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Digest

Pakistan:

*A Muslim Nation
in Strife Within
and Without*

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Dear Praying Friends,

You might remember that last November we prayed for the Hindu people groups in Pakistan. This month, as we continue our “Year of the Frontier,” we will feature the much larger Muslim peoples of that nation of nearly 200 million.

You seldom find good news about Pakistan. This nation, which was dedicated to Islam when they became a nation in 1947, has been a cesspool of corruption and cruelty. Are there Muslims in that nation that now understand that their religious system has failed them? Please pray that the difficult challenges faced by Pakistan will result in many looking to Jesus for answers.

In Christ,

Keith Carey, editor-in-chief, *GPD*

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Pray for *A Disciple Making Movement Among Every Muslim People in Pakistan*



PAKISTAN: A LAND OF STRIFE

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Islam and Foreign Control

Hinduism was the prominent religion of South Asia for thousands of years. In the 300s BC, Buddhism began as a reform movement with the purpose of correcting the worst features of the Hindu caste system. Buddhism later spread to other regions of Asia but mostly died out in South Asia except for Bhutan and Nepal. Hinduism and the caste system remained intact in this part of the world.

Islam did not arrive in South Asia as a reform movement. Though some came as traders in earlier centuries, the bulk of the Islamic influence in this part of the world came from Turkish invaders in the 1300s. In the 1500s, the Moghul Empire took their place, and they controlled this region through brute force until the British took over in the 1700s and 1800s. By that time, there were millions who converted to Islam, often to find favor with the conquering peoples, be they Turkish or Moghul. And of course, there were the Islamic invaders themselves who were faithful to Islam. Muslims were especially numerous in what is now Pakistan and Bangladesh.

During WWII, the Japanese challenged Great Britain's control of South Asia, but the British defeated them. The British won WWII, but their ability to control a vast empire in Asia was greatly compromised, so they made plans to grant this land independence. Centuries of bad feelings between the Hindus and the Muslims meant that the two religious communities did not want to be part of the same nation. That forced the British to resort to a two-state solution with what was called "India."

Bengali Region

The original idea was that the Hindu majority regions would be part of secular India and Muslim majority regions would be part of the Islamic state of Pakistan. It was not that simple. One of the first problems for the new Muslim state had to do with geography. Pakistan's Muslim regions were concentrated in two widely separated areas. The Indus River Valley formed the main part of Pakistan. There were also millions of Muslims living in the state of Bengal, thousands of miles to the east. In between those two regions was the hostile state of India. The Bengali Muslims felt they had little in common with the Indus Valley Muslims. They spoke a language very different from the other people groups of Pakistan. Customs and cultures were also very different.

In 1971 a cyclone devastated the Bengali region of Pakistan. The Pakistani national government made little effort to relieve the suffering caused by the cyclone. This led to a revolt which quickly morphed into an independence movement. India sided with the Bengali rebels and that led to a war between India and Pakistan in 1971. After several weeks of fighting India and the rebels prevailed. That led to the creation of the new nation of Bangladesh. Thus, an independence movement prevailed that tore Pakistan apart.

Kashmir

Another complication came because at the time of partition, the Muslim-majority province of Kashmir was ruled by a Hindu sultan who decided to have Kashmir join India. Pakistan found this unacceptable. In 1965 the situation led to war between India and Pakistan. The war lasted several weeks. At first Pakistan gained much territory in Kashmir, but the offensive soon grounded to a halt. Eventually they reached a cease fire, but no peace treaty was ever signed.

A large portion of the province is occupied by the Pakistani army on one

side, and India's army on the other. Technically India and Pakistan are still at war, and they still have skirmishes. An uneasy peace exists between India and Pakistan, and innocent civilians are being abused by the military forces.

Kashmir's Muslims are divided between those who want to be a part of Pakistan and those who desire independence. Kashmir also has a large Hindu minority. These people want to retain their ties to India. There is no way everyone is going to get what they want.

Today's Separatist Movements

Today Pakistan is an unstable democracy. The country has experienced several military coups. Military juntas have ruled Pakistan off and on. They have a weak economy, and Pakistan has little to offer their people. Poverty and violence seem to be what defines Pakistan today.

The Punjabis have been the most dominant people group in Pakistan. They dominate not only Punjab Province, but all parts of the country. The majority Punjabi people group has used a divide and conquer strategy to retain control of Pakistan.

Balochistan is a lightly populated desert province that is rich in oil and other natural resources, and strategically located. Despite the abundance of resources, the Baloch people are among the poorest in Pakistan, and they feel that only the Punjabis have benefited from their resources. Today Pakistan is trying to make way for a trade corridor with China that goes through Balochistan, giving the Baloch reason to view the Chinese as another enemy. The Baloch also have a good case that they were forced to become part of Pakistan during the 1947 partition. Many would like independence, so the Pakistani government must either woo them with jobs and economic benefits or use force to keep them. For the most part they have chosen the latter.

Sindh Province is not as poor as many other parts of Pakistan, but they have 90 percent of Pakistan's Hindu population, the people we prayed for in Nov. 2018. There is a separatist movement, though it is not as strong as the ones in Balochistan or Khyber Pakhtunkwa.

FATA and Khyber Pakhtunkwa were merged in 2018. It is now called the Khyber Pakhtunkwa Province. This is a land dominated by the Pashtuns, also called Pathans in this country. They have a fluid population between Pakistan and neighboring Afghanistan. The Pashtuns are the core ethnic group for the Taliban, though many Pashtuns do not approve of the Taliban. The Pashtuns have proven to be nearly unconquerable; at the height of their

empire the British managed to barely control those that are in what is now called Pakistan, and they could never conquer those in Afghanistan. Pashtun forces in Afghanistan sent the USSR retreating in the 1980s. Pashtuns have always provided a headache to Pakistani forces. They often have to allow the Pashtuns to do what they want without intervening; the Pakistani government must choose its battles wisely.

Political leaders in Pakistan are divided on how to retain control of their country. Some favor education and economic development. Others feel a military crackdown is the best solution.

