Dear Praying Friends,

Global Prayer Digest readers are starting a 13-month prayer effort on May 1st! Spearheaded by Becky Lewis, the daughter of Ralph and Roberta Winter, we will begin praying for the largest and most spiritually neglected people groups in the world. We will call them the Frontier People Groups, or FPGs for short. We are working with the Ethne to Ethne (a global network concentrating on church planting movements among the least-reached clusters of peoples) and the Joshua Project (a research initiative seeking to highlight the ethnic people groups of the world), and other networks. Learn more about another version of this prayer guide at http://Go31.org, and learn about Frontier Peoples in the Nov/Dec 2018

This guide and issue of *Mission Frontiers* remind me how central families are to the spread of the gospel. Too often mission efforts have won individuals to faith without considering how someone can best bring their household with them, as we see throughout the New Testament. As Westerners, we forget that individuals making independent decisions in group-oriented cultures can be seen as rebellious and hinder others from considering the gospel! That is why the great missiologist Donald McGavran urged missionaries to seek to baptize whole families rather than individuals. After all, God's promise to Abraham is to bless every family line, right?

issue of Mission Frontiers (http://MissionFrontiers.org).

Kuth Carry

In Christ,

Keith Carey, editor-in-chief, GPD

To download copies of a prayer guide for these same 31 peoples, go to: https://joshuaproject.net/assets/media/handouts/the31.pdf

Dowload the *GPD* audio podcast and hear the daily prayer entries: globalprayerdigest.libsyn.com

May 2019

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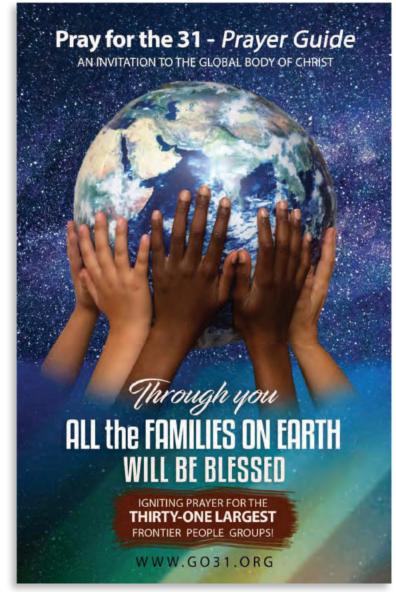
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PRAY FOR

A Disciple-Making Movement Among Every Frontier People Group



Who Are the 31 Largest Frontier People Groups in the World?

 One fourth of the world lives in secluded Frontier People Groups (FPGs) which contain less than 0.1 percent Christians of any kind. Half the population of all FPGs live in the 31 largest

BY ROBBY BUTLER



FPGs listed in this booklet. FPGs are a subgroup of Unreached People Groups (UPGs) and are less than two percent Evangelical and less than five percent Christian of all kinds.

Why are Movements Necessary Among FPGs?

• Frontier People Groups perceive Christianity as a foreign influence that threatens to tear apart their families and communities. Traditional church planting and witnessing to individuals within FPGs reinforces these fears. They are only reached through Jesus movements, which bring God's blessings to heal and strengthen families and communities.

How Neglected are Frontier People Groups?

 The vast majority of mission prayer, the giving and laboring, focuses on strengthening Christians where Christians are already present. In fact, 29 out of 30 missionaries currently go where the church already exists. Only a tiny fraction of mission prayer and other resources go to UPGs at all, and only a tiny fraction of this goes to FPGs—the quarter of the world where faith in Jesus is still totally foreign.

Why Pray for These 31 Largest Frontier People Groups?

• As God answers our prayers for movements in which the families of these Frontier People Groups receive God's blessing in Jesus, they will in turn influence many smaller FPGs to welcome God's saving grace.

Where Can I Learn More?

Joshua Project (Joshua Project.net) is a collaborative research hub, helping to define the unfinished portion of the great commission by highlighting the least-reached people groups of the world.

How Can I Get Involved?

- You can form a team to adopt (pray consistently for) one of the 31 Frontier People Groups, or one of the other 365 larger FPGs. Ask God to make this people group your inheritance (Ps 2) and follow his lead in working with others to see movements multiplying God's blessing among the families and communities of your adopted FPG.
- Apply at Inherit the Nations to be connected with a field team of your people group: Inherit The Nations.net

Can My Prayers make a Difference?

- Just as prayer preceded Pentecost, most mission breakthroughs throughout history have resulted from prevalent prayer in the power of the Holy Spirit.
- Robert Glover summarizes the role of prayer in the history of missions:
 From Pentecost and the Apostle Paul, right down through the centuries
 to the present day, the story of mission has been the story of answered
 prayer. Every fresh outbreak of missionary energy has been the result of
 believing prayer. Every new missionary undertaking that has been owned
 and blessed of God has been the germinating of seed planted by the
 divine spirit in the hearts of praying saints.
- In Ps 2:8, the Lord invites us: "Ask of me and I will make the peoples your inheritance and the ends of the earth your possession." All we can take with us into eternity as our inheritance is other people, who become part of his eternal family. Our joy and crown, just as for the great Apostle Paul, will be those who come to Christ through our efforts.
- One of the most strategic things we can do to advance God's Kingdom on earth is to persistently pray for the Frontier People Groups (FPGs)

continued on next page

that have no movements to Christ yet, and no breakthrough of God's blessing for their families. We urge you to form a prayer team to "adopt" one or more of these 31 larger Frontier People Groups.

Pray for all UPGs and Frontier People Groups globally:

- Pray for God to pour out his Holy Spirit on every unreached people group and ask to have a movement to Christ by 2025. Pray that he will raise up many prayer teams to "adopt" each of these 31 larger FPGs, praying until the blessing of knowing Jesus is spreading rapidly from family to family (Ps 2:8, James 4:2b).
- Pray that God will cause the revelation of his love and his word to run swiftly across the earth until he is honored and worshiped by all peoples, including oral and Bibleless peoples. Pray that he will exalt his word among every people through Bible translation and orality movements by 2025 (2 Th 3:1; Eph 4:16).

