



NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT NO. 298
SANTA CLARITA, CA

- AAP Introductory Literature and Brochures available in print and on the web
- Adoption Agency List, available in print and on the web

All Resources available from:

William Carey Library:
1-800-MISSION

Need more details? See:

www.adopt-a-people.org
www.frontierventures.org

ON THE WEB

<https://Joshuaproject.net/pray/guides>
(free daily entries)

<https://Joshuaproject.net/resources/apps>
(listings of UPGs, profiles, daily prayer entries)

FRONTIER VENTURES
FRONTIER FELLOWSHIP
1605 E. ELIZABETH STREET
PASADENA, CA 91104-2721
ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Global Prayer Digest

October-December 2020 • Frontier Ventures

39:10-12

Global Prayer Digest

www.globalprayerdigest.org

Oct-Dec 2020 Frontier Ventures • 39:10-12

From India to Indonesia, and Back Again

- 6—A Jewel of Islamic History!
- 12—Hindu Chadar People Devoted to a Monkey God
- 19—Ahmadis: Pakistan's Prestigious "Heretics"
- 22—Will Bhathiara Innkeepers Make Room for Christ?

Editorial



Dear Praying Friends,

I have talked with many of you on the phone about this. *GPD* will no longer be a separate publication, but you can still get abbreviated printed materials in our sister publication, *Mission Frontiers*. If you have some of your subscription left over from *GPD*, it will roll over into your new *mf* subscription. Plus, you will get *MF's* challenging articles about mission strategies and priorities.

For those of you who want to get the daily email like I do, go to: unreachedoftheday, and you can subscribe online for free. There will also be other options such as a printable calendar and a podcast. You will even be able to get these prayer materials in at least five other languages!

I will still be editing the content, though the writing style will be in a question and answer format.

Why are we doing this? Joshua Project has researchers and capable techies, but *GPD* does not. We have 13 writers that they lack. And since both of us were praying for specific unreached people groups each day, why have two incomplete teams when you can have one complete one?

Keith Carey

In Christ,
Keith Carey, editor-in-chief, *GPD*
Keith.Carey@frontierventures.org
(626) 398-2241

October 2020

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Keith Carey

For comments on content call
626-398-2241 or email
keith.carey@frontierventures.org

ASSISTANT EDITOR

Paula Fern

WRITERS

Patricia Depew
Karen Hightower
Wesley Kawato
Ben Klett
David Kugel
Christopher Lane
Ted Proffitt
Cory Raynham
Lydia Reynolds
Jean Smith
Allan Starling
Chun Mei Wilson
John Ytreus

PRAYING THE SCRIPTURES

Keith Carey

CUSTOMER SERVICE

Lois Carey
Laurie Roseman

GRAPHICS

Keith Carey
David Gutierrez

PRINTER

Yuli Color Reproduction Co., LTD.
(Taiwan)

WEB SITES

<https://joshuaproject.net/pray/guides>

ISSN 1045-9731
Contents of the *Global Prayer Digest* © 2020
Frontier Ventures
1605 East Elizabeth Street
Pasadena, CA 91104

Contents of this booklet may be
reproduced if appropriate credit and
subscription information are given.
Cover Photo by iStockRiccardo Cirillo

“We have the great privilege of being ambassadors to many who know little about our Lord. This book will show us who our new neighbors are, and how to reach out to them with love and grace in a way they will understand. I pray many churches and Christians will respond to this special opportunity.”

— Larry Phillips, Executive Director/President, Global Grace

EthnoLA

Reaching the Nations, Tongues,
and People of the Greater Los Angeles Metro Area

This book studies the diaspora from the world in the Greater Los Angeles Metro Area (GLAMA). Jerome Hannaman from Frontier Ventures in Pasadena, California, created a database of more than 300 people groups/languages in GLAMA and is the driving force for this publication.