On A Spiritual Level

Pakistan was carved out of India to be an Islamic state. As you read in this prayer guide last November, there are some Hindus, and they are regularly persecuted by the Muslim majority. Pakistan's Muslims are a mixed lot. Some are very moderate, and others are very radical. There are terrorist groups based in Pakistan who are primarily concerned about fighting India over Kashmir, though many will attack Pakistani Christians and Hindus. Sunni Islam is dominant in Pakistan, and some of them have attacked members of other Muslim sects like the Shi'ites and Ahmadiyyas. Only two percent of Pakistanis are Christians of any kind.

Let's Pray!

God can and will be victorious, no matter what mankind does. He wants us to be part of his plan to win the nations to Jesus Christ. Pray that the violence and hatred in Pakistan will turn Muslim hearts to the loving savior.

Pray for a disciple making movement to flourish among every Muslim family, clan, and people group in Pakistan.

Pray for Pakistani Muslims to understand that Jesus Christ came to give them abundant life if they would only accept it.

Pray for the protection of Pakistan's small Christian minority.

JAT MUSLIMS IN PAKISTAN

I SAM 16:13, NLT

So as David stood there among his brothers, Samuel took the flask of olive oil he had brought and anointed David with the oil. And the Spirit of the LORD came powerfully upon David from that day on. Then Samuel returned to Ramah.

Pray that the Lord will raise up many "Davids" from the Jat communities in Pakistan.

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When Arabs entered the southern regions of current Pakistan in the 7th century, the chief tribal groups they encountered were the Jats and Med peoples. The Jats were the first converts to Islam, and many became soldiers in the new Arab Muslim administration of the Sindh region. In later centuries many adopted a nomadic lifestyle herding camels and goats. When irrigation techniques improved centuries later, the Jats adopted an agricultural lifestyle. Conversion to Islam occurred gradually with new adaptation in their lifestyle. The lines of demarcation between countries in the subcontinent have changed through the centuries. Jats live in both India and Pakistan, but most Jats in Pakistan are Muslims.

The Jat people have a history of being brave and ready fighters. They are fiercely independent and highly value their self-respect more than anything. Although these qualities are highly admired in most societies, including Pakistan, they do not rate highly in God's eyes. Jesus came to be a servant to others. He taught his followers to esteem others more highly than themselves, to turn the other cheek when slapped – all of which flies in the face of proud people.

Pray for the Muslim Jats of Pakistan to encounter our suffering servant Jesus and invite him to change their hearts. Pray for sensitive, dedicated evangelists to reach out to Jat communities to help them to begin a disciple making movement.—JS

MUSLIM JHINWAR OF PAKISTAN

What do the Jhinwar Muslim people believe is their hope for eternity? They hope that their good deeds will outweigh their bad deeds on the day of judgment. Sound familiar? They fail to recognize that God's word says, "That none are righteous, no not one" (Rom 3:10) ... for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God and are justified by grace as a gift through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus" (Rom 3:23-24).

Most Muslim Jhinwar people live in the Punjab or Sindh Provinces of Pakistan. They are considered to be either Other Backward Castes (OBCs) or a scheduled caste, both considered to be somewhere in the lower-middle of the caste hierarchy.

The Jhinwar people can't read the classical Arabic of the Qur'an, so they depend upon their imams or mullahs to teach them the fundamentals of Islam. They need to know that God loves them and wants them to be part of every tongue, language, and nation at his throne in heaven.

Pray for the Jhinwar Muslims to have a Holy Spirit-driven hunger for spiritual truth that will lead them to the Lord. Pray for new workers who will lovingly persevere with these people until they have a church planting movement. Pray for Jhinwar families to be blessed with the presence of Jesus.—JS



Pakistan's provinces

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EPH 2:4-5, NLT

But God is so rich in mercy, and he loved us so much, that even though we were dead because of our sins, he gave us life when he raised Christ from the dead. (It is only by God's grace that you have been saved!)

Pray that despite their Islamic upbringing, the Jhinwar people of Pakistan will understand that they cannot be saved apart from a sinless savior.

PRO 16:18, NLT

Pride goes before
destruction, and
haughtiness before a fall.

*Pray that the proud
Kamboh people will heed
the instructions of God in
his word.*

Elina_L/iStock



people group known as the Kamboh people. Their traditions tell them that they are descended from the Kai Dynasty of Persia (modern day Iran), and they distinguished themselves by their courage and generosity. They feel particularly gifted with their wisdom and nobility. It follows then, that they feel very proud and should only marry within their specific Muslim group.

Opposition to the gospel is particularly intense in Pakistan, and as far as is known there are no followers of Jesus Christ among the Kamboh. How do you even start to witness to people like this that about the Savior? You pray! Jesus told us that we “ought always to pray and not lose heart” (Luke 18:1). Missionaries have reported to *Global Prayer Digest* that their first breakthroughs with new believers came when their people group was highlighted in *GPD*.

Pray that this insight would hold true for the Kamboh people today! Pray that their hearts will be softened to accept Jesus, and that their families will be blessed with the knowledge of the savior. Pray for God to send Christ followers to connect spiritually with them and help them begin their own disciple making movement.—JS

KAMBOH PEOPLE IN PAKISTAN

How would you feel if you thought that you had royal blood flowing through your veins? Perhaps a little proud? This is the mindset of a

MUSLIM KASHMIRIS IN PAKISTAN

One of the most spectacularly beautiful places in the world has seen constant turmoil since 1947.

It's Kashmir, a region located in the western Himalayan Mountains of northwestern India, northeastern Pakistan, and a small part of China. It has been a battleground between Hindus and Muslims since partition in 1947 when Muslim-majority lands were expected to be part of Pakistan, but most of Kashmir remained with India.

Kashmiris are mostly farmers, raising sheep, goats and yaks. Cashmere, the highly prized wool, comes from this region. Most Muslim Kashmiris live in remote areas and are only united when they come together for occasions such as festivals and pilgrimages.

Most Kashmiris are devout Sunni Muslims who view conversion to Christianity as wrong, so believers are often persecuted. Jesus made it clear to his followers that discipleship would lead to persecution.

Pray for entire Kashmiri families to be drawn by the Holy Spirit to see that following Christ is worth persecution. Pray that they will judge “Christianity” not by what they see in the media, but by the teachings and actions of our Lord.—JS



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DAN 11:35, NLT

And some of the wise will fall victim to persecution. In this way, they will be refined and cleansed and made pure until the time of the end, for the appointed time is still to come.