Pray For Teams Adopting Specific Larger FPGs:

- Pray for God to bring forth his blessing—strengthening and healing families and communities within your adopted people group. Ask God to cause his abundant life and love through Jesus to be widely embraced by the families and clans of your group (Gen 12:5, 28:14; Acts 3:25, 10:43).
- Pray that God will overthrow the spiritual forces of darkness that oppose the spread of his gospel and send his people to bless and overcome suffering and evil in his name.
- Pray for God to pour out his blessing on the religious and secular leaders of your adopted Frontier People Group. Ask him to bless the families of these leaders and inspire whole communities to welcome salvation through faith in Jesus (I Tim 2:1-5).
- Pray for the Holy Spirit to lead the people of your adopted Frontier People Group to love his word and spread its influence.
- Pray for God to pour out his Holy Spirit in anointing the families of your adopted Frontier People Group. Beg God to raise up and send out a new generation of fruitful, multiplying witnesses within your adopted people group (Mt 9:37–38, Lk 10:2).

The Importance of God's Word

- In every movement the Bible is the central authority for believers and churches. Even in non-literate cultures where the Bible is shared through oral storytelling, the Bible guides doctrine and practice.
- Faith comes by hearing God's word; transformation comes in applying it through obedience. Every person has the right to have the word of God in their own heart language, in a form they can understand and apply.
- God's word was conveyed orally before it was committed to writing. Jesus used stories in his teaching.
- The 31 FPGs are primarily oral communicators. For such peoples, oral scripture in the heart language is essential for the gospel to be fully heard, understood, and received, and for heart transformation to occur.

Scripture Availability among the 31 Largest FPGs

- Six People Groups have NO Oral Scriptures (OS) in their heart language: Arain, Jat, Pashtun, Rajput, Shaikh in Pakistan and Northern Yemeni in Yemen
- Two people groups have NO full written scripture (WS): Uyghur in China and Northern Yemeni in Yemen
- One people group—Northern Yemeni in Yemen—is without direct access to the scripture in their heart language or mother tongue: NO written scripture, NO oral scripture, NO JESUS Film.
- Pray for God's word to reach every people group in their own heart language, and to spread rapidly and be honored by all. Pray that those who receive God's word will base their lives on Jesus and his word, being obedient doers, not forgetful hearers.
- Visit: https://facebook.com/PrayForZero/ to learn more.

Other good resources:

- http://inheritthenations.net/2018/06/14/praying-for-the-12-universalsof-movements/
- https://prayerstrategists.net/about/prayer-guides/
- https://youtube/tLADjrnCuDs

LOHAR PEOPLE

MATT 5:16, NLT

In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

Pray for the Lord to raise up his chosen ambassadors to live among the Lohars and show them the light of Christ through their holy lives.



Is the furnace hot enough yet?

would vou like to do blacksmithing work over some vellowhot flames when it is 110 degrees outside? The Lohar people

in South Asia must get the coals so hot that they can melt iron so they can bend and mold it. They need to hit it very hard to make the iron bend. All the while they are breathing fumes from their work station. This is the life of the Lohar people.

Lohars can be Hindu or Muslim. A smaller number are Sikh. The Muslims are scattered all over India, and throughout the eastern half of Pakistan, especially Sindh and Punjab Provinces. The Hindus among them might worship their tools, but no self-respecting Muslim would do this. Muslim Lohars attend mosque like any other member of their faith, and officially, they put their faith in Allah and the guidance of the Qur'an, their holy book. But in daily life, they might look to spirit beings who seem more available than the one who created the universe.

Pray for the Holy Spirit to give Lohar people hearts that are far more pliable than their metal goods. Pray for a strong movement of the Holy Spirit will bring entire Muslim Lohar families into a rich experience of God's blessing. Pray for the Muslim Lohar people to understand and embrace that Jesus wants to bless their families and neighborhoods.—KC

MALI PEOPLE

7hat do you need? Vegetables to eat, grass to feed your livestock, or flowers for



a wedding? For any of these, if you live in India, you would probably do business with a member of the Mali community. The word "Mali" means "garland," and these people are well-known for their main work which is related to gardening and growing beautiful flowers. The women are especially talented in creating and selling flower garlands primarily used as presentations to Hindu gods and for weddings.

An estimated ten million Mali Hindus live throughout many regions in northern India, Bangladesh, and Nepal. In India's state of Rajasthan, some believe that the high caste Mali group originated from Rajput warrior communities. They were noted for being well-disciplined soldiers.

Though some Mali people are Muslim, the vast majority of them are Hindu. Their main Hindu god is Devi; they perform their weddings in front of her image. At times they offer animal sacrifices to Devi.

Pray that soon Mali family leaders will be so consumed with a passion for Christ the savior, that they will put aside all other gods to follow him. Pray for the Mali people to seek and find the blessings of the living God.—KC/PD

MATT 10:39, NIV

DAY

Whoever finds their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life for my sake will find it.

Pray for the Lord to raise up and send out those who will find their lives by living for the savior of all nations—Including the Mali peoples!

MOROCCAN ARABS

MATT 6:9-10, NIV

This, then, is how you should pray: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

This month pray for God's will, which is that the lost Muslims and Hindus will be led by Jesus Christ.



A Moroccan girl

There is a line between There is a thin "Arab" and Berber in the north African country of Morocco! The indigenous peoples are Berber, with their own language and culture, but the dominant people are the Arabs, who migrated there from the Arabian Peninsula soon

after the time of Mohammed. These Arabs speak a dialect that would be hard for Arabs elsewhere to understand since it is blended with the Berber languages and French. The Arab Moroccans can usually be found living in the cities where many are successful in business or other professional jobs. An important part of their identity is being Sunni Muslim. Some records indicate that the estimated Moroccan Arab followers of Christ has grown. Although the Moroccan constitution guarantees its people freedom of religion they have laws against anyone who "employs incitements to shake the faith of Islam or convert a Muslim to another religion." Breaking this law can result in imprisonment, a fine or dismissal from the country. If a Muslim decides to follow Christ the penalty is particularly harsh. For security reasons Moroccan believers can often not meet together.

