things in their language, even those who can read often don't read well.

Blessing families with literacy: Adult literacy is low in many of the largest FPGs, and could be a way to bless families. Training in how to train adults quickly to read their own language is available with primers for all the languages of the 31 largest FPGs at literacyevangelism.org. These primers can also help expat workers learn to read the languages they are learning in OBCs.

Pray for many workers to gain the vision of using adult literacy training as a bridge into FPGs. Pray for local believers to be trained to teach literacy to their own people. Pray for many families to be blessed as the mothers and fathers, and other family members, learn to read the scriptures.



BLESSING FAMILIES

Blessing Families: Fulfilling God's Covenant

In Gen. 12:3b, God wrote: "In you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." Since creating Adam and Eve, giving the Abrahamic Covenant, and up to today, God hasn't changed His global plan to redeem the families of the earth. For thousands of years He has remembered and fulfilled His covenant of love and blessings both into AND through extended families. And His loving kindness is new every morning. This is how we know what True Love is, by looking at the God who truly is Love. Jesus said that loving God and those near us sums up all the law and the prophets.

Love sounds so beautiful... until life hits with what it actually requires! Love always involves pain and sacrifice. His love for us sent Jesus to the cross. For His love to thrive within our own family, unending sacrifice is required for us too, as well as daily repentance, forgiveness and choosing grace when those nearest to us don't deserve it! We all fail at times, even when we have Jesus empowering us. In the caste system it is hard for people to love those in castes above them, who have treated them poorly for centuries, or in castes below them, when they fear being polluted by them.

Think about how difficult love and forgiveness is for new Jesus followers in an OBC group, with no history of Jesus' sacrificial example! OBC families can easily mistake a new believer's faith as a betrayal of their heritage. Jesus movements wither when new believers neglect their families. The Apostle Paul said that a healthy family was required for anyone given ministry responsibilities.

So, as we "beg the Lord of the harvest to send workers" with His great Good News to our future brothers and sisters in OBCs, ask God to fill them with His deep love for whole families, not just individuals. Pray that "Jesus families" will thrive and multiply into healing movements, growing like a mustard seed until His love rules over their community and beyond. God's plan is still the same!

The Promise of God to the Families of the Earth:

God promised Abraham twice (Gen 12:3, 18:18) that all the family-lines of the earth would be blessed through Abraham's seed, Jesus. God then confirmed this promise with the oath "I swear by myself," declares the Lord, "... through your offspring all ethne (families or people groups) on earth will be blessed...." (Gen 22:16-18).

The Old Testament repeatedly refers back to this promise: ALL ethne¹ will be blessed through him and they will call Him blessed (Ps 72:17)... the ethne will invoke blessings by Him and in Him they will boast (Jer 4:2).

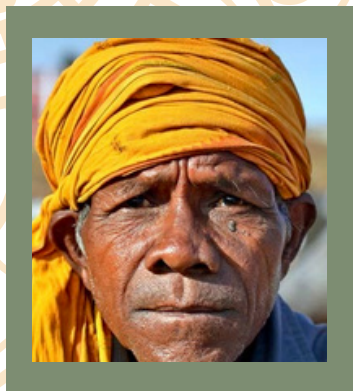
Paul identifies this promise of God as the gospel itself! Scripture foresaw that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, and announced the gospel in advance to Abraham: "All ethne will be blessed through you" (Gal 3:8). I do not want you to be ignorant of this mystery... Israel has experienced a hardening in part until the full number of ethne has come in (Rom 11:25). Paul applies this: It has always been my ambition to preach the gospel where Christ was not known, so that I would not be building on someone else's foundation (Rom 15:20).

Jesus relates His mission, and even His daily presence with us, to this purpose: All authority.. Has been given to Me. Therefore go and disciple all ethne... And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age (Mt 28:18-20)... And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all ethne, and the end will come (Mt 24:14).

