

Global Prayer

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Digest

The BibleLess Peoples Await God's Word



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Editorial



Dear Praying Friends,

I am writing this in September of 2019. The previous month, I donated a kidney to my brother who had kidney failure. I was overwhelmed with support for this, especially in the area of prayer. People associated with the *GPD* in Africa, Central America, Taiwan, and the US were faithfully praying for my brother and I as we went through surgery and recovery. The worldwide prayer effort resulted in the kidney functioning well for him, and we both recovered remarkably well. It was a practical reminder of what can happen when believers around the world pray.

Imagine if there were people praying faithfully all this month for the Bibleless peoples that Wycliffe Bible Translators recommended that we cover. What an impact! And next month you can have an impact on the unreached peoples in Dallas-Ft. Worth as you join us in praying for that great city.

Be encouraged to pray!

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Feature of the Month

PRAY FOR

A Disciple-Making Movement Among Every Bibleless People Group



WHO ARE THE BIBLELESS PEOPLE?

A Bibleless people group is a language community in need of a Bible translation. They have no known Scripture and no active translation project.

Believe it or not, about a quarter of the world's languages are still waiting for a single word of the Bible — millions of people don't have the hope and transformation power of God's word! We believe that the good news of Jesus Christ is for all people, and they need access to Him through a language and form they clearly understand.

So in 1982 Wycliffe Bible Translators USA formed the Bibleless Peoples Prayer Project (B3P) to recruit men, women and children who will prayerfully lay the foundation for a translation program to begin in each of the world's Bibleless people groups. We believe the true beginning of a Bible translation is when someone starts praying for it to happen.

HOW TO PRAY FOR BIBLELESS PEOPLE

If your heart's desire is to pray for the Bibleless but don't know where to begin, here are a few prayer points from the Wycliffe USA B3P team that will help you understand some of the needs.

Pray for the message:

- In the beginning the Word already existed. The Word was with God, and the Word was God. — John 1:1 (NLT)
- Pray that the last untranslated languages of the world will receive the Scriptures in whatever form they need. Dare to ask God for big things! Ask Him to provide every person in the world with His word— just as He's already provided it for us!

- Pray that the integrity of God's word will be maintained as it's translated. Ask God for quality translations that speak meaningfully to the hearts of Bibleless people.

Pray for the People:

- His purpose was for the nations to seek after God and perhaps feel their way toward Him and find Him though He is not far from any one of us. — Acts 17:27 (NLT)
- Pray for the safety of Bibleless people. Many are residents in, or displaced from, countries with insecure political and social conditions.
- Pray that churches and collaborating mission agencies will minister well to Bibleless people during the translation process.
- Pray that Bibleless people will hunger and thirst for God's word in a language that speaks clearly to their hearts.
- Pray that Bibleless people will engage the Scripture as it's translated. Ask God that lives would be transformed by the power of the gospel.

Pray for Personnel:

- So pray to the Lord who is in charge of the harvest; ask Him to send more workers into His fields. — Matt 9:38 (NLT)
- Pray for language workers to be called and trained.
- Pray that translation needs will clearly be identified through quality survey work.
- Pray for the development of writing systems if communities with unwritten languages desire a written text.
- Pray for technology workers who provide computer and communications support.

Pray for the Completion of the Task:

- Hold firmly to the word of life; then, on the day of Christ's return, I will be proud that I did not run the race in vain and that my work was not useless. — Phil 2:16 (NLT)
- Pray for perseverance. Pray that those involved in the Bible translation task would not grow weary or give up before the work is complete.
- Pray for protection. As a project nears completion, the enemy sets up roadblocks. Lift up the health and safety of workers, the technology and

working files, and if the Bibles are to be printed, the process of typesetting and printing.

GOD HEARS YOUR PRAYERS

Over the years, many people who've committed to pray for a specific people group have had the privilege of seeing God answer their prayers in unique ways.

A five-year-old boy named Sam prayed for the Rapa Nui people on Easter Island. One day, Sam heard that Wycliffe had assigned missionaries to work among the Rapa Nui. His parents later discovered that the missionaries had become interested in Easter Island around the same time their son started praying. Years later, Sam met the missionaries and celebrated the completed New Testament with them. God is at work through the prayers of His people!

Simple enough for a child and rewarding for those of any age, joining the Bibleless Peoples Prayer Project (B3P) will draw you into God's love for the people of the world.

What happens when I sign up to pray for a people group?

When you sign up to join the Wycliffe USA prayer team, you'll receive periodic emails to help you pray. If you've chosen a Bibleless people group to pray for regularly, you'll also receive an email from the B3P team with information about your specific language group.

As you commit to prayer, the Wycliffe USA B3P team will update you with any new information about your group so that you can pray with the most accurate information. It may be a while before you hear any news about your people group but keep praying until you do!

Please be patient and persevere in prayer while you wait for your updates. Sometimes God uses years of prayer to open the door to closed communities.

Will I be contacted when a missionary is sent to my people group?

Yes, by email. When possible, the Wycliffe USA B3P team will send you an update about your group. If your group is located in an area of the world that is closed to missions, you might not get many details. If the project is taken over by a local translator, you may also receive limited details; praise God and pray for them because when local people take the lead, the translation has even better acceptance.

*Do I have to commit to praying for my language group every day?
What if I forget?*

You can choose to pray for your people group as often as you would like. Some people commit to pray every day during their quiet time. Others prayer partners pray weekly when they meet with their small group. Still others pray from time to time as God prompts them.

Where are the Bibleless people groups located?

The majority of Bibleless people groups are located in Asia, Africa, and the Pacific region. However, Bibleless people groups can be found on all six habitable continents.

How many Bibleless people groups are there?

Due to many factors, such as the discovery or extinction of languages, the number of Bibleless people groups can change. Currently, there are at least 2,000 languages that have a definite or likely translation need. But the pace of Bible translation is accelerating as never before, and new projects are beginning all the time. God is at work and we believe this is a direct answer to prayer.