Pray for Moroccan Arab believers to be encouraged by their faith in God and by their salvation. Pray for entire Moroccan families to accept Christ and follow him together. May they disciple others from a Muslim background, who will in turn disciple others until Morocco is transformed by Christ.—PD

NORTHERN YEMENI ARABS

Tn 2014, Shi'ite Houthi **⊥**rebels from Northern Yemen captured the capital city of Sanaa and began their campaign to take over the whole country. Neighboring Saudi Arabia formed a military coalition with other Sunni Muslim countries to defeat the Houthis. After three years of continuous



Northern Yemenis in traditional garb

aerial bombardment the Saudi coalition has failed to stop the rebels. What they accomplished has produced one of the most devastating man-made famines known in world history!

The bombardment of Hodeida, one of the main ports of entry for humanitarian supplies, has left some 17.8 million people at risk of starvation. Lack of clean water has resulted in an unprecedented cholera outbreak with over one million cases reported. Each day Yemeni children risk death and injury. Some of Yemen's boys are recruited to fight and their young girls are sold as child brides so the family will have money. Very few children go to school.

Pray that the Shi'ite and Sunni Muslims will finally realize that their fighting only leads to more division and suffering. Pray that they will understand that the only way to peace is by following Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace. Pray that a movement of God's blessing will flow through Yemeni families as they discuss and apply God's word.—PD

MATT 3:8, NIV

Produce fruit in keeping with repentance.

Pray that when Northern Yemenis come to faith that they will turn their lives around and show grace, mercy, and compassion to those less fortunate.

TURKS IN TURKEY

Place me like a seal over your heart, like a seal on your arm. For love is as strong as death, its jealousy as enduring as the grave. Love flashes like fire, the brightest kind of flame.

Pray that the Tajik people would seek the love of God, who is a consuming fire.

had Kabula peshi AFGHANISTAN

TAJIKS IN AFGHANISTAN

The history of Afghan Tajiks goes back to the fourth century! Tajiks have their own country, yet more of them live to the south in Afghanistan.

Those in Tajikistan were much more affected by the Russians, since Tajikistan was one of the Soviet republics for nearly 70 years. Today about one-fourth of Afghanistan's population is Tajik, and they are the second largest ethnic group in that country after the Pashtuns. Tajiks live in various parts of the Afghanistan, and they range from very poor to economically comfortable.

The Tajiks were forcibly converted to Islam during the seventh century, and today over 99 percent remain Sunni Muslim. They have internalized Islam as their own, so few would consider straying from Islam. Yet they feel it is necessary to "hedge their bets" by depending on amulets and charms to get what they need in their day-to-day lives.

Pray for the Holy Spirit to give Tajiks in Afghanistan such a spiritual hunger that they will find him no matter what it takes. Pray for workers to go to Tajik family and village leaders to tell them what Jesus can do for their communities. Pray for Tajik disciples who will make disciples, who in turn will make even more disciples.—KC

Turkey is one of the places where the Apostle Paul first planted churches, but things have changed since then! Today

97 percent of

the Turks are

Sunni Muslim.



A Turkish woman

They are becoming more hostile to the gospel that Paul preached there 2,000 years ago, especially since President Recip Tayyip Erdogan came to power. After a dubious failed coup in October 2016, Erdogan ordered the arrests of thousands, including American Pastor Andrew Brunson.

According to Open Doors, "converts from Islam, while not legally prosecuted, face social opposition, and are often forced to lead double lives to keep their faith hidden from family and community members. Christians with Muslim backgrounds are threatened with divorce and loss of inheritance rights upon conversion, and all Christians face employment discrimination." What would happen if believers made efforts to reach entire families rather than individuals? It is very possible that if families worshipped Christ together, that social pressure to remain in the Islamic religious system would be weakened.

Pray for a movement of God's blessing to flow through Turkish Muslim families discussing and applying God's Word. Pray for believers in Turkey to be strengthened in the Holy Spirit as they face persecution from many fronts.—JY

MATT 5:44-45, NIV

But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.

Pray for the Holy Spirit to do something in the hearts of Turkish believers that only he can do: give them forgiveness and love for those who persecute them.

MUSLIM UZBEK PEOPLE

HUI PEOPLE IN CHINA

08

MATT 6:33, NIV

But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

Pray that the Uzbek people will seek and find his righteousness, so that their desires will conform to God's.



An Uzbek woman

Would you like to play a game where you had to move a goat carcass to a goal? If so, you could join the Uzbek people for a friendly

game of buzkazi! The object of the game is to move the goat carcass into your goal. In some ways, the game resembles tug-of-war.

Today there is a tug a war like battle for the hearts and minds of the Uzbek people group. Islam is the majority religion of the Uzbeks, so they are like the home team in this game of buzkazi. But where is God's team in this game? So far the team representing Jesus Christ has yet to arrive!

Uzbekistan became independent in 1991 when the Soviet Union broke apart. Most Uzbeks are farmers who grow cotton, grains, and vegetables. Some Uzbeks also live in neighboring countries. There are a few believers serving the Lord in the major cities of Uzbekistan, but at this point, there are almost no efforts to reach rural Uzbek families with the blessings of Christ.

Ask God to open the hearts of the Uzbeks to the person of Jesus Christ. Pray that faithful workers will be called to serve the Uzbek people with community development projects and by teaching them the ways of Jesus.—WK

(This is a hypothetical story.)

In Western China, Kim, a Korean visitor, sat down to have dinner with Chong, his Hui friend. Chong uncovered the serving dish. "We're having mutton," he told the



A Hui man

Korean. The visitor studied the meat with great curiosity. "Are you sure that's mutton? That looks like pork to me." With a sheepish grin, Chong replied, "Don't call it pork, because good Muslims aren't supposed to eat pork. Just say it's mutton." Kim joked, "You might not be a good Muslim, but you know how to enjoy delicious food." They both laughed.

During the 1200s AD, the ancestors of the Huis arrived in China as allies of the Mongol invaders. The Hui were originally from Central Asia, and they were Muslims before they arrived in China. Over the centuries the Hui intermarried with the Chinese, and this people group now speaks Mandarin just like the Han Chinese peoples do. But the Hui remained Muslims. They usually have had good relationships with the Chinese majority. But last year the government closed down a Hui mosque in an attempt to control religion. Today there are 14 million Hui in China, and there has not yet been a spiritual breakthrough.