Finally John foretells the fulfillment: with Your blood You purchased for God persons from every tribe, language, people and ethne (Rev 5:9)... a great multitude... from every ethne, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the lamb... (Rev 7:9)... All ethne will come and worship before You... (Rev 15:4). On each side of the river stood the tree of life... And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the ethne (Rev 22:2).

¹ The word "nations" in the New Testament is mostly Greek ethne - people groups that resist outside influence and maintain their distinct lineage through intermarriage and shared customs. The Septuagint (LXX) - the earliest Greek translation of the Old Testament - uses the same word ethne 700 times, including the promise of Genesis.

DAY 9—MALI (MAH-lee)



The Mali (meaning “gardener”) is a caste of horticulturalists known for growing vegetables, flowers, and small crops of spices. In terms of caste, they rank below grain farmers despite both groups being Shudra (laborers) and classified as Other Backward Class (OBC). Many Malis live in towns and keep their gardens and farms on the using irrigation to grow cash crops such as sugar cane and have established hundreds of farmer-owned sugar mills throughout India. However, seasonal workers on sugarcane plantations are often treated very poorly and suffer health problems due to pesticide exposure.

The great 19th century Indian social reformer, Mahatma Jotirao Phule was Mali. Influenced by his education at a Scottish mission school and the examples of Thomas Paine and Abraham Lincoln, Phule led a movement to emancipate all the “lower” castes. In 1848, Mahatma and his wife Savitribai, were the first non-missionary Indians to launch

schools for girls and Dalits. The vast majority of Mali are Hindu, though some are Muslim. Devi is their principal deity; she is a goddess that incites fear among her followers and requires appeasement through offerings and animal sacrifices. Ancestor worship is also practiced and, like most Hindus, astrology is important to them.

“Lord, send believing families willing to live among the Mali and show them Your love. Help the Mali hear Your parables about gardening and growing and bless their crops and the work of their hands for Your Glory.”

Population: 12,552,000

Religion: Hinduism

Language: Hindi

Christians: Less than 0.1% *

Movement: None Reported

Written Scripture: Complete

Bible Oral Scripture: Complete

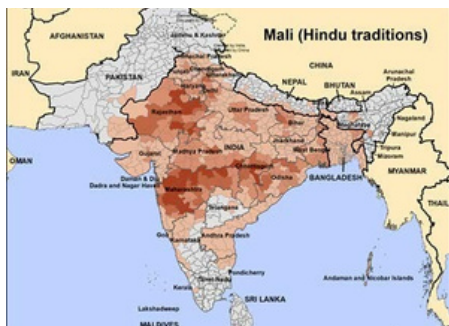
Bible Workers Needed: 251 **

*Per census reports, etc. **For 1 worker per 50,000



“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought the field.”

-Mt. 13:44





DAY 11–NAI/HAJAM

The Hindu Nai people are located throughout India. Historically, they are barbers – cutting hair and nails. Their skills also include minor medical services like extracting teeth, blood-letting and bone-setting. Because working with body fluids is considered “polluting,” they are classified as Other Backward Class (OBC) or even Scheduled Castes (Dalits or outcastes). Nai go to people’s homes to do their job, so the barber plays an important role in village life, spreading news and matchmaking. Some castes even assign a special role to the barber in their domestic rituals.

The Hajams or Hajjams are also known as the Nai Muslims (2 million) or Turuk Navid in India. The Hajam remains a respected caste of hair-cutters (hajamat). In some areas the Hajams are the owners of barber shops and salons. In the Muslim community they can often be an active part of the community as hair-trimming for major family events like weddings and funerals can involve them. Even minor ritual surgeries like cir-

cumcision can be conducted by some Hajam. Though they are Sunni Muslims, married women will often be distinguished by a nose-stud and the “bindi” dot on the forehead. In modern India, castes are being disrupted as large-scale occupational changes are taking place. Currently, many of the Nai children stop attending school after a few years to help their parents earn a living, so the literacy rate is low among the Nai people.



“Lord, bless Your Holy Scriptures in their language to spread through their homes and communities. Lord, send people to teach literacy to the adults and working teens and give access to easy modern Hindi translations.”

“Thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumphal procession in Christ and through us spreads everywhere the fragrance of the knowledge of Him. For we are to God the aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing.”

–2 Cor. 2:14



Population: 14,140,000

Religion: Hinduism

Language: Hindi

Christians: Less than 0.1% *

Movement: None Reported

Written Scripture: Complete

Bible Oral Scripture: Complete

Bible Workers Needed: 283 **

*Per census reports, etc. **For 1 worker per 50,000



DAY 12—ANSARI (an-SAH-ree)



Most Ansaris still live in villages like their ancestors did. The name Ansari (“helpers”) was given to the residents of Medina who helped the prophet Mohammed. After waves of migrations from the Middle East, the name was adopted by people groups becoming Muslims on the Indian subcontinent.

They have traditionally been weavers and textile sellers, but are now involved in a wide range of small businesses, agriculture and even politics. One Ansari family helped to found the Muslim Jamia Milia Islamia University in Delhi and has tried to stand up for rights of Muslims in the increasingly Hindu environment in India. Other Ansari remain poor, illiterate and could benefit from help in educating their children, learning new jobs skills, and obtaining access to clean water and electricity. Many Ansari now live in cities.

The Ansari people are Sunni Muslims with a mix of folk religion. Because the Ansari are friendly and hospitable, believers can develop friendships and find opportunities to share the Good News.

In recent years, teams of believers have begun work in north India among the Ansari and some families have come to know Jesus!

“Lord, raise up Ansari leaders to study Your Word so they would understand their destiny in Jesus. May Your Spirit give power to spread God’s blessing of salvation and grace from household to household.”

Population: 12,713,000

Religion: Islam

Language: Urdu

Christians: Less than 0.1% *

Movement: None Reported

Written Scripture: Complete

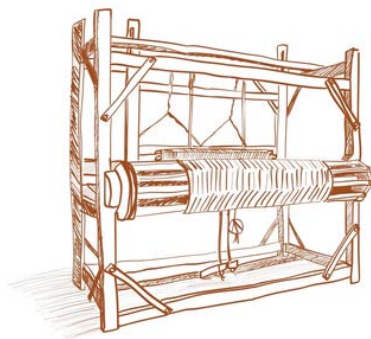
Bible Oral Scripture: Complete

Bible Workers Needed: 254 **

*Per census reports, etc. **For 1 worker per 50,000



“I am the resurrection and the life.
He who believes in Me will live,
even though he dies; and whoever
lives and believes in Me will
never die.”
-Jn. 11:25-26





DAY 13—LOHAR (LO-har)

Lohar means “ironworker.” There are more than 11 million Hindu Lohar people in India, as well as Muslim and Sikh Lohar groups. Traditionally, the Lohar people of India were nomadic metal-smiths who traveled around to sell their goods. Formerly high-caste weapon makers of the Mewar Kingdom in India, they became poor nomads when the kingdom fell in 1568. Most Lohar live in the Indian state of Uttar Pradesh. The Lohar see themselves as descendants of the god Vishwakarma, whom they worship. Many Hindu Lohar people live in the Indian state of Rajasthan and speak Hindi.

Lohar people lead difficult lives, living in extreme poverty, because most people prefer to buy metal goods from stores and factories, not handmade items, which are more expensive and are of poorer quality. Although their trade is not “unclean” like that of outcaste groups, it is hard for them to break into the modern workforce in new trades. Many Lohar cannot read or write because of the nomadic lifestyle they lead so few have attended school. Also, due

to stereotypes about nomads, such as the idea that they are all thieves or corrupt, because of the Hindu caste system in India, they are despised even though they generally work up to 14 hours a day.



“Lord, bless the Lohar and send Your love to their families and communities through believers who can help them with their economic problems. May Jesus make them a light to many others.”

“I will refine them like silver and test them like gold. They will call on My name and I will answer them; I will say, ‘They are My people,’ and they will say, ‘The LORD is our God.’”