Pray for the Lord to give joy and perseverance to his children who are being persecuted in Pakistan today.

MUSLIM KHATRI PEOPLE OF PAKISTAN

PS 24:1, NLT

The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it. The world and all its people belong to him.

Pray that the Khatri peoples will understand that they belong to God by right of creation. Pray for them to surrender to him!

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When we think of India, we think of castes. When we think of Pakistan, we think of Islam. But can the two, castes and Islam,

go together? Indeed, they can. Today's people have a name that came from the second highest caste, the Kshatriyas, and they are Muslim. They are also known as Punjabi Shaikhs (from Sheik, a religious leader), an ethnic title. Other Khatri are Sikhs or even Hindu, a reminder that this people were not always Muslim. (They became Muslim in the 12th century). Unlike many castes however, they are allowed to share food and trade with some Brahmin groups, indicating that they have higher status than most.

By and large, the Muslim Khatri are middle class. They engage in commerce, grinding and selling grain and tailoring. They marry within their own people. This caste cluster is about business and trade. Consisting of two major sub-groups, they number some 1.1 million in Pakistan's Punjab Province. There are no known followers of Jesus among the Muslim Khatri.

Consequently, we need to pray that churches and mission agencies will creatively engage these people with the gospel. Pray for believers to reach out to Khatri family leaders, who will in turn open the door for those they influence to turn to Christ. Pray for Khatri disciples to make more disciples so that this caste will be blessed.—TP

KHOJA PEOPLE OF PAKISTAN

What is folk religion? It is the religion of the masses as compared with the higher classes. It is not what you study in a world religions course. In general, folk religion is a blend of orthodox faith with animistic practices, superstitions or some aspects of pre-conversion faith.



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Such describes the religion of the Khojas, a nominally Muslim group in Pakistan. Although converted to Islam ages ago, they still engage in some Hindu practices. As for Islam, some are Sunni and some are Shi'ite, the major denominations of Islam. Others are Ismailis, a minority sect. Even as they are divided religiously, they are also divided linguistically by several languages. Thus, any missionary work will need multi-lingual resources to reach and disciple them. Of the 800,000 Khoja Muslims, none are known to have become followers of Jesus. Thus, they are an unengaged and unreached people. They need our prayers!

Pray for creative witness and evangelism, perhaps seeking to engage them in a way they can understand. Pray that multi-lingual resources will be widely available and will be used in reaching their family and clan leaders. Pray for dreams and visions of Jesus that will lead to church planting movements that will transform their communities into Christ's likeness.—TP

LEV 26:1 NLT

Do not make idols or set up carved images, or sacred pillars, or sculptured stones in your land so you may worship them. I am the LORD your God.

Pray for the Holy Spirit to convict the Khoja people of their need to worship ONLY the Lord God!

MUSLIM KUMHAR PEOPLE OF PAKISTAN

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 the Kumhar potters will learn spiritual truths from their own work and understand that the Creator made them for much more than they have ever imagined.

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Pakistan and became Bangladesh.

Among the many peoples of Pakistan, we are praying today for the Kumhars, who speak several languages: Punjabi, Hindi, Urdu, or other languages spoken at the sub-group level. Kumhars are divided also by sub-castes. As for the name Kumhar, it means “potters,” and most Kumhars are potters by trade. Most of the Muslims among them have ancestors who were Hindu before a movement to Islam began hundreds of years ago.

There are no known followers of Jesus among the Muslim Kumhars of Pakistan. Due to the use of several languages, workers will need multi-lingual resources to evangelize and disciple Kumhars.

Pray for resources like gospel recordings and the JESUS Film to become widely available to the Kumhar people in Pakistan. Pray that churches will adopt this people to pray for them, and that mission agencies will send people to them. Pray for creative witness. Pray for all Kumhar sub-castes to have movements to Christ.—TP

MUSLIM LOHAR PEOPLE IN PAKISTAN

We often hear how Christians and Jews are persecuted, but in Pakistan it’s the Muslim Lohar who are victim-

ized! Even though there are two million of them in Pakistan, they are a minority among their Hindu counterparts. If they were Hindus, they would be considered a caste, but because these Lohar are Muslim, they are labeled a clan. Islam officially does not recognize caste, yet Pakistani society is highly stratified, and one group does not eat or even talk with another. Caste is real among Muslim communities in this part of the world.

Most Lohars have always been blacksmiths or metal fabricators by trade. Many speak Western Punjabi as well as Urdu, Saraiki, or other languages. Bibles plus audio and video Christian resources are available to the Muslim Lohars. Yet there are no known believers in Jesus among them. There are several reasons for this: their closed societies, low literacy rates, and there are almost no workers. In addition, Internet use is limited to them, and confined mainly to residents of Islamabad and a few other major Pakistani cities.

Pray that in spite of spiritual, social, and religious barriers, the gospel message will bless Lohar clans and families. Ask the Holy Spirit to penetrate these walls so that there will soon be a disciple making movement that will bless the Lohar people.—AHS



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MAL 3:2, NLT

But who will be able to endure it when he comes? Who will be able to stand and face him when he appears? For he will be like a blazing fire that refines metal, or like a strong soap that bleaches clothes.

Pray for the Muslim Lohar people to have a healthy fear of God that will lead them to the Savior.

MUSLIM MACCHI PEOPLE IN PAKISTAN

GEN 1:20, NLT

Then God said, "Let the waters swarm with fish and other life. Let the skies be filled with birds of every kind."

Pray for this fisherman caste to be thankful to the true Lord for the abundance of fish in their homeland.

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Imagine living among two and a half million people with not one known follower of Christ. All your life you have heard only of the Muslim religion. You have to recite sections of the Qur'an, even though you don't understand Classical Arabic. You are taught that Christianity is an illicit religion. The Qur'an teaches there

is only one God, but you are told, the Christians claim there are three. If an outsider wanted to talk about Jesus, you would not be willing to listen.

This exemplifies the Macchi people of Pakistan. Like many similar groups, they combine Islam with their own unique practices. The Macchi perform birth, marriage, and death rituals according to Islamic rules, but also incorporate Hindu ceremonies. The name Macchi refers to their main occupation, fishing. They marry within their clan. Women wear their wedding rings not on their fingers but on their toes.