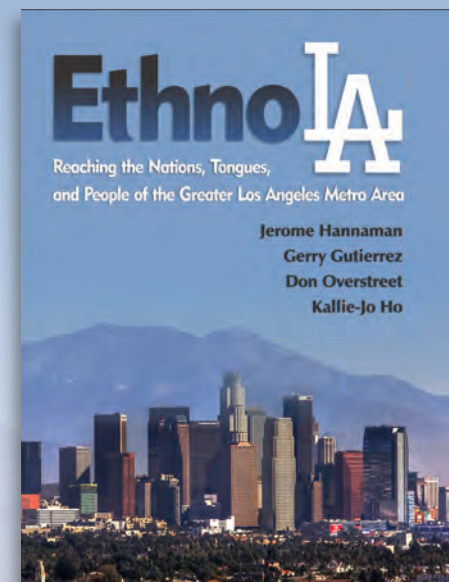
The co-authors of this project, Gerry Gutierrez, Don Overstreet, and Kallie-Jo Ho provide an overview of the life, spirituality, location, and communities of the world living among us. We pray that individual Christians and churches learn about and then reach out to the mission field in our backyard.

The Church is responsible for representing Christ to these people, and the long-time residents of Los Angeles have the privilege of reaching out to love, serve, and witness with open hearts and arms.

ISBN: 978-1-5136-2552-2

192 Pages Paperback

List Price: \$19.95



¡Ahora Disponible en
Español!

Available at the Frontier Ventures Bookstore
or at Ethnola.com and Amazon.com

GPD is Merging with Joshua Project and Mission Frontiers in 2021!

**Please Don't
Stop Praying!**

**For Printed
Prayer Materials:**

Go to the Mission Frontier website:

<https://www.highlandtech.net/secure/missionfrontiers/subscribe.asp>

For email, downloadable and printable materials, a prayer calendar version, an app or a podcast, go to:

<https://joshuaproject.net/pray/unreachedoftheday>

Devotional Ideas

How can you make the most of this prayer digest:

- Some people use it as a supplement to their regular devotional time.
- Others enjoy reading and praying around the dinner table with the entire family.
- Pray for the people group of the day while exercising.

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

Great Imbalance

For every 30 missionaries to reached people groups there is only 1 to unreached people groups.

Missionaries to Reached
People Groups: 30

Missionaries to Unreached
People Groups: 1



BANTEN PROVINCE, JAVA IS., INDONESIA

(WEEK 10, OCT 3-9)

—By David Kugel

The Indonesian province of Banten underwent three complete changes of government during eight short years in the 20th century. In 1942 the Japanese invaded Banten and took it from the Dutch colonial government. In 1945 the Japanese left, and the Dutch returned to power. Five years later the Dutch departed, and Banten became part of the new Republic of Indonesia. In the year 2000 Banten became its own province leaving the larger state of West Java.

Banten has a multicultural society. Almost half of the population are Bantenese, a subgroup of the Sundanese. Other segments of the Banten population include Sundanese, Javanese, tribal Dayaks, and Indonesian Chinese. The indigenous and isolated Beduy people live in the less inhabited southeast portion of Banten. The major industries of Banten include manufacturing, trade, agriculture, logging, fishing, and mining.

Islam became the dominant religion of West Java in the 15th century with the establishment of the Banten Sultanate. The Bantenese consider themselves to be devoted Sunni Muslims. However, magic, spells, and ancestor veneration play a major part in their spiritual worldview. The Bantenese are well-known for their black magic skills. Other Indonesians come to them to learn black magic. Few cities and almost no villages have Bible believing churches in Banten.

- Pray for the dark spiritual forces to be bound and replaced by the Holy Spirit
- Pray for the Lord to send Indonesian and other believers to the Banten province to tell others about Christ and start a church planting movement.
- Pray that Banten leaders, their families, and whole villages will come to the knowledge of the Savior.
- Pray that the Bible becomes available for all the languages spoken in Banten.

MADHYA PRADESH: THE HEART OF INDIA

(WEEK 11, OCTOBER 10-16)

—by Justin Long, missionary researcher

The name Madhya Pradesh literally means “Central Province” and, as its name suggests, is located in the center of India. It is the second largest province in landmass, but the population density (people divided by total area) is very low by Indian standards.

The province is largely agrarian, producing wheat, soybeans, sugarcane, and rice. It has large reserves of diamonds, copper, coal, and other minerals. But these are not well developed. Tourism is a growing part of the economy, and people take tours to see the wild life, especially tigers. The province is home to a large number of religious monuments, including temples and stupas that account for many pilgrims and tourists.

As the central province of India, it is well connected via rail to the rest of the country, with 20 major rail junctions and interstate bus terminals in the major cities. Multiple airports connect the larger cities to the country as well. Some districts within the province have relatively high literacy rates (in excess of 80 percent around the cities), and scores of colleges and research institutions. Yet the cities are not without their issues and problems: poverty, crime, and slums are widespread.