-Zech. 13:9



Population: 10,857,000

Religion: Hinduism

Language: Hindi

Christians: Less than 0.01% *

Movement: None Reported

Written Scriptures: Complete

Bible Oral Scriptures: Complete

Workers Needed: 217 **

*Per census reports, etc. **For 1 worker per 50,000



PRAY FOR HINDUS



Almost half of the people living in FPGs are Hindus, living in or originating from India.

What do Hindus believe?

Hindus have hundreds of ancient religious books and many, many gods, so the term Hindu does not specify a particular theology, practice, or deity. The Hindus sometimes like to joke that India has as many gods as people, but the actual number varies depending on who you ask. People groups with different languages and cultures which share the Vedic traditions are considered Hindus. Their worldview includes reincarnation and accepting suffering in this life as justly deserved for not living holy lives nor fulfilling one's duties in previous lives.

Like most people, they are seeking to know the path of truth and the meaning of life. They want healthy lives for their families today. Spiritual cleanliness, as well as avoiding spiritual pollution and shame, are very important to them, and unclean food or people can pollute them.

Pray that God will show them spiritual purification of the heart is a free gift in Jesus. May they know God's personal love and acceptance through witnesses He sends to them.

What do Hindus know about Jesus?

Hindu peoples have been taught positive things about Jesus, but think of him as only the god of the Christians. Affirming all religions, they resist the universal and exclusive doctrinal claims about Jesus. However, they are attracted to His holiness and wisdom. Most confuse surrendering to Jesus with participating in Western church traditions. But in seeking a pure life, many want to learn what Proverbs, Psalms and the teachings of Jesus say about how to live in wisdom and truth. Women, in particular, seek what is best for their family in the future.

Pray that Jesus would reveal Himself to Hindus as the true living God able to guide and heal them. Pray that God will send people to love and pray for their families and to share with them the Words of Life, not an alternative religion. Pray for the many men and women seeking to worship God in Spirit and Truth, who will share this message from Jesus with joy to their families and whole communities!

What else can we pray for Hindus?

People groups among Hindus are divided by long-standing caste divisions, but a few caste groups in India have vibrant movements to Jesus where people can see that He is not foreign but The Way for them.

Pray for many families to follow Jesus and for leaders of new movements to rise up from these believing families that will cross caste or religious boundaries.

Pray for deliverance: The Hindu peoples go on pilgrimages and do many rituals seeking deliverance from their spiritual and earthly problems. For example, the Kumbh Mela Pilgrimage in India is believed to be the largest religious gathering on the planet. In 2019 about 200 million people attended—50 million on one day—bathing in the river to gain purity, blessings, and immortality.

Pray that they will understand that God freely gives them the purity and deliverance they long for through Jesus' sacrifice. Pray that huge movements of people finding purity and blessing through Jesus will spread throughout the land.



PRAY FOR MUSLIMS

Over half of the people living in FPGs are Muslims, living in Muslim majority countries or South Asia.

What do Muslims believe?

Muslims believe there is only one God, the God of Abraham, whom they call Allah, just like millions of Arabic-speaking Christians have for 2000 years. Allah is the Arabic name for God used in most Arabic bibles, ancient and current. Many devout Muslims, even misguided terrorists, want above all to obey and please God. The Qur'an affirms the books of Moses (Taurat), David (Zabur), the Prophets (writings), and Jesus (Injil), and praises those who obey them (contrary to Muslim narratives today).

Pray that the Muslims will have access to and read the Holy Scriptures in their own languages, and they will hear God speaking to them through His Word.

What do Muslims know about Jesus?

The Holy Book of Islam, the Qur'an, is in classical Arabic and speaks highly of Jesus (Isa) by referring to Him as having God's Spirit and confirming his virgin birth. The Qur'an honors Isa as the "Messiah" and the "Word of God". Jesus (named Isa) is affirmed as a prophet and His disciples as true Muslims (meaning those submitted to God).