Why don't Bibleless people groups have the Bible?

Bibleless people groups are "Bibleless" for a variety of reasons. Many Bibleless people groups are small in number and speak minority languages that are known only within their communities. These small groups have had limited contact from the outside world or little attention from missionary agencies. Other people groups may be significant in size but are difficult for missionaries to access because of their remote or sensitive locations.

Why can't you teach a Bibleless people group to read English or another local language?

Wycliffe USA believes that no one should have to learn another language to understand God's word. The language that speaks to your heart — the one you naturally speak, dream, and pray in — is the one that's most impactful. Requiring a different language limits a person's ability to grasp the good news and connect with the full potential of God's life-transforming message.

BIBLE TRANSLATION AT A GLANCE

- *Languages in the world: 7,000+*
- *Languages with complete Bibles: Under 700*
- *Languages with some Scripture: About 3,350*
- *Languages with active translation projects: About 2,600*
- *Languages with no Scripture: At least 2,000*

HEB 4:12-13, NLT

For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires. Nothing in all creation is hidden from God. Everything is naked and exposed before His eyes, and He is the one to whom we are accountable.

Pray that this truth will become evident to the Aimaq people.

AIMAQ PEOPLE IN AFGHANISTAN



Afghan children

What do Alexander the Great, Genghis Khan, and Tamarlane have in common? They all conquered

the Aimaq people group and lived to regret it! the Aimaq live in northwest Afghanistan, near where that country borders Iran and Turkmenistan. The Aimaq are fierce warriors and had eventually expelled every nation that had ever conquered them.

Today the Aimaq are farmers and herders. Some live in fertile river valleys. Others live in the mountains, where winters could be hard and long. The Aimaq homeland was occupied by the British during the 1800s but the Aimaq never truly submitted to British rule. Unlike earlier conquerors, the British left the Aimaq homeland before open rebellion broke out.

Today the Aimaq are Sunni Muslims, and their language is dying. Most members of this people group now speak dialects of Dari, Afghanistan's trade language. There is no Bible available in the heart language of this people group. Few, if any, Aimaq follow Jesus Christ.

Ask God to raise up faithful workers to translate the Bible into a language the Aimaq could understand and read. May the love of God conquer the hearts of this warrior people group, leading them to be more than conquerors for Christ!—WK

DEAF IN AFGHANISTAN

(This story illustrates truths about this people group.)

Faiz, a middle-aged man in Afghanistan, used to be able to hear until a Soviet bomb exploded a short distance from him during the 1980s. His other injuries healed but his hearing never returned. Faiz was one of the lucky ones; unlike those born deaf he could read his heart language. That made it easier for teachers to work with him. These teachers taught him sign language.

Afghanistan is still a dangerous land where bomb explosions are very common. Today it is the Taliban fighting against government forces. Loud explosions still cause many cases of deafness.

The deaf face serious discrimination in Afghanistan. They are considered stupid and crazy. People often throw rocks at them. Many of the deaf in Afghanistan can't read or write in any language. That makes teaching them sign language difficult.

Ask God to end the discrimination against the deaf in Afghanistan. Pray that the Lord would lead an agency to reach out to this people group. Pray that this people group will come to see Jesus Christ as the Savior who can bring healing to their lives. Ask God to perform miracles of healing among the deaf in Afghanistan leading many to unshakable faith in Christ alone.—WK



NEH 9:6, NLT

You alone are the LORD. You made the skies and the heavens and all the stars. You made the earth and the seas and everything in them. You preserve them all, and the angels of heaven worship you.

May the hearing of God's Word among the deaf in Afghanistan lead them to put their faith in Him and praise Him for His creation.

DEAF IN IRAN

IS 55:10-11, NLT

The rain and snow come down from the heavens and stay on the ground to water the earth. They cause the grain to grow, producing seed for the farmer and bread for the hungry. It is the same with my word. I send it out, and it always produces fruit. It will accomplish all I want it to, and it will prosper everywhere I send it.

Pray for the word of God to have a massive effect on the deaf people in Iran, giving them hope, peace, and spiritual transformation.

iStockphoto



(This story illustrates truths about this people group.)

It was National Deaf Day in

Iran. A large crowd had gathered at the outdoor arena in Tehran. Sign language interpreters translated speeches for the deaf. Many of the people at the rally carried signs demanding that Persian Sign Language be made an official language. One of the people at the rally was a young man named Abbas. He recently experienced going to a government office and not finding a single person who understood Persian Sign Language.

There are four million deaf people in Iran. There are many who still need to learn how to communicate in sign language. Of those who do, some know Persian Sign Language and others know Tea House Sign Language. Neither is recognized as an official language in Iran. Deaf activists in Iran are hoping for reforms that would make translation services easily available.

Iran is a closed Shi'ite Muslim theocracy. Few of the people helping the deaf are followers of Jesus. But the high number of Iranians putting their faith in the Savior can reach out to them.

Pray that the deaf in Iran would come to know Christ through dreams and through believers. May this people group learn that Christ had a history of performing miracles of healing, and seek Him.—WK

KHORASANI TURKS IN IRAN

Almost one million Khorasani Turks live in Iran's northeast province of Khorasan, whose name means "land of the rising sun." Yet the light of the gospel has yet to penetrate this Bibleless people group. There is no active Christian witness among them. The only Christian resources in their mother tongue of Khorasani Turkish are audio gospel recordings.



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For centuries, Iran's Khorasani Turks have endured invasions, yet their hardy culture has survived. They produce well-known, beautiful rugs and tapestries. Khorasani Turks live in an important agricultural area where the climate is cool in summer and cold in winter. Most farm various crops including wheat and barley. They raise livestock as well.

Khorasani Turks follow Shi'ite Islam. Their main social unit is the family, led by the father. Women are effectively treated as second class citizens; the literacy rate among women and girls is poor.