Ask God to open the doors for outreach in Hui communities, so that they can have the opportunity to become part of God's family and enjoy his blessings.—WK

MATT 10:7-8, NIV

As you go, proclaim this message: "The kingdom of heaven has come near." Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received; freely give.

Pray for the Kingdom of heaven to come upon the Hui people in such a way that they will live joyfully for the Lord.

UIGHURS IN CHINA

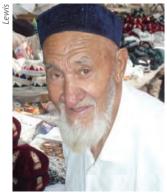
MUSLIM ANSARI PEOPLE OF INDIA

10

ROM 3:30, TPT

Since there is only one God, he will treat us all the same—he eliminates our guilt and makes us right with him by faith no matter who we are.

Pray that both old and young Uighur people will soon turn to Christ by faith—bringing God's forgiveness and blessings to Uighur families and communities.



A Uighur elder

As many as 15
million Uighurs
live in China—yet only
one in 1,000 follow
Christ. Ninety-nine
percent of them are
Sunni Muslim. In
the 9th century A.D.,
this Turkic people
group was forced out
of Central Asia into
what is today northwest

China's Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region. The World Uighur Congress estimates that another 1.0-1.6 million Uighurs live outside of China, predominantly in Central Asia.

A prominent, highly-respected Uighur leader living in the U.S. describes his people as very relational, community-oriented, and family-honoring. He also emphasizes how the Uighurs struggle for the survival of their culture, language, and religion in China due to severe and systematic oppression by the Chinese authorities. Indeed, recent reports indicate as many as one million Uighurs are imprisoned in Chinese "re-education" camps.

The Bible, the JESUS Film, and various gospel resources exist in the Uighur language. However, most of China's Uighurs live in rural, communities where the majority maintain strong Islamic values. In China's cities where there is more Chinese influence, the young Uighurs tend not to be religious.

Ask God to soften the hearts of Uighur family and religious leaders to Christ and to facilitate a gospel breakthrough. Pray for freedom from the brutal oppression of the Chinese authorities.—CR

hat if the name of your people means "one who helps", and you needed help yourself? This situation applies to the Muslim Ansari people who live in six countries includ-

ing India. If the



Ansaris are ever to receive the forgiveness of sins and the hope that can only come from knowing Jesus Christ, they will need the prayers of Christ followers like you and me!

The traditional occupation of the Ansari people has been that of weaving silk and other fabrics. Although some Ansaris have moved to the cities, most live in villages like their ancestors did. Many of the Ansaris are poor and illiterate, and they would benefit from the practical assistance that Christian workers can potentially offer. They need help in educating their children, learning new jobs skills, and in obtaining access to clean water and electricity.

Pray for believers to reach out to the Ansaris with practical help. Pray that the few Ansari believers would be effective and fruitful in sowing God's word among their families and communities. Let them fuel a movement of God's blessings of salvation that would spread from household to household. Pray for Ansari families to be increasingly drawn to seek forgiveness for their sins and to recognize the abundant provision found in the finished work of Christ.—DK

1 TIM 1:14, ESV

...and the grace of God overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.

Pray that the Muslim Ansari people of India would experience an overflowing of God's grace in their communities.

MUSLIM ARAINS IN PAKISTAN

MATT 13:45-46, NIV

Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it.

Pray for the prosperous Arain people to learn that spiritual riches are far more valuable than anything they can find on earth.





The Arain people are the **▲** largest community in Pakistan and have the greatest concentration in Punjab Province. Being of Arab descent, many of them are fairskinned. Even today, the highly urbanized Arains don't like to marry outside of their clan. Therefore, they claim to be the purest race on the subcontinent. Under British rule the Arains, who used to be exclusively an agricultural caste, were brought to Punjab to cultivate

the areas around the cities. They understood the importance of education for their children and the wealth gained through hard work. Over time they transitioned out of agriculture, and now the Arains dominate law and politics. Benazir Bhutto, the first female prime minister of a Muslim county and two-time prime minister of Pakistan, hails from this caste. Numerous other Arains have been presidents, ministers, foreign ministers, governors, judges, navy chiefs, anchormen, and—in the arts and sports—writers, painters, film stars, and cricketers (cricket players).

Arains are Sunni Muslims. There are no known believers among them.

Pray for these highly educated and influential people to be drawn to the Bible to find out more about Jesus. May God give them discernment between Christianity and Westernization. Without understanding, some believe that this could have a negative impact on the Arains. Pray that the Lord will start a movement of blessings and salvation among the Arains that would spread to those in their sphere of influence.—CMW

BANIAS IN INDIA

66Bania" or "Baniya" is a Sanskrit word that means "trader." The Startup Journal, a secular Indian paper, reports they are experts



in number-crunching and trading. They have the business gene and know-how to take financial risks. They are meticulous bookkeepers, and never miss opportunities to make money. They can splurge when necessary, always marry inside their clan, and can adapt to today's fast-changing circumstances. The Times of India complains that many Indians are "leaving" their other centuries-old castes in an effort to emulate the Banias and make money. In addition to the business world, Banias also have a powerful presence in Indian politics.

The Bania are in the third rank of the four-tiered Hindu caste system. Most speak Hindi as well as the regional language of the states where they reside. They worship the main Hindu gods, and appropriately, Lakshmi, the Hindu goddess of prosperity. About ten percent are part of the Jain religion. There are no known followers of Christ among the 25 million Bania. There are numerous resources where they can find out about Christ, but these are unlikely to be on their radar screen.

Pray for workers to go to the Bania and prepare their hearts to be ready to receive their savior. Pray that Banias will pay attention to the spiritual resources on the Internet. Ask God to bring a strong movement to Jesus that will bring whole families and communities into a rich experience of God's blessing.—AHS

DAY

MATT 5:6, NIV

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

Pray that despite all distractions, Bania leaders will be filled with a desire for the true righteousness that only Jesus offers.

BRAHMINS IN INDIA

HINDU DHOBIS IN INDIA

14

MATT 7:28-29, NIV

When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching, because he taught as one who had authority, and not as their teachers of the law.