Some Muslims have come to faith in Jesus through reading the Qur'an which warns that we will all rise to be judged on the Last Day, and that the true followers of Jesus will be blessed. Muslims have met Jesus in dreams and visions, or through reading the Holy Scriptures. But they are all highly offended by the idea that Jesus is called "Son of God" which to them means that God had sex with a woman.

Pray for God to answer the desire of their hearts to be righteous before Him and for God's Spirit to reveal to them that Jesus is The Way to have peace with God.

What else can we pray for Muslims?

The Muslim greeting, "Assalamu alaikum," means "Peace be upon you." Pray for peace: Islam started in Arabia in the 600's during a time of great controversies between Christian groups.

There are many different sects in Islam, too. The two largest historical divisions, the Sunni Muslims and the Shi'a Muslims, are often enemies. The Sunnis followed political leaders after the death of the Prophet Mohammed and the Shi'a Muslims followed Mohammed's relatives. Shi'a Muslims are mostly in Iran and India, while Sunni sects are the majority worldwide.

Some reform movements in Islam are trying to move Muslims away from war and terrorism to faith in and obedience to God, like the Tablighi Jamaat—an itinerant preachers movement which spread to 150 countries and some 80 million people in the last 100 years.

Pray for Muslim reformers to encounter the love of Jesus, and that He would bring peace between Muslim sects as well as between Christians, Muslims and Jews. Pray that many witnesses would love them and be welcomed into Muslim families to share God's peace with them (Lk. 10).

DAY 13–KOIRI (ko-EE-ree)



The Koiri and Kachhi are also known as the Kushwaha. Both groups have a shared history of being farmers. The Kachhi and Koiri have traditionally grown wheat, gram and lentils. The two groups also share some overlap in how they define their ancestry with a few differences. The Koiri believe they are the descendants of Kush, one of the twin sons of lord Rama. However the Kachhi in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Delhi also claim ancestry in Kush, while the Kachhi in Uttar Pradesh, say they are the descendants of King Ikshavaku from the south of Nepal. Both groups receive the services of a Brahmin priest, who officiates over their life-cycle rituals and religious ceremonies.

Economically speaking, the Koiri and the Kachhi have their main resource as their land due to their agrarian lifestyle. However, in regions like Delhi the farmers have left farming and are mostly small business owners. Their industries

range from selling vegetables, book binding, manufacturing plastic toys or electrical parts. Some have made careers in the government or in private sector roles such as medicine or engineering. Education is given to both male and female Kachhi; however continued study is not encouraged for women. In states where their numbers are highest, literacy levels are also quite low. The diet is traditionally vegetarian (which reflects both their Hindu background and agrarian lifestyle).

“Lord, awaken the interest of the Koiri in your Word that they may listen to it on their phones. Send believers among them to reveal your great love for their families.”

Population: 15,218,000

Religion: Hinduism

Language: Hindi

Christians: Less than 0.01% *

Movement: None Reported

Written Scriptures: Complete

Bible Oral Scriptures: Complete

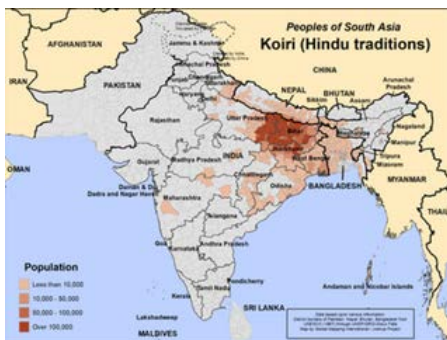
Workers Needed: 304 **

*Per census reports, etc. **For 1 worker per 50,000



Blessed are they “who meditate on the law of the LORD day and night.

They are like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither—whatever they do prospers.” -Ps. 1:2-3





DAY 14—PINJARA (PIN-juh-ruh)

The Pinjara derive their name from the term pinjara meaning 'cage,' in reference to the cover they used on their looms to weave cotton. They are also known in India as Shaikh Mansoori or Rangadis in Gujarat and Maharashtra, where the name Pinjara is no longer used. They believe they are the descendants of the Sufi saint, Khwaja Mansoor Al Hallaj (c. 858-922). The Pinjara are descendants of either the Pashtun ethnic group from Eastern Afghanistan and Northwestern Pakistan or the Rajputs which are clans associated with warriorhood, and the word Rajput in Sanskrit means 'son of a King.'

