



Dear Praying Friends,

In 1972 I read George Orwell's novel 1984, a chilling novel about the future world under three hostile powers, each under the control of evil megalomaniacs. People's daily lives were being monitored by "telescreens," in every room in their homes. The idea seemed crazy in 1948 when the book was written, but it is becoming very possible in today's world, thanks to surveillance cameras. Governments can use them to snuff out crime, but they can also find out who is following Christ. Such a government can now control the church, close them down, or even kill believers like we read in the book of Revelation.

Surveillance cameras are becoming a normal part of life in China, and the government wants them in all public places, even churches. How far will this go? Is this an example of the beginning of the End Times? Let's not forget that there are still 7,000 unreached people groups in the world, and the end will not come until all have responded to Christ (Matt 24:14). Will you be part of the big push to take his name to the ends of the earth? If so, this prayer guide can be your tool to pave the way for those who take Christ to the unreached nations.

In Him,

Keith Carey

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PRAY FOR

*The Frontier People Groups in
China and South Asia*



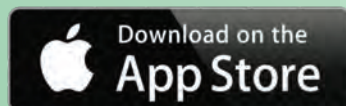
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Devotional Ideas

How can you make the most of this prayer digest:

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

Every day at the top of the page you'll find the name of an unreached people group for which to pray.

What is the Future of the Chinese Church?



istock_hallojulle

There is good reason to be concerned that Chinese currency notes always have the image of Mao Zedong, but it says quite a bit about what the Chinese want in a government leader. They value order, unity, and nation building, which is what Mao provided. He brought China from a nation of warlords with numerous cultures and languages to one of unity with Mandarin as the language and Communism as the government standard. But on the other hand, Mao holds the world record for mass killings. Order and unity are important to any nation state, but at what cost?

Through the centuries, the church in China has faced persecution off and on. In today's China, persecution is relatively mild compared to certain times in their history, but this could change if the wrong people gain control of this huge nation. Artificial intelligence and surveillance cameras can make sure that there is no place to hide for believers. More on that later.

by anonymous

There were a number of high-profile cases of persecution last year, 2018. In Henan Province, where there is a high percentage of believers, more than 7,000 crosses were torn down according to Radio France International, a secular public news broadcast. The local government also burned Bibles, raided Christian homes, arrested church members and took over church buildings.

Some congregations are expected to install facial-recognition surveillance cameras, and those that don't comply might be shut down. Landlords are charging huge increases in rent or refusing to do further business with churches.

What Do the Chinese Want From their Government?

Order and unity are very important to the Chinese. If they could, they would have all 400 people groups melt into the Han Chinese mold, speak Mandarin and forget their ethnic origins. That is especially true for the Muslim Uighurs; recent reports tell us that a high percentage of the Muslim Uighurs are being "re-educated" to fit in more with the rest of China. (<https://www.nationalreview.com/2018/08/china-persecution-of-uyghur-minority-demands-international-response/>). Unlike the Christians, who are largely Han Chinese, the Uighurs look Central Asian and practice Islam. In fairness to the Chinese government, there have been strong Uighur separatist movements, but these can be undercut if they would include the Uighurs into their new prosperity.

The Chinese want social harmony, and they are willing to pay a heavy price to achieve it. They value the common good over individual rights. Individuals must do what is needed for the nation to be orderly and prosperous.

Why Does the Government Feel Threatened by Christianity?

In this way of thinking, foreign religions like Islam and Christianity are a threat to Chinese ways. Islam and Christianity both entered China via foreigners and foreign ideas. Perhaps even more importantly, the Chinese remember that their nation was humiliated by "Christian" foreign powers that treated China like a colony in the 19th century, a time they call the "century of humiliation." For these reasons, they want these religions to be Sinicized,

meaning made more Chinese. Singing the national anthem in church and displaying the Chinese flag can easily become the norm with church services.

Furthermore, both Islam and Christianity insist on allegiance to a particular God, who is high above the Chinese government. By contrast, Buddhism and Confucianism do not make such claims on allegiance, so they are not seen as the same kind of threat. The government is also suspicious that these foreign religions might be used as a vehicle for foreign powers to influence or even control China like they were during colonial times.

Some have compared what is happening in China today to the Wesleyan Revival in England during the late 1700s. The last thing the government wants is for China to become a larger version of South Korea, where there is a high percentage of believers. If that happened, their hopes of being the number one source of allegiance would be through.

Perhaps the biggest reason why Christianity is viewed as a threat is that it is growing very fast in China, and the believers are strong in their faith. In fact, there are about 10 times more praying through this *GPD* devotional in Chinese than in English. It is hard to say how many Christians there are in China. Most estimates are between 50-70 million, but Asia Harvest suggests a number of 130 million.

At What Cost?

A September 18, 2018 article by *ABC News* is especially alarming, not only for believers but for anyone who lives in China. The government now has 200 million surveillance cameras, especially in Beijing, where every public space is monitored. According to this ABC report, the government intends to use them to keep track of who is a “good citizen” and who is not. They have “citizen scores” based on a person’s daily activities. For example, in grocery stores, purchasing alcohol will take the score down, and purchasing diapers will give the person a higher score since it suggests that they are caring for small children. They quote a government official as explaining that it will “allow the trustworthy to roam freely under heaven while making it hard for the discredited to take a single step.”

(<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-09-18/china-social-credit-a-model-citizen-in-a-digital-dictatorship/10200278>)

These surveillance cameras are being put in all public places, including churches. If the Chinese government decided that Christianity was not patriotic, they would have the information to cause problems for believers.

A Silver Lining

The Chinese government has the power to install surveillance cameras in every church in China if they chose to do so. They can also make sure there are government officials to watch and listen to church services. Already, Chinese Communist Party (CCP) manuals instruct their cadres to make friends with Christian leaders in order to influence them. Apparently, this has been their policy for many years, not only for Christian leaders, but for others as well.

That influence can easily go the other direction, especially if true believers demonstrate concern for government officials through prayer and acts of kindness. In Phil 1:12, the Apostle Paul infers that he had influenced palace guards who were charged with keeping him in chains. The parallels between what happened during the time of Paul and today’s China are remarkable.