Pray that when Brahmins in India hear the words of Christ that they will be amazed, and willing to give up all to follow him. Create International

A Brahmin who has to settle for less

If someone were to draw a triangle representing Hindu society, the castes at the top would be the influential Brahmins. They are the priests and teachers. They would be followed

by the warrior/rulers, and then by the merchants and the common laborers. Discrimination based on caste has been illegal in India for more than six decades, although it is very difficult to root out something that has lasted for thousands of years.

Brahmins were always highly regarded as they were the original writers of the Vedas (Hindu holy scriptures) and responsible for carrying out all religious rituals. Today, Brahmins still perform traditional Hindu religious duties. But their families would prefer that they earn a good living as an engineer, politician, or a university professor.

Changes in India's economy, politics, education, and job markets have broken down some of the old social hierarchy. A new secular Hindu middle class is emerging. Ironically, lower castes are given "reservations" for a bigger share of the high paying jobs. Brahmins are no longer receiving the recognition and privileges they once enjoyed

Pray that the Brahmins will come to know the Living Lord through all available sources from the radio, internet and personal contacts with believers. May they humbly ask for forgiveness and receive God's grace, compassion, and love. Pray that Brahmin believers will disciple others who will, in turn, disciple still others.—PD

Do you know what bluing is? Do you know what a dhobi is? Do you know that dhobis and bluing go together? When



I lived in Model Town, Delhi, I hired a dhobi to do some laundry. The man and his son would collect my underwear and socks to launder them while I did the rest. Imagine my surprise when he brought back blue, not white, underwear! They had turned blue from indigo dye to erase yellowing. After that, there was no more bluing needed.

Today dhobis are found in major urban centers of India. They are Dalits, also called untouchables. In Mumbai they congregate in a community near a large community washing area, where they wash clothes, turning used ones clean enough to re-sell as new. Watching them work is a tourist attraction! Some use modern washing machines but still iron by hand and hang to dry. According to Wikipedia, dhobis may be Hindu, Muslim, or Christian. Dhobis need to know just "how precious is the flow that makes us white as snow," the red blood of Jesus.

Pray that the Christian Indians will witness to Hindu and Muslim dhobis and demonstrate their faith through kind actions. Pray that they will tell them how Jesus blesses and heals families and communities. Pray for a Christ-ward movement among Hindu Dhobis. Pray for career and educational opportunities. Pray that their needs will not be forgotten by the Indian government.—TP

1 TIM 1:14, ESV

And the grace of God overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.

Pray that the Dhobis of India would experience an overflowing of God's grace in their communities.

HINDU JATS IN INDIA

16

MATT 5:39, NIV

But I tell you, do not resist an evil person. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also.

Pray that the Lord will raise up Jats in India who will be spiritually strong enough to show restraint and love even in the face of injustice.

StockMuralinath

GMen may come and men may go, but I go on forever," is a well-known Jat proverb. The Hindu Jats of India are characteristically a proud group

and were especially known for their military prowess during the British control of India. They are conservative by nature and rarely marry outside of their ethnic group. Historically, they have been farmers and nomadic herdsmen. But today they can be found in all walks of life, some occupying high academic and technical positions.

India is rapidly modernizing. More and more the traditional rural lifestyle is a thing of the past; especially for the younger generations that are encountering the world beyond India due to exploding technology and social media. Technology opens up many avenues for evangelism to tech savvy people. But nothing can replace the energy and excitement of one believer witnessing to an unbeliever about what God is doing in his or her life! These Jats can potentially encounter believers in their work places or communities. How will they learn about Jesus Christ? Jesus himself told his followers, "By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another" (Jn 13:35).

Pray that Christian co-workers will show compassion and love to Jats. Pray that the Jat community will be reached by efforts to win them to Christ. Pray for a vibrant church-planting movement to become a reality for Jats.—JS

JAT MUSLIMS IN PAKISTAN

Psalm 2:8, NLT: Only ask, and I will give you the nations as your inheritance, the whole earth as your possession.

PAKISTAN

How does one inherit an entire

nation? As the Psalmist points out, it is Almighty God's promise to those who ask. That is what we are doing for the Jat peoples of Pakistan today.

Jat people have a history as brave and ready fighters. They are fiercely independent in character and value their self-respect more than anything, which is why they offer heavy resistance against any foreign force that treats them unjustly. They are known for their pride, bravery, and readiness to sacrifice their lives in battle for their people and kinsmen. Jat people are born leaders and protectors. Many have gone on to government leadership positions where they have had a good influence on Pakistan. How will these self-sufficient people see their need for the savior?

Ask Father God to pour out his blessing on Jat families and communities. Ask God to heal and strengthen broken families. There are few if any followers of Jesus among any Jat community. Pray that these believers will be fruitful and effective in sharing God's word and blessings. Pray for God to strengthen their own families and spread God's blessing to other Jat households. Pray that God will raise up many prayer teams to "adopt" the Jat people, and keep them praying until the blessing of knowing Jesus spreads rapidly from family to family.—KH

MATT 8:8-10, NLT

But the officer said, "Lord, I am not worthy to have you come into my home. Just say the word from where you are, and my servant will be healed. I know this because I am under the authority of my superior officers, and I have authority over my soldiers. I only need to say, 'Go,' and they go, or 'Come,' and they come. And if I say to my slaves, 'Do this,' they do it." When Jesus heard this, he was amazed. Turning to those who were following him, he said, "I tell you the truth, I haven't seen faith like this in all Israel!

Pray that the Lord will raise up many Jat people who will have the faith of this Roman military officer.

KAPU PEOPLE IN INDIA

DAY

MATT 4:17, NIV

From that time on Jesus began to preach, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."

Pray for the Kapu people of India to understand that the kingdom of heaven is much bigger than their community, and realize they have no choice but to repent and follow Christ.



merica has Aromanticized the story of the pioneers braving hardships and settling the west. India, too, had its "pioneers," but it was much

further back in history. Twenty-five hundred years ago the Kapu people migrated into the area of southern India that is now the modern-day state of Andhra Pradesh. Today they make up one-fourth of the population of that state. In ancient times they cleared forests so that communities could be developed. Besides being an agrarian community, the Kapus easily converted to military roles when various wars ensued. Ironically, for the most part, their community has little prestige since they are closely associated with the land and farming instead of thinking positions.