There are many barriers between the Macchi and the gospel. Apart from their own resistance, the Pakistan government will not issue visas to Christian missionaries. Yet the Scripture tells us that if God opens a door, no man can shut it.

Ask the Lord to open a door for the Macchi to hear the true gospel message and respond to it by starting their own church planting movement. Pray for their families to be blessed with the gift of faith in the savior.—AHS

MUSLIM MEWATI PEOPLE IN PAKISTAN

It can be confusing! If you ask a Mewati about his religion, he'll tell you, "Our clan is Muslim." In one sense that's true,

but they were originally Hindu, and can't shake off their past. They mix Hindu traditions with Islamic practices. Muslims don't officially follow the caste system, but it still shapes their thinking and their sense of self-worth. He may proudly tell you, "We are from the Rajput people," referring to a prominent community. Others may tell you, "He's really from a lower caste." Much of this confusion began in 1947 during the time of partition. They try to give themselves better status by changing their Mewari language to sound more like Urdu, the Pakistan national language.

When we look at Muslim Mewati people, we are tempted to think that nothing will change them. But they have changed in the past and now have a confused mixture of two religions, neither of which can lead them to the blessings of the one true God. Can they change again, this time to follow Jesus Christ who is the way, the truth, and the life?

Let us pray the Lord of the harvest to send laborers into this field and show them the way to establishing their true identity in Christ. Pray for spiritual confusion to give way to the light of Christ.—AHS



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I PET 2:10, NLT

Once you had no identity as a people; now you are God's people. Once you received no mercy; now you have received God's mercy.

Pray for the Muslims of Pakistan to put their identity in the Savior.

PS 106:5, NLT

Let me share in the prosperity of your chosen ones. Let me rejoice in the joy of your people; let me praise you with those who are your heritage.

Pray that the Mirasi people will embrace the Lord as their heritage.

MUSLIM MIRASI PEOPLE IN PAKISTAN

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(This story illustrates truths about this people group.)

As young Aisha and her younger brother, Ismail, watched the JESUS Film in their Punjabi

language on their father's computer in utter astonishment, they could not forget that their father would return from prayer at the mosque soon, and their mother, cooking dinner in the outside kitchen, could enter without warning. They could not turn away from what they were seeing and hearing for the first time.

They would have to be ready to leave after dinner to go to their place of work, as did many Mirasi children. Aisha was a dancer, and Ismail played music while she performed. They were their family's providers. School was not an option for them, nor was childhood.

Mirasi people in Pakistan are not educated but are skillful in music and dancing. They perform at Muslim cultural celebrations for very little money, but at one time they had respect and fame. Some have sought other professions, even changing their names.

These people are 100 percent Muslim. It is very dangerous to be other than Muslim today in Pakistan. One must count the cost. The word "Mirasi" means inheritance or heritage.

Pray for the Mirasi people to have a new heritage as the children of the Most High God. Pray for Jesus to reach this people group. Pray for them to find materials in the Punjabi language.—KH

MUSLIM MOCHI PEOPLE IN PAKISTAN

Mochi means, "to fold."

Mochi people historically were leather craftsmen known for their shoes and saddles. Today, due to industrial production, many have left their craft, and work as landless farm workers. Mochi people are considered lowly by other Muslims because of their work with dead animals. Pakistan has not provided educational or humanitarian assistance to Mochi people; consequently, their literacy rate is below 15 percent and they live in poverty. Their customs allow for polygamy, but they do not widely practice it. Sons usually marry at around age 17, while daughters marry even sooner.

They are 100 percent Sunni Muslim. The Mochi people are an unreached, unengaged people who need the opportunity to respond to Almighty God's infinite loving-kindness. The printed Bible, GRN audio recordings, the JESUS Film, and many other visual resources exist in their Punjabi language.

Since movements to Jesus Christ are characterized by extraordinary prayer, ask Almighty God that his people will continually increase in intimacy and sensitivity to him, and that they will pray without ceasing for the Mochi people in Pakistan. Ask God to raise up bi-vocational lay leaders who can show them better ways to make a living and share the gospel. Pray for the blessing of knowing Jesus Christ to spread from family to family.—KH

iStock/Muhammad Bin Masood



PS 5:11, NLT

But let all who take refuge in you rejoice; let them sing joyful praises forever. Spread your protection over them, that all who love your name may be filled with joy.

Pray for the Mochi people to soon take refuge in the Lord, love his name, and be rewarded with joy and salvation.

1 SAM 17:26, NLT

David asked the soldiers standing nearby, "What will a man get for killing this Philistine and ending his defiance of Israel? Who is this pagan Philistine anyway, that he is allowed to defy the armies of the living God?"

Pray that God will call many from out of the Moghal community to be dedicated to him, just as David of old.

MUSLIM MOGHALS IN PAKISTAN

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Toe rings

Moghal (aka, Mughal) people are known in history for their military accomplishments. This respect follows them even today in Pakistan. They

marry within their own tribe and prefer cross-cousin unions. Married women are noted for their finger rings, nose rings, earrings, toe rings, and bangles. They follow the same rules as other Muslims living nearby. Their sons and daughter receive inheritance based on laws of the Qur'an. Many Moghals are now farmers rather than soldiers. Others have positions in government and public service. Many are educated.

In Pakistan the Moghals are 100 percent Muslim, although they are divided into Shi'ite and Sunni sects. Their language is primarily Urdu; Bible resources exist in this language; however, it is difficult to obtain them in Pakistan, one of the least tolerant countries for believers. The Moghals remain unreached and unengaged, and there are no known believers among them.

A man born in Pakistan, now living in the United States, recently said that he believes strongly that the Holy Spirit of God is about to reap a substantial harvest for the Kingdom of God in Pakistan.

Pray this to come true soon! Pray for Almighty God to bring forth his blessing by strengthening and healing families and communities within the Moghal people in Pakistan.—KH

MUSSALI PEOPLE IN PAKISTAN

What would it be like to be born into a family of sanitation workers where there was no way up or out? The Mussali people of Pakistan are submerged in this situation by birth! Not only must they clean toilets and latrines, they must also endure the scorn of others who consider them to be inferior.