The church in China is already beginning to deal with a time of testing and persecution. How should they respond? In an Oct. 16, 2018 blog in *ChinaSource*, Brother Liu offers wise advice taken from 1 Pet 3:13-16: Above all, the church should not be confrontational, but instead be prepared to give an answer to everyone with gentleness and respect. They should pray for those who persecute them and remember that Christ was victorious in what appeared to be weakness and defeat. (<https://www.chinasource.org/resource-library/chinese-church-voices/responding-in-a-time-of-testing>)

Pray for the Chinese Church as They Enter a Difficult Season

- Pray for believers to be filled with the power of the Holy Spirit, leading them to acts of kindness, meekness, mercy, grace, and love.
- Pray for them to be shrewd, wise, and respectful.
- Pray for them to not lash out in the flesh, but to “lash out” in love, leading many in the Chinese government to embrace the Lord.

DONGXIANG IN CHINA

IS 25:9, NLT

In that day the people will proclaim, "This is our God! We trusted in him, and he saved us! This is the Lord, in whom we trusted. Let us rejoice in the salvation he brings!"

Pray that there will soon come a day when the Muslim Dongxiang people will have hearts that are fully dedicated to the Lord and thankful for his blessings.

Asia Harvest



Dongxiang mother and child

They call themselves the Santa people, but the name has nothing to do with Santa Claus! "Santa" is an Islamic term, as the people are likely descended from Mongols who converted to Islam. To the rest of the world, they are the Dongxiang—the "East District" people.

The Dongxiang have unique wedding customs. One practice is called "smashing the pillow." This is when the bridegroom's friends good-naturedly smash the bride's face with pillows while she tries to sit with dignity. Her face is covered by a veil and she is surrounded by friends. Eventually the bride lifts her veil, thus revealing the beautiful prize that she is! The groom will "steal" a utensil from the bride's family kitchen, symbolizing that he has "stolen" the cooking skills from her family.

The Dongxiang are Muslim. At one time, their province supported 600 mosques, 12 imams, and 2,000 full-time Muslim religious workers. Every 30 Dongxiang households had a house of worship. Today other Muslims in China do not consider this people group to be a part of the Islamic faith because of their involvement in drug and prostitution rackets. In the 1940s and 1990s, some mission organizations reached out to the Dongxiang, but none turned their hearts to Jesus.

Ask God to soften the hearts of these people. Pray that they will become part of the bride of Christ.—CMW

KAZAKHS IN CHINA

Between 1916 and 1920 100,000 Russian Kazakhs fled to China. Forced to choose between conscription and death, these Muslim people made the decision to find refuge in a neighboring country. When China adopted communism, Kazakhs were forced again to change their lifestyles; they had to abandon their nomadic traditions. Today, just under two million Kazakhs live in China.

Iconic images of Kazakhs show fierce horsemen roaming across vast grasslands. A Kazakh bride would be "slung over a horse" and delivered to her husband's family. Tragically, men were said to treasure their horse first, their gun second, their place of birth third, and their wife fourth.

The Kazakh people are Muslims. They make pilgrimages to Mecca and perform Islamic death rituals. In order to retain the right to continue their rituals, they make it a point to stay on good terms with the Han Chinese government. Despite the efforts of believers, persecution has wiped out any significant gospel presence among them. There are many resources in the Kazakh language—Scriptures, the JESUS Film, gospel recordings, and radio broadcasts. God is powerful to open deaf ears and to soften hard hearts! Meanwhile, back in the "home country" of Kazakhstan, a few thousand Kazakhs have embraced Christ.

Pray that these believers will boldly and lovingly share the blessings of Christ with Kazakhs in China until they have a strong church planting movement.—CMW

Asia Harvest



A Kazakh musician

SONG 4:9, NLT

You have captured my heart, my treasure, my bride. You hold it hostage with one glance of your eyes, with a single jewel of your necklace.

Pray that the Kazakh men will learn to value their wives as God intends.

SOUTHERN DONG PEOPLE IN CHINA

IS 25:4A, NLT

But you are a tower of refuge to the poor, O Lord, a tower of refuge to the needy in distress. You are a refuge from the storm and a shelter from the heat.

Pray that the Southern Dong people will make the Lord their refuge now and forevermore!

Asia Harvest



A Southern Dong groom!

(This story contains truth about this people group.)

Fei Hong, a slender 12-year-old girl with silky black hair pouted, “Why do I have to sew my wedding dress now? I don’t like sewing and I don’t want to get married!” “You must marry when you turn 17 so you must start on your dress now,” chided her mother. “You will marry a good man, but you can live with your father and me until you have a baby. Then you will live with your husband.” The girl sighed, “I hope he doesn’t like bull fights like all the other men in this village. They think it’s fun, but I think it’s mean. I feel so sorry for our village bull. If I could, I would go over to the field and open the gate to let it escape right now.”

The Southern Dong people number over a million and live in the Guangxi Province of China. Every year they make offerings to their village spirits. Each family makes room in their home for ancestral altars. In 1910, the China Inland Mission worked among the Southern Dong. Subsequently, other missions have reached out to the Southern Dong, and there are now about 50 believers who have returned to their villages to start house fellowships.

Pray that these fellowships will thrive and that they will result in entire Southern Dong families being blessed.—CMW

XIALIANGSHAN NOSU PEOPLE IN CHINA

Did you know that as recently as 60 years ago, there were slaves in China? Eighty percent of today’s people group owned them. Following their liberation by the communists, tensions still remain high between former slaves and former slave owners among the Xialiangshan Nosu people.

Originating in the Large Cold Mountains near Myanmar, this non-Han Chinese people have a culture that goes back to the sixth century, and their current social structure continues to reflect pre-communist times. It is not surprising that they would like to be independent of the Chinese! Their religion is animistic, polytheistic (e.g., involving many gods), and they worship their ancestors. Only about five percent have heard of Christ and some 100 persons, or perhaps as many as one percent of the population believe in Jesus despite having no scripture, gospel materials or the JESUS Film. Truly this is an unengaged, unreached people for whom we should pray.