The Kapus have yet to experience a multiplying movement of God's blessing throughout their community. For the most part they are still mired in poverty. They need opportunities for education and job training that can improve their economic opportunities. But, mainly they need believers to share with them Bible stories that will lead them to the astounding good news that Jesus loves them and wants them to be part of the heavenly kingdom.

Pray for believers as well as missionaries to reach out to Kapu Hindus in a dynamic way that will address both their physical and spiritual needs.—JS

KUMHAR PEOPLE IN INDIA

people of **/**legend, the Kumhar are inseparably tied to ancient Indian culture. Yet they are considered to be a "back-



wards" community since they do common work.

The name Kumhar means "a maker of pots" or "one who creates," and the Kumhar are indeed known for their beautiful pottery and their hard work. Pottery-making has such a history in the Kumhar culture that they claim to have invented the pottery wheel. Even so, it is a difficult tradition to maintain, as the demand for earthenware vessels decreases. However, in addition to pottery, they also make statues of folk deities, famous people, and animals, which have a growing market in India's urban centers.

Like most Indian peoples, the Kumhar are primarily Hindu, worshiping Shiva. In addition, there are a great number of local deities that the various Kumhar groups worship. The Kumhar are highly spiritual, very loveable and honest.

Pray for a revelation of Christ amongst the Kumhar people, and that they would begin to pursue him eagerly. Pray for blessings on the Kumhar communities, and that their businesses would prosper. Pray that Kumhar family units would unite around the banner of Christ, and that they will become stronger and more loving as a result of a testimony of Christ's blessings.—BK

IS 64:8, NLT

And yet, O Lord, you are our Father. We are the clay, and you are the potter. We all are formed by your hand.

Pray that many of the Kumhar people will understand this truth expressed by Isaiah.

HINDU KUNBI PEOPLE IN INDIA

MATT 11:28-30, NIV

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. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.

Pray for the Lord to comfort the souls of the Hindu Kunbi people of India.



Pear is a terrible emotion that can affect all aspects of an individual's life. It can create a type of paralysis. Most appearances of angels in the Bible were accompanied by a "Fear not..." to their startled onlookers.

A type of fear affects the Kunbi people of India, particularly in the state of Gujarat where most of them live in rural settings. The Hindu Kunbis have a strong fear of Christianity that they associate with Western culture. They see blatant immorality and broken homes as the norm for what they think are Christian families, and it frightens these family-oriented people. Because they associate these negative images with Christianity, they will not associate with Christians or listen to the gospel. This has prevented efforts to win them to Christ from being fruitful.

What will it take to reach the Kunbis? It will take prayer and the power of the Holy Spirit. "Is anything too hard for God?" (Genesis 18:14 TLV). The Kunbis will remain alienated from the true God and savior unless we pray for their hearts to be softened so that the gospel message can change their lives.

Pray that through our prayers today the Lord will tear down spiritual strongholds that have held Kunbi family leaders back. Pray for their hearts to be softened and willing to believe and accept Jesus when they are approached by believers.—JS

KURMI PEOPLE IN INDIA

Why does one field look healthier and more productive than the field next to it? If you are in India, the answer might be because it is cultivated by Kurmi farmers.



The Kurmi caste are the chief agricultural cultivators in India. Other castes historically only cultivated land just surrounding their villages and were limited in crops that were successful. The Kurmis, however, developed different means of fertilizing their fields and were able to extend them beyond the traditional ones surrounding the community. The result was more diversification of crops and more productivity.

Today, many Kurmis have risen above the "peasant status" and are highly trained and work in all areas of India's society. Despite their accomplishments, the Kurmi community carries the stigma of being "backward," meaning they have low status.

A small number of Kurmi have identified themselves as Christians. Unfortunately, some Kurmi families 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.

Pray for the Lord to raise up believers who will take the time to reach Kurmi family leaders, so that the door will be open for entire clans. Pray for a strong churchplanting movement to develop among Kurmi households that will spread to other communities.—JS

20

MATT 13:23, NLT

The seed that fell on good soil represents those who truly hear and understand God's word and produce a harvest of 30, 60, or even 100 times as much as had been planted!

Pray that when the gospel is preached to the Kurmi people, that it will produce a great harvest in their community and among those near them.

MATT 9:36. NIV

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

Pray that the Holy Spirit will give believers the compassion to go to the Mahratta peoples, so they can join Christ's eternal family.

MAHRATTAS IN INDIA



Mumbai is in the state of Maharashtra

C everal traits have distinguished the Mahrattas throughout Indian history—they were formerly warriors and they continue to champion their culture, language, history, and their Hindu religion. They live mainly in the

state of Maharashtra. Only a small number are found in other countries.

The Mahrattas consider themselves upper class and look down at those they judge as not their equals. Unlike the Rajputs, they don't strictly enforce arranged marriages. However, a man's choice of a wife is limited to Brahmins or Mahratta women.

Less than two percent of the approximately 30 million Mahrattas call themselves Christian. One source claims that there are no followers of Christ among them. There is an abundance of Christian resources available in their Marathi languages. These include Bibles, the JESUS Film, audio and video stories, teaching, and radio broadcasts. Global Recordings Network (GRN) has audiovisual presentations in 10 dialects of Marathi. These are available on their website and in several digital formats.

Pray for workers to go to the Mahratta people, and for their hearts to be ready to receive their savior. Ask the Lord to break down the barriers of pride and religion, and help the people see that Jesus is the only way to God. Pray for a chain reaction of families reaching families that results in thousands of new believers who will share their faith with others.—AHS

NAI PEOPLE IN INDIA

↑ ccording Ato ancient myth, a Kshatriya (warrior) married a Shudra (servantcultivator). Their offspring was the Napika (one who cleans nails)



who are now called Nai (barber). Like barbers of old, they not only cut hair, but attend to other small matters of grooming and even some simple medical procedures. The Nai continue to practice their inherited occupation, and like anyone who works with "dead" materials like hair or hides, they have low prestige among Hindus. Nai can often be found on sidewalks offering their services to those of similar economic background.