Their beliefs are a form of Islam tainted by the Hinduism of their ancestors. No one among them believes that Almighty God willingly gave his son to pay for their sins so they could become part of his eternal, loving family. God has a place for every people, even the despised Samaritans in the Gospel of John chapter four, and the Mussali people! All they must do is humbly come to him on his terms.

Pray for the Mussali people in Pakistan to find their worth and dignity in the God who gave them his all. Pray for many to pray without ceasing until there is a disciple making movement among this despised people. Pray for God to raise up believers, giving them passion and vision for taking the gospel, education, medical, and occupational training to these Mussali people. Pray for the Mussali people to understand and embrace that Jesus wants to bless their families and neighborhoods.—KH



1 TIM 2:2, NLT

Pray this way for kings and all who are in authority so that we can live peaceful and quiet lives marked by godliness and dignity.

Pray for godliness and dignity for the despised Mussali people in Pakistan.

MALIAR PASHTUN PEOPLE IN PAKISTAN

PS 91:14, NLT

The Lord says, “I will rescue those who love me. I will protect those who trust in my name.”

Pray that the Lord will rescue the Maliar Pashtuns from sin and death.

iStock/FarhanFaisal



Peshawar Valley

(This story illustrates truths about this people group.)

Zwak, a migrant Maliar, was pushing a broken-down wooden cart on an old street in Islamabad. He was shouting out to the people to come and buy the beautiful garlands of flowers

his wife had made. Another Maliar Pushtun, his friend Nang, approached him and said, “Zwak, I can hardly sell enough to buy food for my family.” Zwak replied, “It is the same for me! Had we stayed where we were, we would have been better off. We would have our livestock, our land, and our people. Here we live in old, rented broken-down apartments. In the village, we had our own houses. I’d hoped my children could have gone to school here in the city, but now they have to sell things in the streets like me. I miss the beauty of our Peshawar Valley, the music, and our people.”

The majority of Maliars are farmers who live in the Potohar region of Punjab and the Peshawar Valley of Pakistan. Poverty and the hope for a better life has caused some Maliar to immigrate to the cities in Pakistan. A few have gone to England. Almost all Maliar are Sunni Muslim and reject Christianity as a religious system from the West.

Pray that God will open the doors for the Maliar to hear his word so they will know his grace, hope, and comfort.—PD

NORTHERN PASHTUNS IN AFGHANISTAN AND PAKISTAN

(This story illustrates truths about this people group.)

An old Pashtun man scolded a young local farmer in northern Afghanistan.

“You should stop growing opium poppies and go back to wheat. The government gave you good wheat seeds to plant. The country needs wheat.” Scraping the gum from poppy bulbs into plastic containers to be used in making opium he responded, “Forget it! I can make three times more by growing these poppies.”

Pashtuns make up the largest part of the population in northern Afghanistan and Pakistan. Their social structure is based on the Pashtunwali code which includes speaking Pashtu, offering hospitality to visitors, and protection of family and all guests who enter their homes.

For many reasons it is hard for them to stop growing opium poppies. Unfortunately, this means the increase in drug trafficking which has led to tragic results. Pashtuns are Sunni Muslims who strongly reject any effort made by believers to share the gospel. Most Pashtun believers maintain their faith in secret as open testimonies could endanger their lives or families. Fixed tuned radios, short wave, the JESUS Film, and the internet have been effective in presenting the gospel to these people.

Pray they will hear the words of Jesus and will commit their lives to Christ and disciple others to do the same.—PD



A Pashtun teacher

iStocke/anjel

PS 90:8, NLT

You spread out our sins before you—our secret sins—and you see them all.

Pray for a fear of the true Lord to come to the Northern Pashtun people, so they will flee evil and embrace his ways.

MUSLIM QASSAB PEOPLE IN PAKISTAN AND INDIA

GEN 22:13, NLT

Then Abraham looked up and saw a ram caught by its horns in a thicket. So he took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering in place of his son.

Pray for the Qassab people and their Muslim neighbors in Pakistan to understand that we no longer have to sacrifice livestock; we must now depend on the final sacrifice.

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(This story illustrates truths about this people group.)

!!Zahum, this is crazy! I cannot pay this much

for one goat! The price is almost double what it was last year." The customer was shocked when the Qassab butcher in Lahore, Pakistan told him the price for the ritually acceptable goat. He hoped to purchase it to celebrate the end of the Muslim feast of Ramadan. The butcher replied, "the cost of food for the animals and transportation has gone way up. This made the prices go up. I have the meat but hardly anyone is buying! Most people settle for chicken." Shaking his head, the customer replied, "Give me a chicken."

The Sunni Muslim Qassab are known as a butcher caste who slaughter and sell meat. Some work as common laborers in the cities. They accept both child and adult marriages. As a people group, they are found living in different states of India and Pakistan. Most of them speak Urdu and Hindi. They have their own Islamic council known as Jamat that settles disputes and problems in their communities. Adherent to a strict Islamic way of life, they are not willing to listen to those who can tell them about the Bible or Jesus.

Pray that Qassab families will embrace Christ together and show others the way to the cross.—PD

MUSLIM SAYYID PEOPLE IN PAKISTAN

If you do an internet search of "Sayyid" images, you will likely find portraits of somber-looking Muslim clerics



iStock/FOTOKITA

sporting big white beards and turbans. The Sayyid are a large people group. There are more than six million in Pakistan, and they are spread out across the entire country. They are among the most populous of Muslim communities in India, Pakistan, Nepal, and Bangladesh. In fact, Pakistan is the country with the highest number of Sayyids in all of South Asia.

A well-established and prominent group, the Sayyid people feature politicians, professionals, and religious leaders. Among Muslims, they rank the highest in social standing.

Sayyid lineage traces back to the daughter of the Prophet Mohammad. They are 100 percent Muslim, both of the Shi'ite and Sunni sects. Since they are so entrenched in their religious system, they are not likely to see their need for a savior.