Pray today that God will bring to the Xialiangshan Nosu the light of the gospel and the message of the One True Creator God who saves them through faith in Jesus, not spirits or ancestors. Pray that the few believers will grow in grace, knowledge of Jesus, and bear witness to him among their people until there is a movement to Christ. Pray that the gospel will bring about reconciliation between former slaves and former slave owners as they become one in Christ.—TP

Asia Harvest



Xialiangshan Nosu woman

IS 1:3, NLT

Even an ox knows its owner, and a donkey recognizes its master’s care—but Israel doesn’t know its master. My people don’t recognize my care for them.

Pray that every Nosu subgroup will know their owner—the Lord, who gave them life—and give him praise for his lovingkindness.

YINAO NOSU PEOPLE IN CHINA

GEN 6:9, NLT

This is the account of Noah and his family. Noah was a righteous man, the only blameless person living on earth at the time, and he walked in close fellowship with God.

Pray that like Noah of old, there will be many from the Yinao Nosu people who will find favor with the Lord, and take his ways to others so that they can do the same.

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Are you fashionable? Does fashion define you? It certainly did today's people, the 400,000-600,000 Yinao Nosu, also known as the Broad-legged Trousers People.

The men used to wear broad-legged trousers, and the women still wear pleated skirts and distinctive head scarves whose designs indicate marital status and motherhood. Today, the men wear bell-bottom trousers only on cultural holidays and festivals.

Religiously, they have a cultural memory of a great flood that was survived by three brothers just as the Bible tells us of Noah's sons. However, unlike Noah, these Yi people are polytheistic and animistic, worshipping ancestors, not the God of the Bible. Yet there are a few Catholics among them. Evangelism is hampered by rugged terrain, conservative culture, and a lack of evangelistic resources.

Therefore, pray that God will move the few believers to disciple others, and that they will use the flood to connect to non-believers. Pray that God will give them the Bible and evangelistic resources in their language and that entire families will study it together.—TP

PINGDI PEOPLE IN CHINA

Can a majority become a minority? Can two become one? The answer to both questions is "yes," and in more ways than one, today's people group is a good example. Today's 1.4 million Pingdi and the local Han Chinese population seem to be becoming one. Their languages are merging, and there is also a psychological quality where both groups seem to be becoming more alike. All over the world, new people groups emerge while others combine. Who knows what will happen with the Pingdis in the years to come?



A Pingdi boy

Asia Harvest

IS 2:3, NLT

People from many nations will come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of Jacob's God. There he will teach us his ways, and we will walk in his paths." For the Lord's teaching will go out from Zion; his word will go out from Jerusalem.

Pray for many from the Pingdi people to eagerly look to the Lord, and desire to walk in his paths.

Of missional significance, Pingdi folklore, like that of the Yinao Nosu for whom we prayed yesterday, recalls a great flood. But to the Pingdi, the flood account involves a High God. Such ideas did not come from the Bible, Christian resources, or the JESUS Film.

Pray that believers will reach them with the gospel, perhaps via the stories of Noah's flood and Abraham's encounter with the One High God. Pray that Christian resources will be made available to these people. Pray that Jesus will reveal himself to them as the Great God who wants to flood them with his grace through Jesus. Pray for the Holy Spirit to give the Pingdi people teachable and understanding hearts. Pray for a strong movement of the Holy Spirit that will bring entire Pingdi families into a rich experience of God's blessing.—TP

IS 1:18, NLT

"Come now, let's settle this," says the Lord.
"Though your sins are like scarlet, I will make them as white as snow. Though they are red like crimson, I will make them as white as wool."

Pray that the Gtsang Tibetans will understand that though their sins are an offense to God, they can be forgiven if they chose to follow Christ.

Asia Harvest



Gtsang Tibetan man

(This story illustrates truths about this people group.)

It was New Year's Day in Tibet and the young Gtsang man joined the throng celebrating that holiday. There were horse races and archery contests. Then he took his turn shooting arrows at a target. A few arrows hit the edge of the target, but none hit the center. Then the young man walked away thinking about how he kept missing the target when it came to living a clean life. He couldn't stop gambling and drinking. Trips to the Buddhist temple didn't help. Buddha didn't provide the power he needed to do the right things. The young man wondered if there was another way.

There are 750,000 Gtsangs, a Tibetan people, living in the high Himalayan Mountains. Few efforts have been made to reach this people group for Christ. In 1624, Jesuit missionary Antonio de Andrade risked his life to go to the Gtsang. No one knows if he influenced anyone. Most Gtsang are Buddhists of one sect or another. Followers of Jesus Christ are almost unknown among them.

Pray that God would lead a mission agency to target the Gtsang for outreach. Pray that the Gtsang people will understand that Jesus Christ came to save sinners and bless all families of the earth, including theirs.—WK

(This story illustrates truths about this people group.)

The Tibetan librarian walked down the corridor. Out of curiosity he pulled out a book that contained strange teachings about God. The librarian read about a man named Jesus. The stories about Jesus were brought to Tibet by men from far away, around 800 A.D. They'd been sent to Tibet by someone called Timothy the Nestorian. The librarian now had many questions about Jesus, but didn't know whom to ask.

Over the centuries there have been sporadic efforts to take Christ to the Central Tibetans. Tibet is a remote land of high mountains, but Buddhist missionaries were once willing to climb them. Christian missionaries, probably from India, took the message of salvation to Tibet around 800 A.D. A church leader from that period, Timothy the Nestorian, mentioned the existence of a small group of believers among this people group. In 1892 Hudson Taylor took the gospel to the Central Tibetans and won a few to Christ. Over the years opposition from Buddhist monks has discouraged missionaries from working among them.

Pray for spiritual openness among the Central Tibetans. Pray that his kingdom will come and his will will be done among every Central Tibetan family.—WK

Asia Harvest



Central Tibetan man

IS 2:4, NLT

The Lord will mediate between nations and will settle international disputes. They will hammer their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will no longer fight against nation, nor train for war anymore.

Pray for a peace between the Han Chinese and the Tibetan peoples that will give glory to God.

AMDO TIBETANS IN CHINA

I KINGS 8:47, NLT

But in that land of exile, they might turn to you in repentance and pray, "We have sinned, done evil, and acted wickedly."

Pray for entire Amdo families to repent together and spend the rest of their lives following the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.

iStock/Gringos



Gansu

by their Buddhist neighbors. They stood their ground and were beaten up. The next day the persecutors' livestock began to die. This was considered to be a coincidence. Then members of the persecuting families began dying. These acts of divine judgment stopped only after the Amdo Buddhists asked the Amdo believers to pray for them. Over 100 Amdo Tibetans began following Jesus Christ as a result of this strange incident.