Overall Madhya Pradesh is one of the least-developed provinces. Many rural areas have literacy rates below 60 percent. Around a third of Madhya Pradesh’s people are tribal. The Gond and Bhil are the two largest tribes in India and concentrated here. While Hindi is the official language and Marathi is used widely, dialects within tribes and districts are common.

Impediments to the Gospel

Although Christianity came to India quite soon after Christ, Madhya Pradesh was one of the last areas to be evangelized. The earliest records of Christian missions into the region appear to be in the 1800s. The province has remained staunchly hostile to Christianity, labeling it as foreign. Several factors stand against the spread of the church. The first is rapid population growth, which seems to exceed the national average growth rate of the church in most districts. This must be coupled with the rural nature of the province:

the major cities are fairly easily accessed, but the more remote districts are not. Widespread poverty and low literacy rates are other factors hampering church growth.

The strongly Hindu nature of the province is a large barrier to the spread of Christianity. Festivals, pilgrimages, holy days and historic temples all work together to reinforce the supremacy of Hinduism. The societal concentration of Hinduism is reinforced by stern anti-conversion legislation. From 2010-15, there have been numerous incidents of churches burned, pastors assaulted, and arrests on trumped-up charges.

It is unsurprising that mainstream Christianity suffered a decline from 0.9 percent in 1981 down to 0.3 percent in 1991. Much of the gospel progress made to this point has been amongst tribal groups. Unfortunately, while the gospel can and has spread rapidly within tribal groups, it is very rare for it to spread from them into higher-caste Hindu communities. More will likely need to be done to bring the gospel from outside India to these groups.

- Pray for outside efforts to reach Madhya Pradesh’s forward castes, and that they will be blessed with a movement to Christ in the 2020s.

PUNJAB: PAKISTAN’S CENTER OF POWER AND POPULATION

(WEEK 12, OCTOBER 17-23)

—By Justin Long, missionary researcher

Punjab has long been a key political center in what is now Pakistan. Punjab is the best developed state and largest economy in Pakistan, but poverty is still widespread throughout the rural areas. It is crisscrossed by the Indus River and its many tributaries, which create many fertile river valleys. Its fertile landscape has made it the breadbasket of the nation, responsible for three-quarters of the country’s annual grain production. Punjab also includes industrial centers in several of its larger cities, as well as several of Pakistan’s military facilities including the controversial nuclear complex in Khushab.

Punjab was mostly Hindu until the arrival of Islam in 712 AD. It became a strategic base for several empires over the next thousand years, particularly the

Mughals and Marathi. In the early 1800s it fell under the control of the Sikhs, and then in 1849 it was annexed by British India. In 1947, it was divided on religious lines between West and East Punjab. Riots, refugees, and atrocities followed. Western Punjab became part of Pakistan, home to the Muslims who had fled India, while the Sikhs and Hindus on the western side migrated to the east to be part of India.

Although a full census hasn't been completed since 1998, estimates suggest Punjab has 100 million people, or slightly more than half of Pakistan's population. Most are Punjabis, the largest ethnic group in Pakistan. Punjabi and Urdu are the two most widely spoken languages; minority languages include Baloch, Gujarati, and Seraiki.

The Gospel and Punjab

In 1873 a mass movement occurred among the low-caste leatherworking Chuhars. This movement grew rapidly, reaching 100,000 by the turn of the century, and nearly 400,000 by 1930. However, the movement remained mostly among poor farmers and leatherworkers. People outside Christianity wanted nothing to do with a faith that was associated with the low-caste poor.

Today Christians make up about 1.6 percent of Pakistan, and 80 percent of them are in Punjab Province. They are split fairly evenly between Protestants and Catholics. Punjabi Christians are mostly poor laborers, although a minority, mostly in Karachi, are educated and moderately wealthy. Many were Hindu Dalits who converted during British rule. There are enormous cultural barriers between them and the Muslim majority.

After the 1947 partition, the number of believers in modern Pakistan became significantly smaller. Since the 1990s, hundreds have been accused of blasphemy and over 50 killed before their trials were even concluded. Another 62 were murdered as a result of allegations, before they had gone to trial. Accusations of blasphemy are often used to persecute minorities or even simply to settle personal vendettas. Asia Bibi's case is the most recent and most public example of someone accused of blasphemy and persecuted. While the city of Lahore is globally connected, globalization has done little to mitigate the extent of this religious opposition and seems unlikely to do so in the near future.