The Pinjara's pre-industrial revolution occupation was one of cleaning and reeling cotton to make pillows, quilts or even mattresses but in the modern day the Pinjara are mostly active in business, engineering and accounting. Most likely the Muslim Pinjara (Mansoori) converted to Islam about 500 years ago. The Pinjara (also called Pinja, Penja, Bahna or Dhunia)

can today be found in India, Nepal, Pakistan and Bangladesh, with almost 4 million in India. They live in over 500 districts of India and Nepal and speak more than a dozen different languages depending on their location, but primarily Bhojpuri, Nepali, Maithili and Urdu.

Although they are well over 90% Muslim, the Pinjara can be found to keep Hindu festivals, even making vows to Hindu gods. They are sometimes looked down on religiously because of their mixture of Islam and Hinduism beliefs. Very little ministry has been focused on the Pinjara.



"Lord, bless the hearts of the Pinjara people to hunger after God, to drink of living water. Bring them into a relationship with you through Jesus, blessing them spiritually and economically."

"For you formed my inward parts;
you knitted me together in my
mother's womb. I praise you, for I
am fearfully and wonderfully
made."

-Ps. 139:13-14

Population: 3,729,000

Religion: Islam

Language: Urdu

Christians: Less than 0.00% *

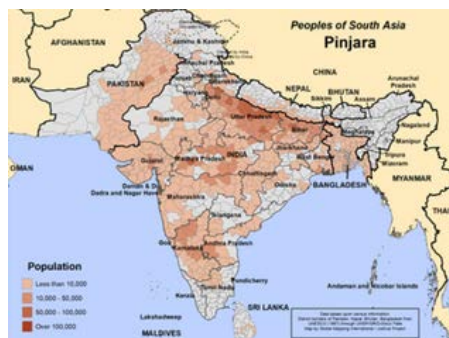
Movement: None Reported

Written Scriptures: Complete

Bible Oral Scriptures: Complete

Workers Needed: 75 **

*Per census reports, etc. **For 1 worker per 50,000



Pray for FPGs of the World



Fulfilling God's Promise: Today's Great Opportunity

Over the last 50 years, new movements to Jesus have been developed mostly in Buddhist or atheist people groups of Asia, or tribal groups with ethnic religions. These people group movements to Jesus are still considered "unreached" until at least 2 out of every 100 people (2%) are Evangelicals. All Unreached People Groups need more Christian workers. But Frontier People Groups (FPGs), those UPGs with no known movements, still need cross-cultural pioneer workers trained to disciple the first households to follow Jesus together.

Where is the greatest need today?

About 70% of the global population of Frontier People Groups (1.4 billion) live in South Asia. Half are in India alone (1 billion). For the global FPG population, 97% are either Muslim (56%) or Hindu (41%). Significantly, 80% of the population of all FPGs (1.6 billion) live in just under 300 mega - FPGs, each containing over one million people. Due to their large size and influence, these groups are especially strategic. These mega - FPGs are shown below by their geographic location and religions - almost all are Muslim and Hindus. (The world's agnostics and atheists do not appear here because they mostly live in reached people groups, where there are many Christians.)

Why are the Frontier People Groups neglected?

The vast majority of prayer, giving and laborers focuses on strengthening believers where Christians are already present. Only a small fraction goes to the FPGs (about 1%) - the quarter of the world where faith in Jesus is still unknown or considered foreign. Many Frontier People Groups live in difficult places geographically, politically or culturally. As a result they have often not heard about Jesus or Jesus has been misrepresented to them as a god of a foreign religion.

Why is praying for the OBCs especially important?

Almost half of the two billion people live in India and a significant majority, up to 80% are a part of an OBC people group.