What happened in 1986 is similar to the acts of divine judgment recorded in Exodus with one difference. The Egyptians didn't repent, but some Amdo did. In years past there have been a number of attempts to take the message of salvation to the Amdo. In 1888 Cecil Pohill tried to do it, but few if any responded. Less than one in 1,000 of all Amdo are followers of Jesus Christ. There is still much work to be done, but we must start the process with prayer!

Pray that the small group of Amdo believers would grow in faith and be protected from persecution. May they take the gospel to every Amdo family, and find receptive hearts.—WK

According to Asia Harvest, in 1986 Amdo Christian families tried to celebrate New Year in Gansu Province. They were told to leave

EASTERN KHAMPA PEOPLE OF CHINA

The prophet Isaiah spoke of a time when the waters of the Holy Spirit would abundantly water the spiritually parched land. "For I will pour out water to quench your thirst and to irrigate your parched fields. And I will pour out my Spirit on your descendants, and my blessings on your children." Is 44:3, NLT

Numbering nearly 1.6 million, the Khampa of eastern Tibet have suffered from physical as well as spiritual isolation throughout the centuries. With towns above 15,000 feet, the Eastern Khampa raise cattle, goats, and grain with water from melting glaciers that surround the Himalayan Mountains. They often behave in a hostile and violent manner. Sexual immorality is common, with venereal disease rates as high as 50 percent.

Buddhism is devoutly followed by 95 percent of these people. They also practice their ancient shamanistic Bon religion in an attempt to appease spirits. Catholic missions appeared in the mid 19th century. Protestant work began in 1897. By 1922 the mission station at Batang had won only 10 to Christ. These missionaries have run hospitals, schools, and orphanages.

Pray that the refreshing water of the Holy Spirit would draw the Eastern Khampa to the truth of Jesus Christ. Pray that the gospel would break through the spiritual and physical isolation and lead to entire Eastern Khampa families being blessed by Christ's presence.—JY



Asia Harvest

IS 44:6, NLT

This is what the Lord says—Israel's King and Redeemer, the Lord Almighty: I am the first and I am the last; apart from me there is no God.

Pray for this to be the new belief of many from the Eastern Khampa people: That apart from the Lord, there is NO God!

BRAHMINS IN NEPAL

I TIM 6:17, NIV

Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.

Pray that the wealth and status of the Nepali Brahmins would not keep them from seeking and finding the God of the Bible.

iStock/Julie2013



Gurkha soldier

Those who are acquainted with military history know about the famous Gurkhas

of Nepal. They are considered by many experts to be some of the best soldiers in the world! During both world wars the Gurkhas distinguished themselves in battle under the most difficult conditions while serving in the British Army. Many of the Gurkha officers and soldiers are Nepali Brahmins.

Traditionally, the Brahmins were the priests who officiated at Hindu temples and as teachers of the Hindu Vedas. They protected and taught the ancient holy books and practices of Hinduism. Besides being priests and soldiers, the Brahmins have also excelled as educators, lawmakers, scholars, doctors, writers, poets, landowners and politicians.

Pray that a strong movement to Jesus will bring whole Nepali Brahmin families and communities into a rich experience of God's blessings. Pray that the Lord will give Nepali Brahmin families understanding and responsive hearts as they hear about the love of Christ. Pray that many of the Nepali Brahmins will come to love God with their whole being and will walk in his ways.—DK

HILL BRAHMINS IN NEPAL

What country has eight of the ten highest mountains in the world? If you guessed Nepal, you are correct!

Nepal is home to Mount Everest, the highest peak in the world, and seven of the other highest mountains.

The Hill Brahmins live in the foothills south of the Himalayas in the middle section of Nepal. They make up a little over 10 percent of the population of Nepal and about 40 percent of the government administrators and workers.

The Brahmins are the highest of the four varnas or castes of Hinduism. The traditional occupations of the Brahmins have been as priests in Hindu temples; but Brahmin families have much higher aspiration than priestly duties. Today most Hill Brahmins who don't work for the Nepali government own land that is cultivated by lower castes. There are currently no known believers among the Nepali Hill Brahmins.

Pray that the mission agencies serving in Nepal would reach out and share the gospel with the Hill Brahmins. Pray for a movement to Jesus to multiply among Hill Brahmin families and communities. Pray that God will overthrow spiritual forces of darkness opposing the spread of his gospel among the Hill Brahmins of Nepal.—DK

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I PET 5:5-6, NLT

... All of you, clothe yourselves with humility towards one another, because God opposes the proud, but shows favor to the humble. Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time.

Pray that God humbles the Hill Brahmins of Nepal so they see they are sinners in need of a savior.

MUSLIM SHAIKH IN NEPAL

I TIM 1:16, NLT

But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his immense patience as an example for those who would believe in him and receive eternal life.

Pray that the Lord will grant mercy to the Nepali Muslim Shaikhs, and that they would believe in him and receive eternal life.

Credite International



Shaikh

primarily in Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and Nepal.

Today we are praying for the Muslim Shaikhs who live in the small Himalayan country of Nepal. They speak Urdu, the same language that they speak in Pakistan and some parts of India. The name “Shaikh” comes from the Arabic word for “elder”, “chief” or “Islamic scholar”. Indeed, wherever they live, they fulfill these roles for the local Muslim community. The Nepali Shaikhs claim to be descendants of Arabs who came to the Indian subcontinent during the Delhi Sultanate and Moghul periods. These Arabs were some of the first followers of the Prophet Muhammad. When Hindus in times past converted to Islam, they often began to call themselves Shaikh. With such an immense group of people, it is difficult to make generalizations. We can state that most Shaikhs are involved in agriculture.

Pray for Shaikh leaders to have regular contact with vibrant believers who can point them to the cross. Pray that the Shaikhs will find spiritual answers in Christ that will bless their communities for many generations to come. Pray for Jesus movements to bless extended Shaikh families so the gospel will spread rapidly among this people group.—DK

HINDU YADAVS IN NEPAL

Yadav people can be easily identified because if you ask them their name, they will tell you their first name followed by their title, Yadav. For example, in 2008, Nepal elected a Yadav as president, Ram Baran Yadav.