Pray that continual intercession is lifted up for the Khorasani Turks. Ask the Lord to bring them a Bible translation as well as satellite television and radio in their language. Pray for Christ-following families to move in among these family-centered people as Christ's ambassadors. Ask the Lord to begin a movement to Christ among Khorasani Turkish communities that powerfully blesses them for eternity.—CR

IS 9:2, NLT

The people who walk in darkness will see a great light. For those who live in a land of deep darkness, a light will shine.

Pray for softened hearts and spiritual breakthrough among Iran's Khorasani Turkish people. Ask that they experience God's transforming light, life, and love that only come through turning to Jesus.

SOUTHERN LURI IN IRAN

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 that this and other verses will soon give hope to the Southern Luri people of Iran.

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Different tribe, same lifestyle

For more than one thousand years the Luri people in southwestern Iran have been plagued by well-armed enemies. Largely because they do not have their own Bible they are unaware of God's promise in Isaiah that tells of a time when wars will disappear. Since the 10th century A.D. they have endured invasions from neighbors like the Arabs, the Turks, and the Persians. Once a purely nomadic people, they have recently been curtailed in their travels by the rulers in Tehran. They don't share in the wealth derived by oil production and have been defrauded by urban traders. They write beautiful poetry and music.

Ninety percent of Luri people are practicing Shi'ite Muslims. They believe that shrines dedicated to "holy men" possess healing powers. There are gospel recordings in their language, but there are no Bibles, workers, or fellowships among them. There is no copy of the JESUS Film in the Lur's language.

Pray for Iranian believers to make sure the Southern Luri people have the chance to hear the good news in their own language.—JY

PONTIC GREEK IN TURKEY

There are three surprising facts about the Pontic Greek people—their language, location, and religion. Their language, Romeyka, has a structure remarkably similar to ancient Greek. They don't understand modern Greek, and Greek speakers cannot understand them. They live not in Greece but in the Pontus region of Turkey, close to the southern shore of the Black Sea. In 1923, following the Treaty of Lausanne between Greece and Turkey, about 5,000 escaped deportation from Turkey because they had adopted Islam.

We don't know of any followers of Christ among the Pontic Greeks in Turkey. They don't have a translation of the Bible. Open Doors reports, "Over the last year, the situation in Turkey has deteriorated significantly for Christians as President Erdogan's powers grow. His government now openly restricts freedom. The opinion is that a true Turk must be a Sunni Muslim." Leaving Islam is considered a betrayal of Turkish identity and those who seek to follow Christ face social opposition.

Pray for someone to translate the scriptures and other Bible-based resources into the language of the Pontic Greeks. Pray that whole Pontic Greek families will follow Christ together. Pray for the Lord to give the gift of a healthy fear of God to Turkish leaders.—AHS



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ACTS 19:10, NLT

This went on for the next two years, so that people throughout the province of Asia—both Jews and Greeks—heard the word of the Lord.

Pray that like their ancient relatives, the Pontic Greeks will hear and respond to God's word once again.

YORUK PEOPLE IN TURKEY

1 PET 1:23-25A, NLT

For you have been born again, but not to a life that will quickly end. Your new life will last forever because it comes from the eternal, living word of God. As the Scriptures say, "People are like grass; their beauty is like a flower in the field. The grass withers and the flower fades. But the word of the Lord remains forever."

Pray for the Yoruk people to seek and find and embrace the eternal word of God.

StockDmitry_Chulov



to look after." Despite all of this, she's happy to be living in such beautiful surroundings and away from the chaos of city life. Many nomads now live a more settled existence.

Any Yoruk will tell you he's a Muslim, but many also follow shamanistic superstitions. For instance, it is bad luck at night to look in a mirror, cut your nails, sweep your house, or whistle. Never wash a newborn baby on a Friday. Coffeehouses employ coffee cup readers.

There are no known Yoruk followers of Christ. The Bible has not been translated into their language, but Global Recordings Network (GRN) has audio recordings in the Yoruk language, available on the internet. Virtually all hotels, hostels, dorms, and rental apartments in Turkey have Wi-Fi.

Pray that Yoruk people will find these materials in their language on the internet. Pray for them to begin their own family-based disciple-making movements this decade.—AHS

"Nomadic life can be hard. There is no free time," explains 55-year-old Hamide Karabulut. "I must feed and milk the animals, make butter and cheese to sell, weave the tents and saddlebags, and sew our clothes. I also cook meals and make bread. My husband Sahin has 3,000 animals

N. YEMENI ARABS IN YEMEN

(This story illustrates truths about this people group.)

"Elmera, bring me the ud (lute).

We can celebrate Fawaz's third birthday with singing." It was a time to celebrate as their son had survived after almost dying of starvation. She had taken Fawaz to the makeshift hospital in their refugee camp located in northern Yemen. The family sacrificed the little food they had so they could pay for the special milk Fawaz needed. He survived!

As they started to sing, Elmera thought about a Christian missionary nurse at the hospital who had become her friend. The nurse prayed with her for Fawaz many times. One day Elmera shared an old Yemeni proverb with the nurse. "A friend in time of need is a friend indeed." The nurse also shared with her proverbs and other stories about God and the teachings of Jesus from her Bible. Elmera thought, the God of the Bible is a loving God and Jesus was a healer. He heard our prayers and Fawaz lived!

Civil war and lack of food has made life miserable for the 12,200,000 Arab Yemenis in northern Yemen.

Pray for God's mercy to triumph over the destructive ways of evil men. Pray that God will open doors so that Yemenis can know Christ and His word.—PD



Dmitry_Chulov

JN 1:14, NLT

So the word became human and made His home among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness. And we have seen His glory, the glory of the Father's one and only Son.

Pray that this verse will help Muslims understand that Jesus Christ is the essence of God, and without Him, they can never be spiritually refreshed.

OMANI ARABS IN OMAN

ACTS 4:29, NLT

And now, O Lord, hear their threats, and give us, your servants, great boldness in preaching your word.