There is an economic revolution occurring amongst the Nai, as education is becoming available, at least for boys. Some younger ones are finding opportunities to become doctors, lawyers, businessmen, politicians, and engineers.

Like most of India, the Nai are Hindus, and worship the Hindu pantheon of gods. They mainly worship the Hindu god Shiva along with regional, local, and family deities.

Please pray that the few Nai who know Jesus will become effective in sharing and discussing Christ with friends and family. Pray for a strong movement that will bring whole Nai families and communities to Jesus. Pray that the Nai community will thrive economically and that girls will share in the increased access to education.—BK

MATT 9:11B

Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?

Pray that the Lord will raise up his chosen people to go to the Nai people, who are looked down upon by other communities.

PASHTUNS (AKA, PATHANS) IN INDIA

MATT 16:24-25, NIV

Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it."

Pray for the Lord to raise up Pashtun believers with the kind of devotion that they will be willing to take up their cross and follow the King of kings.



Pashtuns in India

Pushtunwali, the strict unwritten honor code of the Pashtun people, is followed more religiously than they follow Sunni Islam! They practice

hospitality and protection to guests, the right of fugitives to seek refuge, the right to seek revenge, bravery, steadfastness, righteousness, persistence, defense of property and honor, and defense of one's woman. Revenge and blood feuds between families last for generations and are common owing to Pushtunwali.

The Pashtuns are one of four major Muslim communities in India. In India Pashtuns are considered fourth in rank below Sayyids, Sheikhs, and Mughals in the Muslim hierarchy. Most of them love India, since it has been a place of refuge for many of them.

While many Pashtuns are educated and work as professionals in cities, others are extremely poor, living in unsanitary conditions caused mainly by poor water. Many cannot read, and they find it difficult to have their medical and educational needs met.

Pray that Pashtun families and communities in India will be blessed spiritually and physically. Pray Pashtuns will see what Almighty God has done for them by giving his life for their sins, offering his righteousness, creating the beautiful world in which they live, and making life possible.—KH

PASHTUNS (AKA, PATHANS) IN PAKISTAN

In Pakistan, the Pashtun people live in the rural, mountainous northwest province bordering Afghanistan. The Taliban is made up mostly of Pashtuns, though most Pashtuns don't support it today. The border between Pakistan and Afghanistan is porous, and the Pashtuns cross freely. Only 15 percent of Pakistanis speak Pashto, the main Pashtun language.



Pashtun man

They are known as rigidly resistant to change. Living in extreme poverty, they are considered to be one of the world's least reached people groups. Life is hard in their part of Pakistan. Pashtun people are proud of their heritage and 100 percent Sunni Muslim.

The Bible has been available in their Pashto language since 1895. Audio, video, and JESUS Film resources exist in their language. Mission efforts have failed to reach their hearts. Persecution remains a threat to any Pashtun who chooses to trust in Jesus' payment for sins.

Pray that God will reach the Pashtuns by dreams and visions. Pray for Christian audio recordings and the JESUS Film to find their way into Pathan communities. Pray for Pathan leaders to simply put their trust in Jesus as both Lord and Savior, and recognize that only through Christ can they approach the God of creation.—KH

24

HEB 2:14B-15, ESV

He, himself, likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery.

Pray for the work of the devil to be destroyed among the Pashtun people in Pakistan.

HINDU RAJPUTS IN INDIA

MATT 28:19-20, NIV

All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations.

Pray that this will be the time when the Rajput "nations" will be reached, so they can enjoy the blessings of the only savior.



A Rajput man

The last few centuries were a downward spiral for the Rajputs. They ruled the former Indian states of Rajasthan and Gujarat from the 7th to the 12th century. Their beautiful palaces still stand today. Later, Muslims invaded, and some Rajput subgroups converted to Islam. When the British took over, they recruited many Rajputs into their military. In 1970, India

abolished their titles and property rights. They are still considered high caste Hindus, but they have lost much of their wealth and clout.

The Joshua Project reports, "Rajputs worship Shiva (the destroyer), Surya (the sun god), and Durga (the mother goddess)." They also have patron gods for protection, and gurus for spiritual advice. It is estimated that only one in 5,000 Rajputs are followers of Christ. Their superiority-complex and isolation from other groups makes it hard for them to have opportunities to hear the gospel message. There are many Christian resources available in Hindi, the primary language of Rajputs. These include Bibles and Christian teaching in print, audio, and video.

Pray for a spiritual hunger that will drive the Rajputs to listen to the claims of Christ and make him the center of their lives. Pray that soon Rajput leaders will hear of Christ and teach others what he offers those who follow him. Pray for Rajput disciples who will make other disciples.—AHS

MUSLIM RAJPUTS IN PAKISTAN

Muslim Rajputs in Pakistan are experiencing an identity crisis! Rajput means, "Son of the king." In 1947 when Pakistan gained their independence from England, Rajputs lost their given status as land barons and local "kings." They became, by necessity, shop owners and public servants. Their palaces lie in decay today. Rajputs are a proud people,



A Rajput shop owner

tribe and family oriented, despite their struggles to maintain their dignity and perceived identity as local kings and land barons. Some see their current circumstances as a long way down from royalty to commoner.

However, Almighty God's way down is the way up! All people must come to the end of themselves and their resources before they can see his love and provision for their eternal welfare. Until people are redefined by the savior Jesus Christ, they are defined by their histories and their perceived limitations.

Pray that God will overthrow spiritual forces of darkness that oppose the spread of the gospel among Rajputs in Pakistan. Ask Almighty God to deliver Muslim Rajput families and communities in Pakistan from fear, pride, and confusion that hinder them from embracing his blessing. Pray that they will make Christ the centerpiece of their identity. Ask the Holy Spirit to help them to see that Jesus offers the perfect identity as a child of the King of kings!—KH

DAY

MATT 24:14, NIV

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

Pray that the Muslim Rajputs in Pakistan will seek the kingdom of God and find it. Pray that they will understand that they are invited to become part of his family.

Pray that the prestigious Shaikhs in Bangladesh will understand that the word of the Lord will never pass away, and that they cannot ignore it.