Just over one million Yadav people live in southern Nepal. Almost all of Nepal’s Yadavs speak one of three languages: Maithili, Bhojpuri, or Nepali. Maithili is their primary language.

Living mainly in villages, the Yadav caste consists of milkmen, cow herders, cattle breeders, cultivators, and laborers. Though some have become businessmen, professionals, or political leaders, Yadavs traditionally have practiced animal husbandry and they sold animal products. Because they are associated with cattle, considered holy by the Hindus, they have high prestige.

The Yadavs believe they are connected to lord Krishna, whom they worship along with Vishnu and many local gods. They also worship cows. In Nepal, the Yadav people are considered 99.7 percent Hindu. The New Testament, The JESUS Film, and other audio-visual biblical resources are available in all three of their languages.

Ask for churches and prayer groups to adopt the Yadav people. Pray for anointed ministry workers and church planting teams to take Christ’s blessings to them. Pray for the effective use of storytelling, audio Bibles, and media to reach this oral culture. Ask God to move mightily upon family and community leaders, sparking disciple-making movements that will bless Nepal’s Yadav people.—CR



Yadav people

PIHOP/Ajay

ACTS 13:49, TPT

God’s word spread like wildfire throughout the entire region.

Ask for God to effectively spread his word to every Yadav community in Nepal, whether in villages, towns or cities. Pray that Yadav house fellowships will transform and bless their communities as they worship and witness of the deeds of Jesus Christ.

BHOI KHARBIND PEOPLE IN INDIA

IS 2:10, NLT

Crawl into caves in the rocks. Hide in the dust from the terror of the Lord and the glory of his majesty.

Pray that a combination of a fear of the Lord and awe of who he is will drive the Bhoi Kharbind people to his throne of grace.

iStock/Vitalii Karas



Though Bhoi Kharbind people in India and Nepal are well-respected within their culture, they are

poor, needy, and without hope in this world without the only savior and sin-bearer.

Bhoi Kharbind (aka, Kharkata) of India live in Uttar Pradesh. They own land and make straw baskets to sell in markets. Some work in agriculture. They practice modern medicine and education. Like other people groups in rural South Asia, they have a village council. Bhoi Kharbind people in Nepal were historically a nomadic tribe. Today, they are mainly landowners.

All of them are Hindus. Every Bhoi house has an altar and images of many gods and goddesses. Every family has a number of deities. They are also 100 percent Hindu. Audio, visual, New Testament, and Bible portions are available in their Bhojpuri or Hindi languages; yet these dear people for whom Christ gave his life remain unreached.

Pray for workers filled with the fruit and power of God's Holy Spirit to go to Bhoi families both in India and Nepal.—KH

GANGAUTA TELI PEOPLE IN BANGLADESH AND INDIA

(This story illustrates truth about this people group.)

Grandfather Kamlesh sat with his grandson, Haminar, watching the beautiful sunset turn the sky a lighter shade of orange. He said, "The first Teli was created by Shiva from the dirt of his body. He gave our ancestor a blindfolded bullock and commanded him to produce oil to massage him." What a sad commentary to the truth that Almighty God created man in his own image, to be loved and cherished by him!

Traditionally, all Telis, including the Gangautas, have been a caste of oil-pressers. Oil is used for cooking, lighting, and medicine. Today, Teli peoples use industrial, mechanical means to crush the seeds or nuts to extract the oil. Those who are landless often hold menial jobs.

Gangauta Telis in Bangladesh practice Hinduism. They worship and serve unlimited gods. Hindus believe that by performing rituals and good works that they will attain freedom from the endless cycle of birth, death, and rebirth. They visit Hindu temples and offer prayers, food, flowers, and incense to their gods. They also worship clan deities and their ancestors.

Pray for a movement in which the Holy Spirit leads and empowers Gangauta Teli disciples to make more disciples. Pray for the Gangauta Teli people to understand and embrace that Jesus wants to bless their families and communities.—KH



Oil fried somosas

iStock/PRABHARROY

EX 29:7, NLT

Then anoint him by pouring the anointing oil over his head.

Pray that soon members of the Teli communities will understand that they can enter into a life of holiness and joy if they would give themselves to the Lord.

TAMIL MUSLIMS IN SRI LANKA

IS 6:2-3, NLT

Attending him were mighty seraphim, each having six wings. With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. They were calling out to each other, "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of Heaven's Armies! The whole earth is filled with his glory!"

Pray for many from the Tamil Muslims to be as overcome with the Lord's presence as these angelic beings.

iStock/Yuliang11



A Muslim baby girl

(This story illustrates truths about this people group.)

Chatura wept as she packed her few personal possessions. It would soon be dark, and she would go to the appointed place designated by the man who would give her passage to a Persian Gulf country where she was promised a position as a domestic worker. Her Muslim background would surely be an asset. She had prayed, and Allah had opened a door of opportunity for her. She hoped to send most of her earnings home to her family.

The Tamil Muslims in Sri Lanka are largely defined by their language, Tamil. Those living in rural areas have been influenced by the Islamic mystic practices of Sufism, which could potentially be a gateway to the gospel. However, to follow Jesus within a Muslim community is to risk much that is important in life; family, friends, and status.

South India and Sri Lanka have been the primary home for the majority of Tamil Muslims. Sunni Islam came to these people from Arab merchants and sailors who settled in their regions and married Tamil women. As a people, they are recognized as hard working, shrewd shopkeepers and faithful to their religious beliefs. All remain Muslim, though there are many Tamil believers in India.

Pray for Tamil believers to share their Lord with Tamil Muslims. Pray for the Lord to call Tamil Muslims to Christ.—KH

CHAUHAN RAJPUTS

Myths, anybody? There are many myths regarding the origin of the Chauhan Rajputs. Some say they came from the eye of Indra, a Hindu deity. Others say they were born in a fire pit or created as a caste of warriors. Yet another describes the supreme Hindu god, Brahma, as creating the Chauhan Rajputs from the sun.