Pray that when Omani Arabs hear the word of God and experience the love of the Savior, that there will be no way to keep them from telling others of His goodness and making disciples.



An Omani boy

(This story illustrates truths about this people group.)

Talking with a reporter in London, Pam, a human rights advocate, asked “Did you notice that when you wanted to talk about Islam with your Omani friend, he did not want to talk about his Ibadi Islamic faith?” Michael responded, “Yes, all he and other Omanis said was that they get along with each other. It did not matter if they were Sunni, Shi’ite or Ibadi. They will not talk about religion.” Pam said, “their ruler, Sultan Qaboos, is an Ibadi. He is the longest-reigning leader in the Middle East and has ruled for 45 years. If anyone objects to his rule, they are arrested. It is not so much about religion as it is about government control.”

Most of the over two million Omani Arabs are farmers or fishermen. Those in the cities are professionals and business entrepreneurs with a large number working in the petroleum industry.

Pray that a movement of Omani Arabs to come to know the sovereignty and peace found in the God of the Bible and the grace given by Jesus. May they understand their need for a sinless savior.—PD

BAHRAINI ARAB OF BAHRAIN

(This story illustrates truths about this people group.)

An Arab businessman complemented his wife, Amar for her new dress as she prepared to leave for her job in one of Bahrain’s prominent banks. “You look gorgeous, Nura!” Beaming, Nura responded, “Amar, I love how you make me feel so beautiful by your words. I’ll remember them as I’m working today, and it will make me smile.” The two of them were grateful to live in Bahrain, where women are free to work as professionals.



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The majority of the 880,000 Muslims Arabs living in Bahrain are often criticized by mainland Arabs for not being strict enough about traditional religious values. The women have more freedoms and although many still wear head coverings they also wear attractive, modest clothes. Prosperous, these Arabs enjoy their good life in Bahrain. A small number are Christians who have freedom of religion as long as they do not try to convert others or criticize Islam.

Pray that God will open the way for His servants to reach Bahraini Arabs so they will know they need a sinless savior as their advocate on the day of judgment. Pray for a disciple-making movement to Christ among Bahrainis that will bless their extended families with peace and love.—PD

EZEK 36:4, NLT

Therefore, O mountains of Israel, hear the word of the Sovereign LORD. He speaks to the hills and mountains, ravines and valleys, and to ruined wastes and long-deserted cities that have been destroyed and mocked by the surrounding nations.

Pray that the word of the Lord will be heeded and embraced by Bahraini Arabs leading them to eternal blessings.

DEAF IN MOROCCO

NEH 8:13, NLT

On October 9 the family leaders of all the people, together with the priests and Levites, met with Ezra the scribe to go over the Law in greater detail.

Pray for teachers of the Bible to rise up among Morocco's deaf people.

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We often talk about people groups who haven't had the opportunity to hear the gospel. In this case, it is the literal truth. The deaf who are living in Morocco find themselves without many opportunities, spiritual or otherwise.

Morocco doesn't have the resources to assist people with this disability. As a result, the vast majority of deaf children (about 85 percent) don't attend school. The school system can't provide the materials or the staff to help deaf people learn. Therefore, deaf people throughout Morocco—no matter their age—face similar challenges. While there is a Moroccan sign language, they are forced to teach themselves this language via videos and internet sites.

Like the rest of the population in Morocco, the majority of the deaf follow Islam. With no Scriptures available in Moroccan sign language, they have few opportunities to find out about the Savior.

Pray for the Lord to speak to the deaf in Morocco through the internet, mission organizations that are prepared to use Moroccan sign language, and Bible translation groups who will invest in providing them with God's word. Pray for the Holy Spirit to move among this group of special people and to capture their hearts. Pray for a great spiritual awakening in Morocco.—CL

GARRE OROMO IN KENYA

If you feel called to go to the Garre Oromo people, you will probably need a strategy that does not involve visiting Somalia. The US State

Department has a long-standing travel advisory regarding Somalia due to crime, terrorism, kidnapping, and piracy. Traveling by road is discouraged, but if you truly must go, you are advised to hire a local militia to act as your security.

Fortunately, however, you'll be glad to know there are alternatives that can be just as effective in reaching this unreached people group. The Garre Oromo mostly live in northern Kenya. While there are dangers in Kenya as well (there are dangers everywhere), mission agencies have had some success sending workers to share Christ with them in Kenya. The Garre Oromo are followers of Islam. They have their own language, but God's Word has not been translated for them.

Pray for the Lord to send many brave, Holy Spirit-anointed laborers into this harvest field. Ask Him to remove the barriers that Islam has erected in the lives, minds, and hearts of the Garre Oromo. Pray for the Garre Oromo to recognize their savior, put their trust in Him, and for the Lord to establish an unstoppable church planting movement among them.—CL



Oromo women

iStock/Weisswald

NEH 8:18, NLT

Ezra read from the Book of the Law of God on each of the seven days of the festival. Then on the eighth day they held a solemn assembly, as was required by law.

Pray for the Garre Oromo people to take the word of the Lord very seriously when they finally receive it.

BUNU PEOPLE OF CHINA

NEH 9:3, NLT

They remained standing in place for three hours while the Book of the Law of the LORD their God was read aloud to them. Then for three more hours they confessed their sins and worshiped the LORD their God.

Pray that the hearing of God's word will lead the Bunu people to deep repentance.

AsianHarvest



Bunu woman

With a name that means “us people,” the Bunus live in Guangxi and Yunnan provinces. They have a history of migration from north to south, and in the past, they have experienced widespread persecution. The ethnic Han Chinese seized their lands and slaughtered entire villages. Today, Bunu

women hold great sway in the family dynamic; the men have to submit to their wives.