Pray that these religious Muslims will become leaders of new disciple making movements throughout Pakistan and beyond. Ask him to send them brave Christ followers. May he bring glory to himself by powerfully blessing and transforming this people group when they allow Jesus to become the center of their spiritual lives.—CMW

MATT 5:20, NLT

But I warn you—unless your righteousness is better than the righteousness of the teachers of religious law and the Pharisees, you will never enter the Kingdom of Heaven!

Pray that the well-respected Sayyid people will understand that they cannot depend on their own righteousness to enter the Kingdom of God.

SINDHI MOHANA PEOPLE IN PAKISTAN

PS 31:4-5, NLT

Pull me from the trap my enemies set for me, for I find protection in you alone. I entrust my spirit into your hand. Rescue me, LORD, for you are a faithful God.

Pray for the Sindhi Mohana people to look only to the Lord for protection and salvation.

iStock/Konstantin_Novakovic/Mayer



Fishing boats on Lake Manchar

You may have heard of *The Lord of the Rings* (a book and a movie), possibly *The Lord of the Flies* (a title of a book)

and perhaps even “the lord of the manor” (the master of a feudal manor). In Pakistan, there is a group of people who call themselves Mir Bahana, meaning “the lord of the sea.” By tradition, they are fishermen, boatmen, and sailors.

The Mir Bahana are more widely known as Sindhi Mohana. They live in Pakistan’s Sindh and Punjab provinces. Some of them live in boathouses on lakes such as the man-made Lake Manchar, north of Karachi. Just off the shores, the Sindhi Mohana are found working on fishing trawlers in the Arabian Sea.

The Sindhi Mohana are Sunni Muslims. Because Pakistan is closed to the gospel, they have few opportunities to hear about Jesus. Man tries to make sure that they remain what the great missionary statesman, William Carey, called “no choice” people.

Pray for the Lord to touch the hearts of these fishermen, as he touched the hearts of Andrew, Peter, James, and John—the famous fishermen of the New Testament. May the “lords of the sea” come to a knowledge of the Lord of the universe, and disciple others in his ways. Pray for their families to be blessed by putting their faith in the one true Lord!—CMW

MUSLIM SINDHI SAMA PEOPLE IN PAKISTAN

The Sindhi Sama are two million strong and live in the environs of Karachi in the southeast region of Pakistan.

These people are employed widely across the economic spectrum. In the rural areas they are farmers growing wheat, rice, cotton, sugarcane, fruit, and oilseed. In urban areas, they are businessmen, doctors, lawyers, politicians, entertainers, and teachers. They speak Sindhi, Urdu, and other Pakistani languages.

Originally Hindu or Buddhist, the Sindhi Sama converted to Islam during the 8th century. Many Sama migrated from India to Pakistan during the Partition of 1947. The people remain close to their own kind by marrying only within the caste, sometimes even marrying cousins. A standard part of the wedding ceremony, which is performed by a Muslim teacher or priest, is the reading from the Qur’an.

Pray that the Sindhi Sama, wherever they may be geographically or economically, will be exposed to the gospel, and blessed with faith in the Savior. Ask the Father to give these people a spiritual hunger and a recognition that it can only be satisfied by Jesus Christ. May the people see that Jesus is truth. They view Christians as persecuted people, but may God open their eyes to the true eternal standing of his children. Pray for whole families to be changed powerfully and to experience God’s blessings, then disciple other families in his ways.—CMW



idk_photos

PS 19:7, NLT

The instructions of the LORD are perfect, reviving the soul. The decrees of the LORD are trustworthy, making wise the simple.

Pray that the peoples of Pakistan will look to the perfect instructions of the Lord and follow them.

PS 119:130, NLT

The unfolding of your words gives light; it gives understanding to the simple.

Pray the light of God's word will soon shine into the hearts and minds of the Tanoli people of Pakistan.

TANAOLI PEOPLE OF PAKISTAN



One 19th century British writer described the Tanaoli or Tanoli of northwest Pakistan as "extremely hostile" and, "brave and hardy and accounted for the best swordsmen in Hazara." The Tanoli fought the British and their allies for decades before becoming part of the British colonial system in 1840. Today one might characterize the Tanoli

as xenophobic or highly suspicious of outsiders, even fellow Muslims. They keep careful watch over entrances to the mountain valleys where they live.

The Tanaoli have an unusual and ancient culture. Their social structures emphasize the strength of blood ties. Their communal life is ruled by fairly strict rules of honor and arbitration by authorities. Their primary languages are Hindko and Northern Pashto. They make their living by raising crops such as barley, wheat, millet, and various fruits and vegetables. Also many of them raise sheep, cattle, and goats for meat, milk, and hides. They are Sunni Muslims. There may be no followers of Christ among them.

Pray that God sends workers to the Tanaoli who will tell them the good news about Isa or Jesus. Pray the New Testament becomes easily available in the Hindko language of the Tanaoli people. Pray that the Lord opens the hearts of the Tanaoli people to desire God's blessings through a movement of family-based discovery Bible studies.—DK

MUSLIM TARKHAN PEOPLE OF PAKISTAN

The ancient word "Tarkhan" referred to a military general or governor in Central Asia. The three largest groupings of Tarkhan have to do with their religion. There are Hindu, Sikh and Muslim Tarkhans. The Muslim Tarkhans of Pakistan are primarily a lower caste of carpenters and land-owning small farmers.



iStock/Bumblee_Dee

The Tarkhans are known best for being excellent soldiers. They have fought in many battles of Central Asia for the last ten centuries. Tarkhans have served courageously in crack commando units in the Pakistani and Indian armies, as well as brave fighter pilots and in the naval forces. They were made famous on the silver screen in the Bollywood film, "Border" for their brave actions in the Battle of Longowal, a battle fought during the Indo-Pakistani War of 1971. Educated Tarkhans have entered professions like medicine, engineering, accounting, and computer science.

Pray for the Muslim Tarkhan people to be given the blessings of spiritual hunger and discernment that will lead them to seek and find Jesus Christ. Pray for the Lord to send out workers to go to them and remain until there are believers who can disciple others who will in turn disciple others as well. Pray that God will overthrow spiritual forces of darkness opposing the spread of his gospel among the Muslim Tarkhans of Pakistan.—DK

JN 6:35, NIV

Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."

Pray that the Muslim Tarkhans find their true spiritual nourishment in Isa or Jesus.