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What these diverse stories clearly communicate is a theme that is common to all of humanity: the need for identity and value. While the Chauhan Rajputs have heard many strange and imaginative tales, most have yet to hear the true account of how God created the heavens and the earth; how he created men and women in his image; how they rebelled against him; and how he sent his only son to rescue every nation, including theirs, from the wages of sin.

As Hindus, the Chauhan Rajputs might worship animals, objects, and a vast array of gods and goddesses. This spiritual darkness has kept them bound and unable to hear or respond to the voice of the one true God.

Pray for their spiritual eyes to be opened to see the Light of the World. Ask God to establish his kingdom among the Chauhan Rajputs. Pray for their spiritual lives to become fruitful as they follow Christ. Pray for a movement of Chauhan households to study the Bible and accept the blessings of Christ.—CL

IS 8:19-20, NLT

When someone tells you to consult mediums and spiritists who whisper and mutter, should not the people inquire of their God? Why consult the dead on behalf of the living? Consult God's instruction and the testimony of warning. If anyone does not speak according to this word, they have no light of dawn.

Pray for the Chauhan Rajputs to find God's instructions and turn their hearts to him.

ANSARIS IN PAKISTAN

IS 11:1-2A, NLT

A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a branch will bear fruit. The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him—the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of might.

Pray that the Ansari Muslims, be they in India or Pakistan, will seek and find the wisdom of the Holy Spirit, and learn to walk in his ways.

iStock/ajijchan



The Ansari people of Pakistan can trace their ancestry back to Saudi Arabia where they welcomed the

prophet Mohammed and his men into their homes, helping them escape from their enemies. The name Ansari means “friend” or “one who supports and helps.” And they believe that because they helped and supported Mohammed, Allah will bless them.

The Ansaris believe this so strongly that few if any of them have chosen to follow Christ. They are estimated to be 100 percent Muslim. Living in the staunchly Islamic nation of Pakistan, they seldom encounter the gospel message. Those who have heard it have quickly and without hesitation rejected it.

The Muslim Ansaris live in their own communities in extended families, and are totally surrounded by the traditions and rituals of Islam. Finding ways to reach them with Christ is a difficult challenge—one that requires and deserves our ongoing, earnest prayers.

Pray for the Lord to open the minds and hearts of the Ansari living in Pakistan. Ask Him to establish his church among them and use them to draw other Ansari—as well as other people groups—into a relationship with Christ. Pray for the Ansari people to live in the marvelous grace of Christ. Pray for Ansari families to embrace the Lord together and to spread his fame in Pakistan.—CL

AWAN TRIBE IN PAKISTAN

What martial (i.e., military) people maintain a strong presence in the Pakistani Army? That would be the Awan tribe—a people who are known throughout history as being both farmers and valiant warriors, even serving with distinction in the British military during WWI and WWII.

Their exact lineage is still debated by scholars, though the majority of the Awans traditionally maintain that they are descended from a general in the army of Mahmud of Ghazni, who in turn is descended from the cousin and son-in-law of Muhammad himself. In any case, they are well respected within the nation of Pakistan, having been of the landowner class throughout history.

During the era of the British Raj, the Awan people were classified as exclusively Muslim, thanks to census data collected at the time. Modern census data suggests that not much has changed. There are representatives of the Hindu and Sikh amongst the Awan, though data on these people is sparse. A total of 60 individuals have declared themselves to be believers.

Pray for the 60, and for their families, that they would be protected by the Lord, and have the boldness and love to take Christ to other Awan households. To follow Jesus is to risk upsetting community harmony and to risk losing family and friends. Pray that the Awan people will see beyond this, and understand why they need to follow the King of kings.—BK

iStock/ajijchan2



IS 66:1, NLT

This is what the Lord says: “Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool. Could you build me a temple as good as that? Could you build me such a resting place?”

Pray that the Awan tribe will turn their hearts to the throne of grace and revolve their lives around the King of kings.

BALOCH PEOPLE IN PAKISTAN

IS 44:24B-25, NLT

I am the Lord, the maker of all things, who stretches out the heavens, who spreads out the earth by myself, who foils the signs of false prophets and makes fools of diviners, who overthrows the learning of the wise and turns it into nonsense...

Pray for many Baloch families to gather around the Lord of hosts and give him their undivided devotion.

iStock/PPL-Images



Baloch teenaged girls at a special event

variety of objects like ropes, shoes, mats, and even spoons and pipes.

Pakistan's Baloch Province, home of the Baloch people, is a harsh place to survive. It has been in turmoil since 2004. Armed radical groups like the Balochistan Liberation Army have conducted numerous deadly attacks on Pakistani troops, police, and civilians. The Baloch claim to be economically marginalized and poor compared to most Pakistanis.

The Baloch consider themselves as one people group, although they consist of over 100 tribes and sub-tribes that speak various dialects of the Southern Balochi language. They are traditionally nomads, but many are now settled in villages, living in mud or stone huts. They use traditional agricultural methods to raise camels, cattle, and sheep. The Baloch are Sunni Muslim.

Pray that the Lord will enable workers to overcome the dangers and barriers of religious opposition and tribal prejudice to bring the life-giving gospel message to the Baloch people. Pray that hundreds of Baloch families will enjoy fellowship with the Lord, and living with his blessings.—AHS

What can you do with a palm tree? The Baloch eat the meat of the palm and use the leaves to make a

RIND BALOCH PEOPLE IN PAKISTAN

How do the pre-literate Rind Baloch preserve their history and traditions? For centuries, Rind Baloch mothers have educated their children by singing them lullabies. They are proud of their cultural history and celebrate annually with festivals. They live in remote mountainous or desert areas in Pakistan. In the past, these locations have kept them safe from invasions.

Insofar as their lifestyles and habitat are concerned, the Rind are very similar to the other Baloch people that we prayed for yesterday. They claim to be economically marginalized and poor compared to the rest of Pakistan. Unfortunately, strong inter-tribal hostilities mar their relationships which often turn to violence. This threatens regional security and political stability. Rind is the largest of the five major divisions of the Baloch. The Rind have their own distinct dialect.

The Rind Baloch are Muslim and there are no known followers of Christ among them. Global Recordings Network (GRN) has recordings in some of the dialects spoken by the Rind Baloch.