There are only 400,000 Bunu people, but within that number are 11 distinct linguistic groups. This and the remoteness of their villages make it difficult to prioritize them for missionary outreach and Bible translation. There is, however, a seven-minute animated gospel presentation called “Open the Doors, See the Mountains.” It includes Bible stories starting from Adam and Eve and Noah, to Jesus’ miracles and His death on a cross. The Bunu believe in a creator. They also have a story about a great flood that destroyed the earth.

Pray for believers to send missionaries to tell the Bunu about the Creator who had a special relationship with Adam and Eve, who saved Noah’s family, and who eventually sent His son Jesus to fulfill the great story and bring salvation to all who would accept Him. Pray for a movement to Christ among the Bunus in the 2020s.—CMW

NORTHERN DONG PEOPLE OF CHINA

(This story illustrates the lifestyle of the Dong people).

Lan’s heart fluttered. It was time for her to walk to the village drum tower where she and her girlfriends were to perform a traditional Dong dance. In the dance, Lan would twirl an umbrella fringed with pom-poms. Soon Lan saw Min stride in with his family. This was another reason for the butterflies in her stomach. How she wished she could spend some time alone with Min!



Dong boys

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When the show was over, Lan and Min managed to get away from the crowd. When Lan returned home, she felt as if she were on a cloud, but as she neared her house, her emotions came crashing down. That afternoon, the neighbor’s toddler had fallen into a hole in his father’s field. Lan’s mom wept in fear, saying that the spirits were displeased with where the dad had dug the hole. Now the gods would bring calamity on both families.

The Dong people worship many gods, although a growing number of the younger generation are nonreligious. A very small number of Dong are believers, but most of the people have never heard the gospel.

Pray that God would send His good news and His workers to free the Dong from their fear of the spirit world.—CMW

NEH 9:10, NLT

You displayed miraculous signs and wonders against Pharaoh, his officials, and all his people, for you knew how arrogantly they were treating our ancestors. You have a glorious reputation that has never been forgotten.

Pray for His glorious reputation to never be forgotten among the Northern Dong people.

WAXIANG PEOPLE OF CHINA

1 COR 1:21, NLT

Since God in His wisdom saw to it that the world would never know Him through human wisdom, He has used our foolish preaching to save those who believe.

Pray for the Waxiang people to experience God's ways so powerfully that they spread His fame from village to village through home-based fellowships.

Asian Harvest



Waxiang youth

Have you ever forgotten to water a potted plant? Days later when you pour the water on the soil, the water disappears as if it had never been there. The metaphor of this dry soil has been used to describe the Waxiang people.

Unfortunately, they are not “dry” in a positive way. Living in Hunan Province in central China and with a population of 375,000, the Waxiang are a small minority group. They are animistic, meaning they believe that spirits and ghosts exercise power over their lives. They are not open to outside spiritual beliefs. An early missionary wrote, “To them our doctrine is foolishness, our talk jargon. We discuss and beat them in argument. We reason them into silence and shame, but the whole effort falls upon them like showers upon a sandy desert.”

1 Cor 1:18 tells us, “For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.” This is exhibited among the Waxiang who may have heard the gospel presented clearly and convincingly, but to whom it is “foolishness.”

Pray for the Holy Spirit's work on Waxiang hearts! May many Waxiang families hear and recognize the power of God when He brings His saving story to them.—CMW

LLUQIAN ZHUANG PEOPLE

Com-
bined,
the
Zhuangs
are among
the largest
minority
in China,
but they
have sev-



Zhuang boy

eral small subgroups, six of which we will pray for this month. Some are easily overlooked, even by the *Ethnologue*, a detailed listing of the world's languages. One of these is the Lluqian.

What makes the Lluqian different from the other Zhuang peoples? Most likely they speak a different dialect than the others. That means they need a different church planting effort. It would be like going to a church service where you misunderstand half of what people are saying in worship and in the sermons.

Yet God made it clear that there will be some from every tribe, tongue, and nation worshipping Him before the Throne of Grace (see Rev. 7:9). God does not intend to leave any nation out, not even the smallest of the Zhuang groups.

With that in mind, thank Him for loving even the smallest of nations! Pray that soon someone will go to the Lluqian Zhuang people with the gospel and will not give up until some are discipled. Pray for Bible portions in their dialect.—KC

NEH 8:5-6, NLT

Ezra stood on the platform in full view of all the people. When they saw him open the book, they all rose to their feet. Then Ezra praised the LORD, the great God, and all the people chanted, “Amen! Amen!” as they lifted their hands. Then they bowed down and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground.

May the hearing of God's word lead the Lluqian Zhuang to worship Him and only Him.

Asian Harvest

GUIBEI ZHUANG PEOPLE OF CHINA

NEH 8:7, NLT

They read from the Book of the Law of God and clearly explained the meaning of what was being read, helping the people understand each passage.

Pray for the Lord to raise up His hand-picked teachers for the Guibei Zhuang people.

Stockgringos



Guangxi

Would you believe that the largest minority ethnic group in China, numbering 17 million people, has

approximately the same population as all of Australia? The Zhuang peoples primarily live in the central and western parts of Guangxi in southern China. They are considered a minority group because they are not members of the Han majority people group. However, there are many sub-groups within the larger Zhuang group, such as the Guibei Zhuang. They believe there are spirits in the water, forests, mountains, and villages, and these spirits must be appeased.

The Guibei Zhuang build their homes on stilts. A newly married woman does not leave her parents' home until after the birth of her first child. Then she goes to live with her husband in his village. Generally, the Guibei Zhuang only marry within their own people group, and they often marry their cousins. They know nothing of a Bible containing God's words and message of hope that includes them, since there is no Bible in their dialect!

Pray that scripture portions in their language will soon be translated and published so that the Guibei Zhuang can learn of the one True God who sent his son to die for their sins and give them the hope of a new life and the promise of eternity.—JS

LIUJIANG ZHUANG PEOPLE

Yesterday we read about the Zhuang people group, but we also learned that there are many Zhuang subgroups. The Liujiang are one of those subgroups. Basically their lives and their culture are the same as other Zhuang groups; however, the Liujiang are unique in that they are only found in one small location of southern China.