JOSH 1:9, NIV

Have I not commanded you?
Be strong and courageous.
Do not be afraid; do not be
discouraged, for the Lord
your God will be with you
wherever you go.

*Pray that a number of new
Teli believers would be
strong and courageous in
their witness for the Lord.*

MUSLIM TELI PEOPLE OF PAKISTAN

iStock/mrak_hr



Producing cooking oil

For centuries the Teli caste has supplied the need for cooking oil for India, Pakistan, Nepal, and Bangladesh.

According to legend, the founder of the Teli caste invented the oil press machine. The Teli buy mustard and sesame seeds from farmers and turn it into cooking oil. After crushing and packaging the oil, they sell it back to the farmers and to others. Often they travel from place to place to buy seeds to crush and to sell oil. In parts of rural Pakistan, some Telis still practice this ancient occupation, but more commonly this job is now done by large machines in factories. For this reason, many Teli have branched into other occupations like agriculture and retail businesses.

Pray for the Lord to bless Teli communities through a movement to Jesus among their households. Pray for the Holy Spirit to give the Pakistani Teli people love for God's word and a desire to be discipled in his ways. Pray that many of the Muslim Teli people will come to love God with their whole being and will walk in his ways.—DK

BHATTI RAJPUTS IN PAKISTAN AND INDIA

After successfully protecting northern India from Muslim invaders for more than 500 years, the Bhatti Rajputs converted from Hinduism to Islam in the 12th century. They did this not as individuals, but as a group, choosing the religion of the prophet Mohammed as their new spiritual and cultural identity.

The challenges facing the Bhatti Rajputs today are quite different from those of the past and are serving to fragment rather than unite families and clans. With their traditional occupations of military service and land ownership less attainable in the modern world, they are struggling to determine who they really are and what their role is in society.

This mission field is particularly ripe for harvest, especially given their confusion, their need to be part of something, and their desire to be valued. They seem to be looking for God and attempting to determine their place in his creation ... perhaps without realizing it.

Pray for the Bhatti Rajputs to clearly hear God's voice speaking to them, and to respond by putting their identity in Christ. Ask him to send workers to this people group, providing them with wisdom, insight, and innovative methods for sharing his love. Pray for the Lord to establish his kingdom and church among the Bhatti Rajputs.—CL



Rajput youths

iStock/Tarzan9280

GEN 20:8-10, NLT

Abimelech got up early the next morning and quickly called all his servants together. When he told them what had happened, his men were terrified. Then Abimelech called for Abraham. "What have you done to us?" he demanded. "What crime have I committed that deserves treatment like this, making me and my kingdom guilty of this great sin? No one should ever do what you have done! Whatever possessed you to do such a thing?"

Pray that the Lord will give Rajput leaders a true fear of the Lord like he did for King Abimelech.

MUSLIM CHAUHAN RAJPUTS IN PAKISTAN

HAB 3:19, NLT

The Sovereign Lord is my strength! He makes me as surefooted as a deer, able to tread upon the heights.

Pray that many of the Chauhan Rajputs will have faith to believe and live out this verse.



Ajay/PIHOP

Of the 422 people groups in Pakistan, 414 are considered unreached. That's 198,455,000

people who, according to Joshua Project's definition, "lack enough followers of Christ and resources to evangelize their own people." The Chauhan Rajputs make up only a small percentage of Pakistan's unreached population, yet they are significant in God's eyes and could prove to be strategic in reaching other Rajput groups.

The Chauhan are one of the Rajput clans who believes they were formed in a sacrificial fire pit for the purpose of fighting the asuras (demons). The name Rajput means "son of a king." Accordingly, the Chauhan have proudly considered themselves the warring princes of both Pakistan and India.

One of their main values is bravery. "Arms of the brave always support and sustain the people," an ancient Rajput saying states. "Bravery is honored by all, in all situations. There is nothing in all the three worlds which is beyond the reach of bravery."

Pray for the Chauhan Rajputs to see and realize the bravery of the Son sent to die in their place on the cross. Pray for them to bravely follow this Mighty Warrior Prince who has made a way for them to be forgiven and have a relationship with God. Pray that soon these Rajputs will be discipling others to obey all that Christ commanded.—CL

JADON RAJPUTS IN INDIA

(This fictional account is intended to portray the life and culture of the Jadon Rajputs.)

"It's hard to believe," the young man said between breaths as he and his friend pushed wheelbarrows full of bricks toward the construction area. The hot summer sun was burning down on them and causing them to sweat through their bulky salwar kameezes.

"What's hard to believe?" his friend asked. He added in an exasperated tone, "That we should have gone to school and learned architecture, but instead are laying bricks. It's also hard to believe that our people were once kings." His friend huffed at this. "I'd settle for being on the other end of this – telling others where to put the bricks."

The Jadon Rajputs, once royalty, now work the land and engage in a variety of day labor jobs in order to make a living. Their main hope for rising above their current status is having their daughters marry into clans higher ranking than their own. With this upward mobility in mind, they often marry their daughters off at young ages.

Pray for the Jadon Rajputs to realize that God did indeed create them to be princes in his kingdom. Pray for them to see that the Lord wants to bless their families. Pray for the Lord to send messengers to teach them to obey his commands, and that they will respond.—CL



iStockphoto

PS 4:6, NLT

Many people say, "Who will show us better times?" Let your face smile on us, Lord.

Pray for the Jadon Rajputs to turn to the Lord so that his face will shine upon them and bless them as a people.

HINDU KUMAONI RAJPUTS IN INDIA

PRO 20:1, NLT

Wine produces mockers;
alcohol leads to brawls.
Those led astray by drink
cannot be wise.

*Pray for the Holy Spirit
to provide men in this
community the strength
to turn from alcohol to
eternal matters.*

iStock/Sunduslive



Though they regard themselves as descendants of a ruling warrior class, the Rajput peoples, in actuality, vary greatly in status today. Most authorities are in agreement that successful claims to Rajput status were often made by invaders and others who had achieved secular power in South Asia.