Clearly, the church exists in the Punjab; there are many churches, both public and secret. The church is also certainly adding numbers, but it is under fire.

- Pray for spiritual hunger and breakthroughs among all of Punjab's 269 unreached people groups.

SOUTH SUMATRA

(WEEK 13, OCT 24-30)

—By David Kugel

Have you ever heard of the Srivijaya Empire? This Buddhist kingdom existed from the seventh to the 13th century in the islands of Indonesia and in parts of South East Asia. The capital of the Srivijaya Empire was Palembang. The present capital and largest city of the Indonesian state of South Sumatra. The Srivijaya Empire was based on maritime trade. Merchants came from India, Arabia, and China. Some of the foreign businessmen stayed in Palembang and mixed with the native population.

Two major events changed South Sumatran society in the 15th and 16th centuries. The first was the coming of Islam to the area. Arabian traders shared their faith with the Buddhist and Hindu residents of South Sumatra. Most of the population converted to Islam over the next century. The other important event was the coming of the Europeans to the area. The Dutch East India Company and later the Dutch government came to control Sumatra and Java. It was not until 1949 that the Indonesians gained independence from the Netherlands.

Today the population of South Sumatra is growing by thousands each year. The Indonesian government is encouraging people to move from the densely populated island of Java to other islands. This is one of the reasons South Sumatra has a multiethnic society. South Sumatra includes Javanese, Sundanese, Lampungese, Minangkabau, and Chinese people. Islam is a central part of the identity of most of the peoples of South Sumatra. The few churches in South Sumatra are made up of mostly Chinese and foreigners.

- Pray that the hearts of the peoples of South Sumatra would be stirred to hunger after God, to drink of living water.
- Pray for an unstoppable disciple-making movement among the peoples of South Sumatra.

RAWAT RAJPUTS IN RAJASTHAN

PS 91:9-10, NLT

If you make the Lord your refuge, if you make the Most High your shelter, no evil will conquer you; no plague will come near your home.

Pray that many Rawat Rajputs will take God up on the offer to make Him their refuge.

iStock/Tarzan9280



Rajputs in India

Can you imagine what it would be like to have no concept of an almighty God who loves you, who desires a personal relationship with you, and has made complete provision for you to live with Him eternally? Imagine what it would be like to be required to worship multitudes of grotesque, vengeful, angry, and dangerous gods ruling every aspect of your life. Knowing that you will die one day, imagine having no idea what will happen to your soul and spirit. How would these beliefs impact your life?

Rawat Rajput people live with these fears. They believe that they are relatives of a king in their past, and that is a central part of their identity. They are a prestigious landowning community and have favorable attitudes toward educating their offspring and using modern medicine.

Pray that the JESUS Film, which exists in their Hindi language, will become widely accessible to Rawat families. Pray that since royal heritage is fleeting, they will look to the one eternal King of kings for their identity and fulfillment. Ask the Lord Jesus to provide contacts needed for humble disciples to work among Rawat people, reaching out to their community and family leaders with the life-changing gospel.—KH

DAROGA COMMUNITY

Is 59:16a, NLT. He was amazed to see that no one intervened to help the oppressed. So He himself stepped in to save them with His strong arm, and His justice sustained Him.

What if no one was praying for you? How would your life change? Do you suppose that anyone is praying for the Daroga people group?

There are no known believers in Christ among a million Daroga people. In their past, they served Rajput rulers and chiefs as domestic servants. Today, they are farmers, government servants, teachers, businessmen, and defense personnel. Education is important to them.

They live and work throughout Rajasthan, hiding their identity and claiming to be Rajput. They have no spiritual future at the present time.

Pray for broken disciples who care about Daroga people to pray for them to become cherished children in God's holy family. Ask God to humble these secretive Daroga people to see their need for repentance and salvation. Pray that Bible resources available in their Hindi language will find their way into the hands and hearts of these unsaved people for whom Christ gave His life.—KH



Serving the Rajputs

iStock/Mithri

PS 100:3, NLT

Acknowledge that the Lord is God! He made us, and we are His. We are His people, the sheep of His pasture.