Zhuang woman

Asian Harvest

The Liujiang Zhuang commonly practice rites and ceremonies to ward off the evil attempts of bad spirits and to curry the favor of the so-called good spirits. The daily routines of life – cooking, planting, and hunting are carried out with a constant awareness that everything must be done in light of the consequences that could befall them if they offend these spirits.

These people have no idea of the joy that could be theirs if only they knew the truth – the truth that can set them free – the Son has set them free to joyfully worship Him around His throne in heaven!

Pray for God to put it in the hearts of some churches and some missionary groups to learn about the Liujiang and to feel God's call to minister to them and help them begin their own disciple-making movement.—JS

NEH 8:9, NLT

Then Nehemiah the governor, Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who were interpreting for the people said to them, "Don't mourn or weep on such a day as this! For today is a sacred day before the LORD your God." For the people had all been weeping as they listened to the words of the Law.

Pray for the word of the Lord to bring joy to the Liujiang Zhuang people when they hear it.

YANG ZHUANG PEOPLE OF CHINA

NEH 8:12, NLT

So the people went away to eat and drink at a festive meal, to share gifts of food, and to celebrate with great joy because they had heard God's words and understood them.

Pray for the Yang Zhuang to celebrate with joy when they receive His word.

Asian Harvest



Zhuang elder

One of the smallest of the many subgroups of the Zhuang minority people is the Yang Zhuang, which number only 831,000

people. Their lives differ little from the other Zhuang subgroups. They too trace their origins back to 221-207 BC, when half a million Han (the dominant ethnic group of China) convicts were exiled by the emperor to the Lingnan region of southern China. Most likely, they mingled with branches of the Bai Yue nationality. Like the other Zhuang subgroups, their lives are mainly rural, living in small villages and earning their livelihoods fishing, hunting, and planting crops.

As is typical with the Zhuang peoples, the Yang depend on the spirit world and omens on a regular basis. It is very common for their daily routines to involve attempts to appease the spirits. This may involve the sacrifice of various animals and using their blood to protect them. The Yang need to be set free from their firm belief that they must constantly be on their guard.

Pray for the very few Zhuang believers to be led by the Holy Spirit to share the wonderful news that Jesus Christ saves sinners, and they can enjoy His presence for eternity.—JS

ZUOJIANG ZHUANG PEOPLE

(This story illustrates truths about this people group.)

Masking her envy, the Zuojiang woman watched a group who was leaving for their tourist jobs at the Zuojiang Huashan Rock Art, a recently named World Heritage Site. Limestone cliffs

bore large ancient paintings high above the Ming River. Her envy was not of the group but was of the world-renown but lifeless artwork that carried her people's name. Most of the people who studied and adored the art believe that a group earlier than hers had created it.

The Zuojiang Zhuang may seem like a little-known group, but their population is more than 1.75 million. They were named the Zuojiang after the river that flows through their homeland, not for the World Heritage designated Rock Art. They are a large minority group of farmers with their own distinct language and customs, slightly different from other Zhuang peoples. Most follow traditional ethnic religions and ancestor worship. Their rituals to the spirit beings are regular and elaborate. Nearly 10 percent are simply non-religious, and a small number know Jesus.

Pray that the Zuojiang who know Christ will follow His prompting in building a Zuojiang church. Pray that one day the world may know the Zuojiang Zhuang for their faith in the Lord.—LR



Zhuang woman

Asian Harvest

AMOS 8:11, NLT

"The time is surely coming," says the Sovereign Lord, "when I will send a famine on the land— not a famine of bread or water but of hearing the words of the Lord."

Pray for an end to the famine of God's word among the Zuojiang Zhuang people this decade.

YONGNAN ZHUANG OF CHINA

MATT 13:22, NLT

The seed that fell among the thorns represents those who hear God's word, but all too quickly the message is crowded out by the worries of this life and the lure of wealth, so no fruit is produced.

Pray that the seeds planted in the hearts of the Yongnan Zhuang people will result in a disciple-making movement throughout Guangxi Province.

Create International



A Zhuang mother and daughter

(This story illustrates truths about this people group.)

The young farmer stared at the computer screen in amazement. A film shot in his province and presented on YouTube in his own language showed familiar images. He watched a man of his own people grieve about his mother's illness, unresponsive to the incense offered to idols. The film continued, showing a greater power introduced by others. This greater power they called Jesus stirred his heart. Before the film was finished, the farmer knew he needed to till the soil of his own heart and make way for Jesus.

More than two million Yongnan Zhuang people live in China, near the Vietnamese border. Part of the Zhuang people cluster, the Yongnan people, work primarily in agriculture. They are so good at it that they are known locally as "people of the soil."

No Scripture has been translated in their language, and no known Christian workers live amongst them. However, the internet film exists on YouTube. Published in 2019, Create International produced the 17-minute story that introduces Jesus.

Pray that the Yongnan will see this film and that they will become known for their boldness to till the soil of hearts and disciple others to do the same.—LR

BANGKA PEOPLE OF INDONESIA

Bangka Island, Indonesia was once the world's largest source of tin. In ancient times, tin was mixed with copper to make bronze, an alloy much harder and durable than the two metals alone. Although tin is still in great demand, today the tin mining industry in Bangka is

declining, which means the Bangka people must find other means of making a living. Many former miners are taking up fishing or moving to other Indonesian islands to gain employment. Others work on palm oil and rubber plantations. In addition, Bangka has many beautiful beaches, so they are developing their tourist industry.

The Bangka people have an unusual tradition. A newly married Bangka couple does not live near either set of parents. As a result, there are many mixed marriages between the Bangka and other ethnic groups that have come into the area. As a possible long-term result, the Bangka people are a conglomerate of Malay, Chinese, and Javanese ethnicities. Almost all practice Sunni Islam heavily influenced by animistic beliefs.