Pray for these materials to reach the Rind Baloch people. Pray for peace in Rind Baloch communities. Pray for Jesus movements to bless extended Rind Baloch families so the gospel will spread rapidly.—AHS



A Rind Baloch celebration

iStock/PPL-Images

IS 45:12, NIV

It is I who made the earth and created mankind on it. My own hands stretched out the heavens; I marshaled their starry hosts.

Pray for the Muslim Rind Baloch, who believe in a God of creation, to understand the significance of his creation in their daily lives.

BRAHUI PEOPLE IN PAKISTAN

IS 45:8, NLT

You heavens above, rain down my righteousness; let the clouds shower it down. Let the earth open wide, let salvation spring up, let righteousness flourish with it; I, the Lord, have created it.

Make this your prayer for the Brahui people!



What prevents most Brahui men from having multiple wives? Answer: The economy! Although their Sunni Muslim religion allows it, most find the practice simply too expensive.

The Brahui inhabit the harshest, most isolated environments of Pakistan. They have been shepherds for centuries, but research has created a new job description—professional shepherd. They discovered that sheep thrive in large flocks, so Brahui households pool their sheep and hire a specialist who manages about 500 animals. This enables the men to work on local farms.

The tribe, rather than the family, is the basic unit. Marriages are arranged, and divorce is rare. Tribes base their membership on their descendants and their political allegiance.

They all claim to be Muslims, but they reverence saints, believe in witchcraft, evil spirits, and prayer for the dead. The Brahui language has been reduced to writing but few can read. Few have internet access, so audio recordings of the Bible, the JESUS Film, etc. would have to be distributed from outsiders.

Pray that the Good Shepherd, Jesus Christ, who loves his sheep and died for them, will capture the hearts of the Brahui people. Pray for a "Book of Acts" type of movement to Christ among the Brahui. Pray that a strong movement of the Holy Spirit will bring entire Brahui families into a rich experience of God's blessing.—AHS

BARWALA PEOPLE IN PAKISTAN

Traditionally Barwalas have worked as village watchmen and messengers, overseeing the work of coolies, bearing torches, and carrying palanquins (a large box for one passenger) at weddings.

They are considered to be from a low caste, meaning that they have very little influence or power. By the beginning of the 20th century, many were agricultural laborers working for the more prestigious Rajputs.

Most of the Muslim Barwala people live in rural areas. Others live further north in Pakistan's portion of Kashmir. Today most of them are engaged in agriculture or as unskilled laborers. There are 12 major Barwala clans in Pakistan.

Most Barwala people are Hindu, especially those that live in India, but in Pakistan most are Muslims. Though they adhere to the basic tenets of Islam, they are adversely affected by the caste system which influences people in almost all of South Asia.

One of the major difficulties in reaching rural Muslim peoples is that they don't discern the difference between following Christ and the negative social values they see in the western media.

Pray for the Lord to thrust out his ambassadors to go to Barwala family heads with the blessings of Jesus Christ. Pray that they will understand that Jesus is the savior of all peoples, including their own.—KC



iStock/prognone

EZEK 3:17, NLT

Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the people of Israel; so hear the word I speak and give them warning from me.

Pray that there will soon come a day when the Lord raises up members of the Barwala community as his messengers to their people.

1 SAM 2:21, NLT

And the Lord blessed Hannah, and she conceived and gave birth to three sons and two daughters. Meanwhile, Samuel grew up in the presence of the Lord.

Pray that the Lord will raise up many "sons" among the Jhalawan Brahui, who will have the zeal for the Lord that Samuel had.

JHALAWAN BRAHUI IN PAKISTAN



How do you celebrate the birth of a son? The 805,000 semi-nomadic Brahui Jhalawan people of Baloch Province in Pakistan celebrate by firing rifles in the air, praising Allah, and giving gifts. Can you beat that for unbridled joy?

They live primarily in Pakistan's Baloch Province, though a smaller number are found in Afghanistan. Their Brahui language is from a different language base, so

it makes them distinctive from their Pashtun and Baloch neighbors.

Many no longer live as nomadic shepherds; they now live in small villages and grow cash crops like wheat. Their village households come together to form a *khalk* (small village). Each household of the *khalk* places their flock of sheep under the care of a shepherd that they all have decided has the best skills to take care of their animals. This allows the men to farm and go to the markets to sell their produce and animals. Teamwork is their forte!

Jhalawans are Sunni Muslims who still hold on to some of their ancestral practices and spirit worship. Believers have not been successful in reaching these very independent people.

Pray that God will touch the hearts of believers who are willing to live among the Jhalawans and share his word with them. Pray for Jesus Christ to penetrate the hearts of Jhalawan Brahui family leaders. Pray for his kingdom to come and his will to be done among this people group.—PD

MUSLIM DHOBIS IN PAKISTAN

(This story illustrates truths about this people group.)

The wrinkled man with sores on his arms was wringing soapy water from a towel in Lahore, Pakistan when a woman approached him with a load of dirty clothes to be washed. Seeing how frail he was, the concerned woman asked why he was still working at his age. He gave a crooked smile and replied, "We Dhobi have been washing clothes for generations, and now our grandchildren have a chance to do better. I work long hours so my grandchildren can go to school. One of my grandsons is studying to be a government officer, and I have another one who has a garment business. I'm thankful to Allah that I'm able to still do this work."

There are several million Muslim Dhobi living in Pakistan with others residing in India, Bangladesh, and Nepal. Their name means "wash," and this identifies their trade of being cloth washers. Despite the painful physical problems they endured as washers, the older Dhobis today work hard so their children can have a good education. There are more young Dhobis now working in the government, business, and other professions than ever before.

Pray for the Lord's will to be done among the Muslim Dhobi people in Pakistan. Pray for sensitive and loving believers to reach their elders, who can open the door for others to follow Jesus.—PD



A Dhobi man

istock/Andy_Oxley

MATT 11:29, NIV

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.

Pray that this verse will penetrate the hearts and souls of Dhobi people all over South Asia.

DHUND PEOPLE IN PAKISTAN

IS 26:3, NLT

You will keep in perfect peace all who trust in you, all whose thoughts are fixed on you!

Make this your prayer for the Dhund people. Pray that they will make the Lord their peace and follow him all their lives.

iStock/AxOnt



Honey cake

(This story illustrates truths about this people group.)