Pray that the Daroga people will acknowledge that they are the Lord's by right of creation.

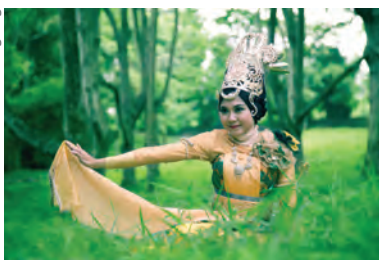
SUNDANESE IN BANTEN PROVINCE, INDONESIA

PS 101:1, NLT

I will sing of your love and justice, Lord. I will praise you with songs.

Pray that God's love and justice draws many from the Sundanese peoples to Him.

iStock/RossiAgung



A Sundanese folk dancer

Sundanese live in Africa and are mentioned in the Bible as Cushites. The Sundanese are not in the Bible and live mainly in the province of Banten in western Java. They have traditionally been farmers.

The Sundanese number some 13.5 million people and are the largest unreached people group (UPG) in Indonesia. They are 99.41 percent Muslim, but their form of Islam is influenced by animism and shamanism, two forms of traditional tribal spiritism. Indeed, it is the latter that has caught the attention of Islamicists who want to dictate a "pure" form of Islam. This creates friction within Islam.

Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam, Catholicism, Protestantism, and Confucianism are the "legal" faiths of Indonesia. Animism is not recognized by the state, causing some animists to opt for Christianity or Islam. Sundanese Muslims can be open to Christ, especially those who are facing the uncertainty of moving from the farm to an urban environment. Most Sundanese are also strongly opposed to aggressive Islamicism.

Pray for continued political stability in the face of Islamicism and corruption. Pray for groups of Sundanese Muslims to become spiritually hungry, and have that hunger satisfied by Jesus Christ, not a religious system.—TP

BETAWIS IN BANTEN PROVINCE, INDONESIA

I used to live near a street called Batavia. It is unlikely the person who named the street knew that "Batavia" comes from



Betawi food sold here!

iStock/GeorginaCaptures

Betawi, today's unreached people. Today, Batavia is called Jakarta, Indonesia's capital. Although most Jakartans speak Indonesian, the Betawi ethnic group still speaks Betawi, a Malay trade language. Their language and culture are a mix of Malay, Portuguese, Chinese, and Arabic, despite efforts to thoroughly Islamicize and Arabize them. Their music is rooted in Portuguese and Chinese musical genres, and their dance is influenced by Sundanese, Chinese, and Indonesian elements. Their wedding dress, white for both bride and groom, has Chinese and Arab roots. Betawi cuisine also reflects a blend of cultures.

Despite Islamic schools, their form of Islam is tainted by belief in localized spirits. All of this is changing as urban, industrialized Jakarta encroaches on traditional ethnic groups.

Pray that amid the changes there will be a growing desire to know Jesus, as someone more than a prophet and as God's son and Savior who loves them just as they are. Pray that as the Betawi are more open to change, believers will take advantage of changed attitudes to contextualize the gospel so that they will believe it. Pray for a movement of Betawi speakers to begin a disciple making movement.—TP

PS 103:5, NLT

He fills my life with good things. My youth is renewed like the eagle's!

Pray that many Betawis will seek and find God's "good things," especially a strong relationship with Him.

JAVA BANTEN SUNDANESE IN BANTEN PROVINCE, INDONESIA

PS 104:33-34, NLT

I will sing to the Lord as long as I live. I will praise my God to my last breath! May all my thoughts be pleasing to Him, for I rejoice in the Lord.

Pray for the Holy Spirit to move among Java Banten Sundanese family heads, so that they will lead their families to be fully devoted to the Lord.

iStock/Yasin Emir Akbas



(This story illustrates an aspect of the people's life.)

The boy was in awe; he could not believe his

eyes! The man was not burned by fire, nor was his body cut by sharp objects. The magic mantras had worked! The boy was a member of the Sundanese Banten people who practice Sunni Islam, and he was watching a Muslim occult activity in Banten Province on Java Island.

This scenario says much about the faith and practice of this people group of southwest Java, Indonesia, who number some 4.6 million (2010 Census). They are primarily farmers, but a quarter of them work in cities in manufacturing and shops catering to tourists, who would be delighted and amazed if they saw what he saw. The Java Banten Sundanese are an unreached people whom God loves and for whom Jesus was lacerated and pierced before He died for them.