Pray the Bible is translated into the Bangka language and soon becomes widely available to the Bangka people. Pray that whole families and villages of Bangka are brought into the family of God and begin to disciple others to do the same.—DK



Is snorkeling coming soon to Banka?

scubaluna

EZEK 36:26, NLT

And I will give you a new heart, and I will put a new spirit in you. I will take out your stony, stubborn heart and give you a tender, responsive heart.

Pray the Lord gives the Bangka a new heart and puts His Spirit within them.

JAMBI MALAY OF INDONESIA

PROV 20:12, NLT

Don't say, "I will get even for this wrong." Wait for the Lord to handle the matter.

Pray the Jambi do not feel bitter about new people who move into their territory. Pray that they would be open to new and better ways of living.

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Sumatran scenery

“Then the angel showed me a river with the water of life, clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of

the Lamb.” Rev 22:1 NLT

The Batang Hari River is a source of life for the Jambi people who live in south-central Sumatra, Indonesia. The river and its tributaries provide their primary way of making a living, which is fishing. The best method of moving around the dense rain forests and swamps where they live is by boat. Many outsiders, mostly from the island of Java, are moving into the Jambis' territory. The Jambi often resent these new people, who bring their new ways of fishing and farming. The Jambi tend to cling to their old ways of fishing and agriculture. However, the outsiders' methods are frequently more productive and effective, making it hard for the Jambi to compete.

The Jambi are almost all Sunni Muslims. Like most other Indonesian Muslims, they combine animist beliefs with Islam. They perform rituals and make offerings to spirits which they believe inhabit objects of nature.

Pray that the word of God is translated into Jambi Malay language and that the hearts of the Jambi would be open to its message. Pray that Indonesian believers would move into the land of the Jambi, befriend them, and help them begin their own disciple-making movement.—DK

KERINCI PEOPLE OF INDONESIA

The Kerinci of Sumatra, Indonesia are a matrilineal people. What does matrilineal mean? It means that

property is passed on to daughters, not sons. Their lineage is counted from the mother, not the father. A newly married groom comes to live with his bride's family. The bride's parents often add a room to the house to accommodate the new couple.

The Kerinci are known to be excellent farmers. Their main crop is rice, but they also grow tobacco, potatoes, fruit, and vegetables. They also collect palm rattan from the rainforest, which they use to make furniture and household items.

The Kerinci are almost entirely Sunni Muslims. Their brand of Islam is heavily influenced by their beliefs in ghosts, magic, charms, and natural spirits. When a farmer wants a bountiful crop, he performs rituals and makes offerings to appease the evil spirits of the rainforest and sky. Only a tiny number of the Kerinci are followers of Christ.

Pray that the Bible is translated into the Kerinci language and made widely available to them. Pray that the small number of believers among the Kerinci would grow in faith and be examples of godly living. Pray for a disciple-making movement to emerge and flourish.—DK



Sumatran scenery

iStock/EndraRizaldi

MICAH 7:19, NLT

Once again you will have compassion on us. You will trample our sins under your feet and throw them into the depths of the ocean!

Pray that the Lord has compassion on the Kerinci people and brings many of them to repentance and belief in Christ.

LUWU PEOPLE OF INDONESIA

2 COR 4:2, NLT

For God who said, "Let there be light in the darkness," has made this light shine in our hearts so we could know the glory of God that is seen in the face of Jesus Christ.

Pray that God shines His light into the hearts of the Luwu people so that they may see the face of Jesus Christ and be saved.

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Harvesting rice on Sulawesi

Indonesia has been called the "Island Nation." The country consists of over

17,000 islands of which about 6000 are inhabited. One of the islands of Indonesia is Sulawesi, where the Luwu people live. The Luwu are an agricultural people who practice Sunni Islam. Besides their main crop of rice, they also grow maize, potatoes, cassava melons, peanuts, and peppers.

The Luwu have been Muslims for over 400 years. Muslim traders brought Islam to Sulawesi, which was adopted by the leaders of the island. The Luwu often mix their Sunni faith with animistic practices. They believe in spirits who inhabit the forces of nature. The Luwu make offerings to evil spirits to appease them.

An unusual form of adoption is common among the Luwu. They believe that family ties can be broadened and made stronger by allowing relatives or friends to adopt their children. The children end up being raised by both their original parents and their adoptive parents.

Pray that the Bible is translated into the Tae' language of the Luwu. Pray that entire Luwu villages hear the good news and begin their own disciple-making movement. Pray for a desire for holiness and humility to embrace Jesus and His many blessings.—DK

MANDAILING PEOPLE OF INDONESIA

Are'n't all Bataks in Sumatra Christians? Not the Mandailing! They often have to explain this to other Indonesians since most believe that all Batak subgroups are Christian. They also speak a different language compared to other people in Sumatra.



iStock/ismay

When a Mandailing leaves home, he will look for two things: land and a place to build a house. Children and land are considered sources of personal pride, and they give great status and respect. One who successfully settles in another area is given respect by his community.

The Mandailing are primarily wet rice farmers. Without special permission from the village leader and other community residents, they cannot sell their land.

In days of yore, Mandailings used to maintain a blend of Hinduism and a traditional Batak religion called Parmalin. Then the Minangkabau Muslims forced them to become Muslims, and today they identify with that religious system. Nevertheless, they have kept many of their traditional spiritual beliefs about the nature of the body and soul.

Pray that they would be softened to Jesus Christ and begin to seek out the Savior honored by other Batak peoples. Pray for Mandailing families to turn to Christ together, be disciplined, and share Him with others.—BK

MARK 4:20, NLT

And the seed that fell on good soil represents those who hear and accept God's word and produce a harvest of thirty, sixty, or even a hundred times as much as had been planted!"

Pray that the Mandailing people will respond in this way when they hear God's word!

LUKE 11:28, NLT

Jesus replied, "But even more blessed are all who hear the word of God and put it into practice."