The 300 Mega-People Groups By Region

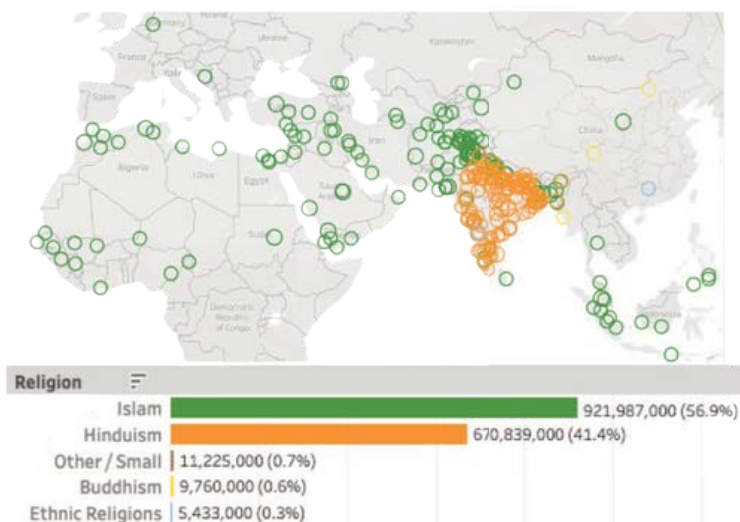


Figure 7: 300 Mega-FPGs April 2024. Used with Permission by JoshuaProject.net
JoshuaProject.net/frontier/interactive

¹ UPGs are defined by Joshua Project as "less than or equal to 2% Evangelical Christian and less than or equal to 5% Christian adherents."

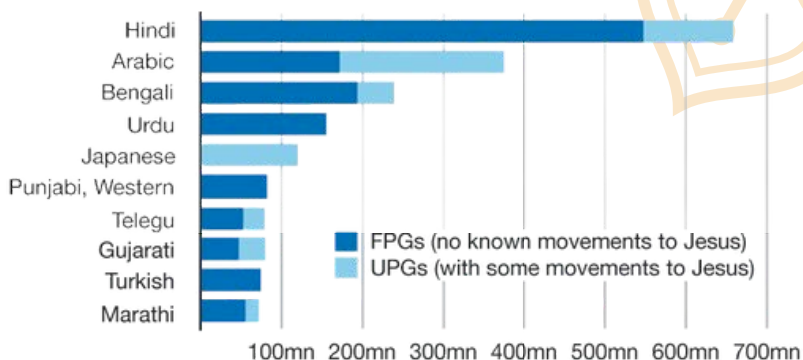


Strategies for reaching FPGs

What languages can new workers learn for greatest access to the least reached people groups of the world?

Seven of the top ten languages spoken by FPGs and other UPGs are South Asian languages. Furthermore, Hindi and Urdu are so similar that learning either language equips the learner to work among the 700 million people who speak one of those languages.

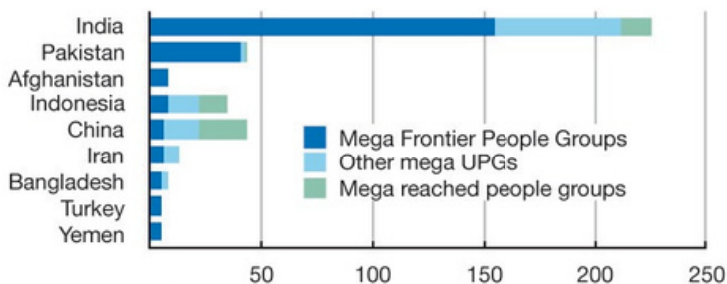
Top Heart Languages of the FPGs and UPGs



The 300 Mega-FPGs are distributed among just 40 of the world's 200 countries.

More than half of these Mega - FPGs are in India. Pakistan runs a distant second, with 41 mega - FPGs. Other countries with Mega - FPGs each have eight or less. This tells us where more pioneer workers are most needed.