The Dhund parents were finalizing the pre-arranged marriage of their adult children. The girl's father, Hassan, said to the boy's father, "Syed, I'm worried; not many tourists are coming to Murree (town in Pakistan). Ahmad is not receiving much work as a waiter and Aleena is getting little for her work washing clothes at the hotel." Syed responded, "Look Hassan, our kids have known each other all their lives; it's time! The wedding can be small, and it won't cost you much." Looking at the mothers he added, "Both of you can take care of Aleena's dress, make-up and make a few pieces of jewelry." Smiling, the mothers agreed, and the fathers shook hands. Aleena and Ahmad looked at each other and smiled. Hassan gave a quick prayer of thanks to Allah, and everyone enjoyed tea and sweet honey cakes.

Most of the estimated 600,000 Islamic Dhund people live in northern Pakistan with a large number residing in the resort city of Murree. Although most of them work as laborers they are proud of their royal history and adhere to traditions such as arranged marriages.

Pray that God will prepare the hearts of their family leaders and open a way for them to know his saving grace.—PD

GUJAR PEOPLE IN PAKISTAN

The caste system controls every aspect of an individual's life in the sub-continental countries of

India and Pakistan: whom to marry, foods one eats, customs, etc. The Gujars in Pakistan are considered one of the "untouchable" low status castes. They are Muslims, but their destinies have already been decided. Their lives are bound by poverty, illiteracy, and social oppression. The Muslim Gujars are seasonal nomads raising buffalo and sheep. Some do minimal farming. Because most are illiterate, other castes easily take advantage of them.

The Gujars also live in India and Afghanistan. They are a patrilineal caste, so inheritance is passed down through the father's line. As with many other people groups of this area, the Gujar parents arrange the marriages of their children. They tend to choose brides from another clan within their people group. In some places they are labeled as thieves and vagrants. There are a small number of believers, and God can use them to start a people movement that can rapidly multiply.

Pray for the power of the Holy Spirit to ignite a dynamic people movement among the Gujars of Pakistan, one that will even spread to other closely related Gujars in India and Afghanistan. Ask the Holy Spirit to soften the hearts of Gujar family leaders so that they can open the doors of their people to receive and share the blessings that only Jesus offers.—JS



iStock/Kailash

IS 6:8, NLT

Then I heard the Lord asking, "Whom should I send as a messenger to this people? Who will go for us?" I said, "Here I am. Send me."

Pray that many believers in South Asia will say, like Isaiah, "Send me," when the Lord calls them to the Gujar people.

GUJJARS IN PAKISTAN

DAN 10:10-11, NIV

A hand touched me and set me trembling on my hands and knees. He said, "Daniel, you who are highly esteemed, consider carefully the words I am about to speak to you, and stand up, for I have now been sent to you." And when he said this to me, I stood up trembling.

Pray for the Gujjar people to be as dedicated to the Lord as Daniel of old.

iStock/ImPerfectLazybones



of Pakistan. That's right – two closely related Muslim groups are separated by spelling. The Gujjars mostly live in the plains and the Himalayan region of Pakistan. The Gujjars have given their names to several places in Pakistan.

It will not be easy to overcome centuries of commitment to a religion that denies the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. It starts with concentrated prayer to break down the strongholds that have bound these people for centuries.

God's delayed response does not mean he is not answering prayer. Daniel asked God to intercede in his behalf when he was in Persia. In Daniel 10: 12-13, we read, "Then he said to me, "Fear not, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand and humbled yourself before God, your words have been heard, and I have come because of your words. The prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me for 21 days...." Satan wants to keep the Gujjars of Pakistan in his realm, but God wants to use your prayers today to bring about God's will!

Pray that our Heavenly Father will take our prayers today for the Gujjars and use them to break down spiritual barriers and to open their hearts to the good news.—JS

MUSLIM HAJAMS IN PAKISTAN

What does everyone need from time to time? A haircut! The Hajam caste of Pakistan have a long-standing tradition of being hair-cutters, barbers, and manicurists. In other words, they perform services that every other caste needs. Many are owners of barber shops and hair salons. They even perform minor surgeries such as circumcision. They are often part of hair-trimming for major family events like weddings and funerals. They can even be match-makers, and some Hajam women serve as midwives.

The Hajam's unique access to every part of Pakistani life and to every caste gives them the ability to share the gospel message of Jesus Christ to the lost peoples of Pakistan. But first the Hajams themselves need to meet the Savior! There is little or no ministry among the Hajams, but they can be a strategic group to reach with the gospel as they have far-reaching connections with other Muslim communities.

Pray that God will call intercessors to regularly pray for them. Pray for a movement of Hajam households to study Christ's ways and share them with others. Pray for the Lord to give Hajam family heads the opportunity to hear and respond to the gospel and allow others to do the same. Pray for his will to be done among the Hajam people of Pakistan.—JS

iStock/greta6



IS 9:2, NLT

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.

Pray that the Muslim Hajam people will no longer walk in darkness but see and respond to the light of Christ.

KAMBOJ PEOPLE IN INDIA AND PAKISTAN

IS 11:10, NLT

In that day the heir to David's throne will be a banner of salvation to all the world. The nations will rally to him, and the land where he lives will be a glorious place.

Make this your prayer for every frontier people group in South Asia!

iStock/paresh3d



On this last day of the month we are praying for still another caste/group of people found mostly in India and Pakistan – the Kamboj.

Some of them are Muslim and some are Hindu, often depending upon which country they live in.

The Kamboj were highly regarded military figures during the days of British colonialism. With the partition of the region in 1947 into India and Pakistan, there were massive migrations of mostly Hindus to India and Muslims to Pakistan.

Today the Kamboj have a reputation as excellent farmers, and they have greatly contributed to the agricultural needs in both countries. Many are landowners, and they have caste councils to look after them, so the councils are a very important part of their lives. With the death of a father, the inheritance goes to the oldest son who becomes the new “patriarch” who has control over family decisions.

Pray that entire caste councils and patriarchs will come to Christ and lead others to do the same. Pray that God will give the Kamboj dreams and visions leading them to accept the blessings of the Lord. Pray for Kamboj families to be drawn by the Holy Spirit to seek forgiveness, and to understand the adequacy of Christ's work on the cross.—JS

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