Pray that when the Wakatobi people have the Bible in their language that they will respond with joyful obedience to Christ.

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which they live. Wangi-Wangi is the most developed of their four islands where they live, and it serves as a transportation hub. Tomea is the second most developed after Wangi-Wangi, thanks to a nearby scuba diving resort. The infrastructure on the other two islands leaves much to be desired.

There are nine indigenous communities of Wakatobi, each with its own dialect, though they can communicate amongst themselves. They are primarily agricultural, growing rice and the potato-like cassava. Many men are fishermen or boatbuilders, though the lack of economic opportunity at home causes many of these to sail away to other locations.

The men tend to work in seafaring, boat-building, metalworking, and tending to crops, while the women ply their hands on pottery, weaving, cooking, cleaning, and managing family finances. Most villages have markets where they trade goods.

Pray that the Wakatobi interest in the spiritual and supernatural would lead them to discover the unsurpassed holiness and power of Christ. Pray that their Sufi Islamic focus on experiencing God would move them to seek spiritual truth on all four Wakatobi islands. Pray for improved infrastructure, medical access, and education.—BK

WAKATOBI OF INDONESIA

KEYDAYAN BRUNEI MALAY

Do you think that pressure on minorities to assimilate is only a Western issue? If so, then ask the Kedayan Brunei Malay people, who number about half a million people of whom about 50,000 are in Brunei.

Assimilation is not a matter of language or appearance, but of religion, even though many claim to be Muslim. Although some are Christian, most are folk Muslims, and as such the government seeks to make them truly Muslim, without animism or ancestor worship mixed in with true Islam. To do this, the government works closely with Muslim evangelists, leading to even more cultural changes. If the government succeeds, Kedayan Brunei Malay ways might be diluted to the point where they lose knowledge of medicinal herbs, which scientists are now beginning to study. This pro-Islamic policy also threatens getting the Bible translated into their dialect, and the word of God offers all of us life's answers.

In light of this, we are asking you to pray that the government will be open to Bible translation into the Kedayan Brunei Malay dialect. Pray that medical interest in the Kedayan Brunei folk medicine will open the government to a more open policy. Pray for government officials and Kedayan Brunei Malay elders to understand the blessings offered by Jesus Christ to their communities and families.—TP



Create Intl.

JN 15:19, NLT

The world would love you as one of its own if you belonged to it, but you are no longer part of the world. I chose you to come out of the world, so it hates you.

Pray that the Kedayan Brunei Malay will learn to be first and foremost, part of God's kingdom as they face threats to their culture in the near future.

TAVOYAN DAWEI PEOPLE OF MYANMAR

ROM 12:2, NLT

Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.

Pray that when the Tavoyan Dawei people decide to follow Christ that they will be spiritually transformed and obedient to His will.

Create International



Myanmar, formerly known as Burma, is a multi-ethnic Buddhist South-east Asian nation run by a corrupt military. And therein lies the problem for the Tavoyan Dawei, who live in a strip of Myanmar that lies between Thailand and the sea. As a consequence, some

are refugees in Thailand. They are 77 per cent Buddhist, and they number over 400,000. About one in a thousand follows Christ. Most are urban, living in Dawan City, where they are entering an industrial society and are being urbanized. This kind of situation blends people groups together culturally and linguistically.

However, this does not downplay their unique ethnicity. They speak a dialect that is as distinct as their diet, and difficult for most ethnic Burmese to understand. Thus, they need not only unity and security, but a Bible in their own dialect. They also lack the JESUS Film and Christian radio.

Pray for stability, an end to military rule, and for Bible translation into their dialect. Pray for spiritual discernment that will lead them to Christ for answers. Pray for a version of the JESUS Film, gospel recordings, and Christian broadcasts in their language. Pray these tools will lead the Tavoyan Dawei people into a disciple-making movement this decade.—TP

DEAF OF BANGLADESH

The writer of this prayer entry is deaf but not Deaf. Do you know the difference?



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I have experienced the difference! Deaf means you were born without the ability to hear. The other, deaf, means you lose the ability to hear later in life. I am in the latter category, so I have been able to lead a fairly normal life. But being born without the ability to hear at birth means you face numerous challenges, though your disability is not obvious. People seldom understand.

In Bangladesh, the Deaf are stigmatized. Forty per cent are without work, even among the educated. The Deaf and the deaf constitute three per cent of Bangladesh's population, over seven million.

Yet they have hope through a Bangladesh-based advocacy group. The government is taking steps to integrate them into society. There is a school for the deaf, but they still have unmet needs, especially spiritual ones, and so we pray.

Pray that they get Bibles and ministries to serve them and that Deaf/deaf churches develop. Pray for hearing churches to develop Deaf/deaf ministries or Bible studies. Pray for these people to have a spiritual appetite that is satisfied by Jesus Christ. Pray for the Lord to heal some of the deaf, leading Muslims to the true savior.—TP

ROM 12:4-5, NLT

Just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function, so it is with Christ's body. We are many parts of one body, and we all belong to each other.

Pray that as the Deaf people in Bangladesh find the Savior, that they will know they have a special function in His body.

Pray4TheBanjar.com

The Banjar people of Indonesia have several million speakers. Because they are almost 100 percent Muslim, they have no church that worships God in their language. They also don't yet have a Bible in their language. The missionaries and Bible translators are praying that God will send them 1,000 daily prayer partners. If you would like to become a daily prayer partner please subscribe at:

Pray4TheBanjar.com

One fourth of the world lives in reclusive Frontier People Groups (FPGs—less than 0.1% Christian of any kind). These FPGs perceive Christianity as a foreign influence threatening to tear apart their families and communities. Traditional church planting and witness to individuals within FPGs reinforces these fears. Thus FPGs are reached only through the blessing of God sweeping through the families of these peoples in Jesus movements, in fulfillment of God's promise to Abram (Gen 12) to bless all earth's families.

Half the population of all 4,700+ FPGs live in these 31 largest FPGs.

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