Though there are many Hindu Rajput communities in India, including the Kumaoni community, their traditional religion can best be described as a mixture of Hinduism and animism. Possession by spirits is a common occurrence during their festivals that celebrate the harvest and the progression of the sun and the moon. Rajput are not necessarily against Christianity, though few have yet responded to the gospel. Resources are available in most of the languages Rajputs speak, including Bible translations in progress, Bible stories, the JESUS Film, and radio broadcasts. There has historically been a problem with alcoholism among the Kumaoni Rajputs, much to the annoyance of the women.

Pray that the Kumaoni Rajputs in India would be open and eager to hear the gospel of Jesus. Pray for strong family relationships, and that those who do respond to Christ would have opportunities to share with their families. Pray that extended Kumaoni Rajput families would embrace Christ together.—BK

HINDU RATHOR RAJPUT PEOPLE IN INDIA

Proud of their history of dynasties and military conquests, the Rathor Rajputs say they have descended from Rama and from Surya, the Hindu sun god. For nearly 800 years, the Rathor ruled small-to-medium kingdoms in western India, and they fought both against and for the Muslim sultanates. Today, the Rathor are among the second highest caste in Hinduism, and they serve in positions of government and military leadership.

The Rathor are a wealthy and powerful people. They encourage their children to pursue higher education, and marriages are arranged with consent from the young people.

The Rathor are primarily Hindu. Shiva is a prominent god worshiped by the Rathor people. He is worshiped alongside Durga, the warrior-mother goddess and wife to Shiva. There are many festivals that go along with the Hindu religion, and these are not neglected by this community.

Pray that the foolishness of the gospel breaks through the barriers of tradition and religion. Pray that Rathor Rajputs will see Christ at work in families around them, and that they will want the same for themselves and their families.—BK

iStock/Vikrant_Sardana



PS 15:1-2, NLT

Who may worship in your sanctuary, Lord? Who may enter your presence on your holy hill? Those who lead blameless lives and do what is right, speaking the truth from sincere hearts.

Pray that soon the Rathor Rajputs will live up to this and become part of God's eternal family.

RAWAT RAJPUTS OF INDIA

PS 14:2-3, NLT

The Lord looks down from heaven on the entire human race; he looks to see if anyone is truly wise, if anyone seeks God. But no, all have turned away; all have become corrupt.

Pray that the Rawat Rajputs will soon become aware of their sins and understand that the only remedy is the surrender to Jesus Christ.

iStock/jprat



The Bible describes a future time when a great light will shine upon the Gentiles and lead them to

salvation from the great Creator God. The prophet Isaiah saw a time described in chapter nine, verse two about how “the people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined.” (Cambridge Bible, KJV.)

The Rawat people of northern India are unreached with the gospel. They need to know about a God who loves them and desires to bring them to a knowledge of their sin and the forgiveness of those sins that releases them from spiritual darkness.

The Rawat, which means “prince” (from the word “rajah”), currently number about 672,000 and live exclusively in India. Most of them are landowning farmers. They worship local deities known as Ashapridebi, Bherujee, and Matajee. They have no concept of a personal, loving God. There are translations of the entire Bible in Hindi available to them. The JESUS Film and other media is also at hand.

Pray for them to have easy access to the JESUS Film and Bibles. Pray that the Lord of the Harvest will raise up faithful workers to reach out to the Rawat and teach them to obey all that the Lord commands. Pray that this will lead to a disciple making movement in their families.—JY

KACHHWAHA RAJPUTS IN INDIA

As Jesus was visiting the home of Zacchaeus the chief tax collector, he pointed out that salvation had come to this



iStock/BibleArtLibrary

man's house. Even though tax collectors had a bad reputation, he was favored by a visit from Jesus and his disciples. He would tell them “For the Son of Man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.” Luke 19:10, Cambridge Bible, KJV.

The term “Son of Man” carries much meaning in Bible prophecy. Jesus would refer to himself this way more than 80 times in the New Testament. It signifies how the Messiah would come for all peoples and not only the Jews.

Numbering about 707,000, Kachhwaha Rajputs now see themselves as the Kushwaha, a higher caste that is educated and speak English as well as Hindi.

Virtually all of them are practicing Hindus. Even with a Bible translation, the JESUS Film, and Christian radio broadcasts, they have no churches or disciples among them.

Pray for the Holy Spirit to move among believers to reach out to the Kushwaha people. Pray for the formation of local churches that will minister to Kachhwaha Rajput families—JY

MATT 20:18, NIV

“Listen,” he said, “we’re going up to Jerusalem, where the Son of Man will be betrayed to the leading priests and the teachers of religious law. They will sentence him to die.”

Pray that the Kachhwaha Rajputs in India will understand the significance of this and respond with deep repentance.

KANET RAJPUTS

REV 1:6, TPT

...and to the one who has made us to rule as a kingly priesthood to serve his God and Father—to him be glory and dominion ...

Pray that multitudes of Rajput peoples like the Kanets devote themselves to the only true God—to experience through Christ the incredible blessing and identity of belonging to the Lord's royal priesthood.

iStock/imranchmedsg



The Kanets claim to descend from mountain kingdom rulers of 2000 years ago. They belong to the former warrior caste

Rajputs. Numbering almost 670,000 people, the large majority of Kanet Rajputs live in India's northwest state of Himachal Pradesh. Small Kanet groups reside in other parts of the Punjab region of northern India and eastern Pakistan.

Kanet Rajput lives are dominated by west Himalayan geography, with farming and clothing suitable to mountainous terrain and temperatures. Their main crops include barley, wheat, lentils, maize, and potatoes. The Kanets raise sheep for mutton and wool, along with cattle for dairy products.

The Kanets honor tradition and family, including arranged marriages within their own group. Almost all Kanets devote themselves to Hinduism, though they are also influenced by folk religion and Buddhism. They worship Hindu deities that include Durga and Vishnu, and they perform rituals for protection from evil spirits.

There are no known believers among the Kanet Rajputs. Of the various languages spoken by Kanets, Kangri is considered primary. It contains a recently-completed New Testament (2017), audio Bible teachings, and the JESUS Film.

Pray for God's word to be planted in the soil of prepared Kanet hearts. Ask for anointed witnesses to be sent to the Kanet Rajputs and for churches to adopt them for prayer. Pray for the gospel to spread through family and religious leaders, sparking disciple making movements that bless and transform Kanet communities.—CR