Pray that Christian witnesses be led by the Holy Spirit to develop successful strategies to reach this unreached people group. Pray that the Java Banten Sundanese people will give up the occult and come to worship Jesus as Savior and Lord in family-based fellowships. Pray that the work of the Holy Spirit will result in economic growth and less government corruption in Jakarta.—TP

JAVA PESISIR KULONS IN BANTEN PROVINCE, INDONESIA

“A jewel of Islamic history,” the city of Cirebon is one of the main tourist destinations in the area where the



A train station in Cirebon

iStock/Akhmad Dody Firmansyah

Java Pesisir Kulon people live. Cirebon boasts tourist attractions, such as ornate mosques, historic palaces, magnificent homes from the Dutch Era, and Sunyaragi Cave (a man-made water palace). The Java Pesisir Kulon people, whose name means “West Coast Java,” are also called the Java Cirebonan or Cerbon people.

The word cirebon derives from ci (“water”) and rebon (“shrimp”). Cirebon has always been famous for its fresh shrimp, shrimp pastes, and salted fish. As islanders, most Java Pesisir Kulon are, unsurprisingly, fishermen. Additionally, some make their living as farmers.

Cirebon served as a base of operations from which one of the Nine Apostles of Islam in Indonesia spread the teachings of Islam. The majority of the Java Pesisir Kulon are Sunni Muslim, and they are proud of Cirebon’s role in their religious history. This region looks forward to economic development, and the people need practical training and technology.

Pray that both economic and spiritual inroads may be made among the Java Pesisir Kulon. Pray for spiritual hunger that will lead many from this people group to embrace the Savior. Pray for a huge movement to Christ among these Muslims.—CMW

PS 76:10, NLT

Human defiance only enhances your glory, for you use it as a weapon.

Pray that human defiance will help lead this people group to the foot of the cross.

JAVA PESISIR LORS IN BANTEN PROVINCE, INDONESIA

PS 118:26, NLT

Bless the one who comes in the name of the Lord. We bless you from the house of the Lord.

Pray for many from the Java Pesisir Lors to come to embrace the name of the Lord.



Drying batiks

The Java Pesisir Lor people number around 37 million and live in the northern coast of Java in Banten Province. Pesisir Lor means

“North Coast,” and many of the people derive their sustenance from the sea. They are famous for their brightly colored batiks with repeating water images, flowers, and geometric patterns. Their culture differs from that of the dominant Javanese culture in that they prefer music played by two-stringed instruments and cymbals to the traditional Javanese music, performed by five-toned “gongs.” They also practice their own martial arts instead of the traditional Javanese shadow plays.

The Java Pesisir Lor intertwine their Muslim beliefs with mystical practices, which means that they submit not only to Mohammed, but also to various saints, spirits, and deities. They visit the graves of the first nine pioneers who introduced Islam to Indonesia in an attempt to seek blessings and guidance.

In order to move forward, the Java Pesisir Lor need better access to clean water, a better system of dams and irrigation, and a greater variety of work opportunities. Increasing numbers of young people have been seeking jobs in urban areas.

Ask our Heavenly Father to prepare the hearts of families to be ready when presented with the salvation that Jesus offers.—CMW

JAVA BANYUMASANS IN BANTEN PROVINCE, INDONESIA

Crispy and crunchy on the outside but soft and tender on the inside. Mmmm! This describes mendhoan tempe, which is tempe (fermented soybean cake resembling firm tofu) dipped in spiced batter and then fried. Mendhoan tempe lends its name to the Java Mendhoan, who are officially called the Java (or Jawa) Banyumasan.



Tempe

In their free time, the Java Banyumasan practice a simple musical instrument called the calung. It resembles a xylophone (think of a piano keyboard minus the black keys) made from bamboo tubes of varying lengths strung together transversely. The musician strikes the bamboo tubes with two mallets.

Eighty percent of the Java Banyumasan are nominal Muslims while 20 percent are devout believers. Some people continue to embrace animistic beliefs, and they hold that certain graves, mountains, and caves are sacred places. When sick or bothered by spirits, some Banyumasan will seek help from a dukun (shaman). In ceremonial meals or ritual feasts, the people chant mantras and make offerings to spirits. Like other Javanese, most Banyumasan are bilingual in Indonesian and Banyumasan.