SHAIKHS IN BANGLADESH

A s you accumulate years on this Earth, do you look forward to being a "senior citizen" or "retiree?" Would you prefer being described as

"respected" instead? And what about "old" as a term of respect? On the Indian subcontinent, the word shaikh means "venerable old man." 137 million Shaikh people live in Bangladesh. They are Muslim.

According to beyondreached.com, a Shaikh follower of Christ was imprisoned for sharing scripture. While in prison, he was harassed for praying to Jesus. As time passed, the believer noticed strange sounds followed by passages from the Qur'an. He asked where these strange noises were coming from. He was informed that there were demons tormenting the prison; holy readings were being used to drown out the sounds of the demons. The believer committed to praying for the noises to be silenced in order to show fellow prisoners the power of Jesus. The strange noises left, and the believer was able to lead other Shaikh prisoners to faith in his Lord.

Pray for boldness, wisdom, and protection among Shaikh believers as they share the gospel and bring the light of Christ to areas that are blanketed by darkness. Ask God to penetrate the deep spiritual darkness in which the Shaikh live. A Christian worker has reported that the problem is not the lack of harvest but of harvesters, so pray for workers.—CMW

MUSLIM SHAIKHS UF INDI Tn India

In India alone, the Muslim Shaikhs outnumber the entire population of many nations



of the world! The Shaikhs of India population was over 85 million in the latest Indian census. The word Shaikh refers to a political or spiritual leader of a community. The Muslim Shaikhs are descendants of the people who came to the Indian subcontinent after their homeland was conquered by Muslim armies in the eighth century.

The one thing that unites the Muslim Shaikhs is their belief in Sunni Islam. Some Shaikhs are poor farmers who live in rural villages; other are very wealthy, educated business owners and professionals who live in cities. Whether they are rich or poor, they all need to hear the good news about Isa or Jesus, the Son of God and savior of the world. In India, they speak Urdu, a language that has many gospel materials including the JESUS Film.

Pray for the JESUS Film to find its way into many Shaikh households. Pray for the Holy Spirit to work powerfully through those ministering to the Muslim Shaikh people. Pray for Shaikh families to be so powerfully drawn to Jesus and to the Bible that they form home Bible studies and discipleship groups. Pray for movements to Jesus to sweep through Shaikh families, permeating the entire people group and blessing them with Christ's goodness and forgiveness.—DK

1 TIM 4:10B, ESV

We have set our hope on the living God, who is the savior of all people, especially of those who believe.

Pray that the Shaikhs of India would have their spiritual eyes opened by the Holy Spirit so that they can see that forgiveness is found only in Isa or Jesus.

SHAIKHS IN PAKISTAN

MATT 3:9, NIV

"And do not think you can say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham."

Pray that the Holy Spirit will speak to the hearts of Shaikh leaders in Pakistan, so that they will understand that the kingdom of God is given freely only to those who will humble themselves before the Lord.



A lso known in Pakistan as the Punjabi Shaikh, Shaikh is one of the largest ethnic groups in the world. The term "Shaikh" (also "Sheikh")

derives from the honorific in the Arabic language. It commonly applies to the ruler of the tribe. The Arab people who conquered the Indus Valley in the 8th century settled there to become today's Shaikhs. Pakistan has a very significant population—12 million! Rather than maintaining allegiance to only one of Islam's major divisions, the Shaikh follow a mixture of both Sunni and Shi'ite traditions.

Much ministry to the Shaikhs has focused on winning individuals away from their families and gathering them into churches. This has fueled fear of Christianity as an invading threat to their families, communities, and way of life. Instead, many Bible stories can be welcomed and discussed in families, so that households may receive God's blessing and healing. The Bible and various audio recordings are available in Punjabi, the main language of the Shaikhs in Pakistan.

Pray for the few known believers to be effective at engaging their families and communities in discussing spiritual matters. Pray for a movement to Jesus to sweep through Shaikh families and communities that would permeate the group from within rather than from without.—CMW

TELI (OIL PRESSERS) OF INDIA

Do you like mustard on your sausages? Do you know that sesame is an ancient word that has gone virtu-



Teli people in India

ally unchanged for several thousand years? Indeed, both seeds have been used for thousands of years as a condiment or spice. Do you know that both seeds yield oil if sufficiently pressed?

The Teli community used to commercially hand-press mustard and sesame seeds for their oils. Thanks to machinery, such livelihood is a thing of the past in most of India and the world. Indeed, mustard is now harvested by machine. Therefore, many of these 18 million Hindus now work in other fields such as management, civil service, businesses, hotels, metal working, or simply pulling carts and other manual labor. They pray to ancestors for protection and put their hope in a good luck goddess. There are very few followers of Jesus among them.

Pray that the oil of the Holy Spirit will start a Christward movement among the 67 subgroups of Telis, so that their faith grows like a mustard seed; and that missionaries and evangelists will seek to disciple them. Pray for all Teli communities to have a spiritual hunger that will be met by encounters with Jesus Christ.—TP

30

MATT 17:20, NET

He told them, "It was because of your little faith. I tell you the truth, if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; nothing will be impossible for you."

Pray for workers to share this parable with the Teli people, and that they will respond in faith.

31

MATT 9:38, NIV

Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.

Pray for the Lord to thrust out workers to the untended harvest fields from all the people groups we prayed for this month.

YADAV COMMUNITY IN INDIA



Yadav people in India

Did you know that not all Indians originated in India? The Mogul Dynasty was Mongolian from Central

Asia. So too are today's people, the Hindu Yadavs, of north India, some 58 million strong. They may be the same as Chamars, who changed their name to Jadav to avoid the caste stigma associated with working with cow hides. Still they are associated with cattle, dairies, and day labor. However, there are some among them who are businessmen, teachers, physicians, engineers, and politicians. Although knowledgeable in their oral tradition, many need better education in order to improve their lives as job markets change. They are known as a people who make group decisions, especially concerning self-betterment.

Today we are asked to pray for the construction of more flood-protected water stations with toilets for Yadav settlements, so they may have safe water during flooding season. We should also pray that as a group the Yadavs will decide to follow Jesus without turning back. To that end, pray that mission agencies will seek to evangelize them, that engineers and water experts will quietly witness to that end, and that the Holy Spirit will empower those efforts.—TP