Countries with 5 or more Mega-FPGs
(mega = over 1 million people)



HELPFUL DEFINITIONS



The world is divided into political countries, but the Bible shows that God sees the world as many families and people groups speaking different languages, with different histories. India, for example, is one political COUNTRY but it has over 3,000 different people groups (ethne.) These people groups each have their own special identity, languages, cultural traditions, marry within their group and resist outside influences. To reach all these people groups, researchers and strategists have developed the following terminology to help identify where the need for additional laborers and resources is greatest.

People Group or Nation (ethne):

A family line seeking to preserve its generational identity (shared history and ancestry, like the people or nation of Israel in the Bible). To preserve this identity, nations maintain their traditions, intermarry, and resist outside influences (often, including the gospel). In urban areas ethnic identities are sometimes replaced by affinity groups, as people still need a group to belong to and be identified with, but such groups are not as strong or enduring as blood lineages.

Frontier People Groups (FPGs):

A Frontier People Group (FPG) is a UPG with virtually no followers of Jesus and NO known movements, still needing pioneer cross-cultural workers. For data purposes, FPGs are approximated as groups with 0.1% or fewer Christian Adherents and no confirmed, sustained movements to Jesus. 60% of the UPGs still fall into this least-reached FPG category, though some have had gospel witnesses for many years. Most people in FPGs will never meet someone from their own people group who knows Jesus. The gospel needs to be implanted in families so God's blessing in Jesus can multiply throughout the group.

Unreached People Groups (UPGs):

UPGs are no more than 5% Christian of any kind and no more than 2% Evangelical (2 out of every 100 people), so the message of Jesus is not widely known and has little impact on the people group. However, many of these groups now have movements to Jesus underway. In the 40% of UPGs that aren't FPGs it is possible to partner with national believers.

Unengaged Unreached People Groups (UUPGs):

"Unengaged" people groups are UPGs or FPGs with no known laborers among them seeking to start Jesus movements. This metric of effort is independent of the FPG metric of response.

Reached People Groups:

Reached groups have enough believers living among them that people know about Jesus and can choose to follow Him. They have Bibles they can read and communities of believers that can reach out to them who speak their own language. They have more than two evangelicals for every 100 people (2%), or at least 5% who identify as Christian.

Evangelicals:

Researchers count these by denominational adherence to Biblical faith. This guide uses published figures for Evangelicals, Charismatics and Pentecostals to estimate a global count for Spirit-led Christ-followers—who want others to share the blessing they enjoy, of a loving relationship with God based on faith in Jesus.

Jesus Movement:

Disciples making disciples, multiplying rapidly through households and other existing relational networks, powered by the Holy Spirit.

Pioneer Workers:

When there are no known believers, pioneer workers seek to establish the first "household of peace" (Lk. 10) or first community of believing households within an FPG so that others can see that they can also follow Christ without betraying their people.



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

1. Learn and Share



7-min video: *Understanding the Remaining Mission Task*
JoshuaProject.net/frontier#videos
(in multiple languages at this link)



Frontier People Groups
JoshuaProject.net/frontier



31 Largest FPGs monthly prayer guide
(listen/read/pray/share)
TelosFellowship.org/go31



Attend or host a **Perspectives class**
(in any of 9 global languages)
PerspectivesGlobal.org



A global **network** pursuing movements
among UUPGs
UnengagedPeoples.com



2. Adopt a Frontier People Group for Prayer

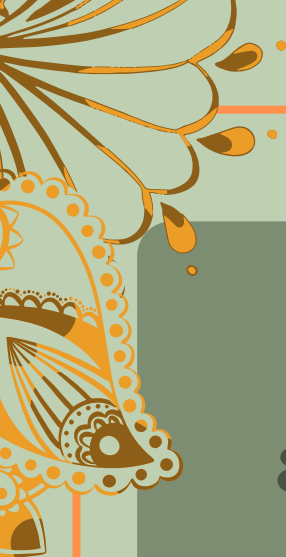


Interactive Map
JoshuaProject.net/frontier/interactive



Connect around your FPG adoption
Go31.org/pray





14 DAYS OF PRAYER for 850 MILLION PEOPLE

Blessing the OBCs of India