Pray for the Java Banyumasan community to decide together to worship a different Spirit, the tri-partite one whose Son came in human form to bring good news, healing, and salvation.—CMW

PS 106:13, NLT

Yet how quickly they forgot what He had done! They wouldn't wait for His counsel!

Pray that when this people group finds the Lord, they will never forget His loving kindness, which far exceeds that of anything they can imagine!

JAPANESE IN BANTEN PROVINCE, INDONESIA

PS 95:5, NLT

The sea belongs to Him,
for He made it. His hands
formed the dry land, too.

*Pray for the Japanese to be
in awe of God, their creator.
Pray that they will gain
spiritual knowledge that He
is far above all other gods.*



*(This story illus-
trates truths about
this people group.)*

Junko, from Japan, visited Indonesia when she was in high school. Years later she signed up for an exchange program at a college in Indonesia. During that time she got to know a classmate from Indonesia who was Muslim, and she found him fascinating. They got married after graduation, and the two of them now live in Jakarta. Her search for spiritual truths had stalled; she was not comfortable with the Buddhism and Shintoism she was raised with, but she felt her husband's Islam was no better.

The first Japanese arrived in Indonesia during the late 1800s as traders. By 1938, there were 6,300 Japanese living in what is now Indonesia. In 1941, Japan invaded Indonesia, but some Japanese soldiers remained after the war ended in 1945. More recently Japan opened electronics factories in Indonesia, where many of the workers are Japanese. Students also arrived, and it isn't uncommon for female Japanese students to marry Indonesian men. There are few, if any, followers of Christ among the Japanese in Indonesia.

Ask God to open the spiritual eyes of the Japanese. Pray for faithful workers to bring the message of salvation and the teachings of Jesus to them.—WK

DAKSHINI BRAHMANS IN MADHYA PRADESH, INDIA

At a press conference, the Dakshini Brahman Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh began his announcement regarding a new



Madhya Pradesh's state flag

plan that would give free education to hearing and speech impaired people. "I want these special students to be successful. Each school will have two teachers of sign language, and the work will be completed within a year. We have 1,000 spaces, and the students will receive diplomas after completing their education. We will also give the students who score high on their tests the opportunity to go further, so they can earn higher degrees." Attending the meeting by special invitation was a girl named Asha, who knew this was going to change her life for the better!

There are an estimated 117,000 Dakshini Brahmins. These Brahmins are high achievers, especially in education, computer science, and business. They are culturally Hindu and do not desire to become Brahman priests as this is viewed as a low position. They reject any outreach from believers even though many of them have been exposed to faith in Christ when studying outside of India.

Pray that all barriers will be removed, so these influential Brahmins will enjoy the blessings of being part of Christ's family.—PD

PS 145:18, NLT

The Lord is close to all who
call on Him, yes, to all who
call on Him in truth.

*Pray that many from the
Dakshini Brahmins will soon
call on Him in truth.*

AGNIVANSI RAJPUTS IN MADHYA PRADESH, INDIA

PS 147:4-5, NLT

He counts the stars and
calls them all by name.
How great is our Lord!
His power is absolute!
His understanding is
beyond comprehension!

*Pray that God's creative
power will steer many
Agnivansi Rajput families
to understanding His
absolute power and mercy.*



Amoli, a female social worker in India, was watching a group of Agnivansi Rajput women from a nearby window. They were protesting a new, unreleased film "Padmaavat." The women looked regal in their salwar suits, and a few Rajput men had joined them proudly carrying their swords. They were protesting because they said the film showed their beautiful 14th century Rajput Queen Padm in an unfavorable light. Amoli commented to her friend, "It is not just the film that makes them protest, but the need to be recognized. At one time these Agnivansi were great warriors, leaders, and landowners, but now people consider them to be low class. Even then, the reservation system (designed to allow the poor to get better jobs) bypasses them and gives jobs to members of other communities."

The estimated 197,000 Hindu Agnivansi mainly live in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan. A few have managed to advance, especially through marrying into a higher, more privileged caste. They are loyal to their Hindu gods and actively participate in rituals and festivals.

Pray that they will allow believers to show them the hope found in God and His word. Pray that soon entire Agnivansi Rajput families will follow Christ, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.—PD

CHADAR PEOPLE IN MADHYA PRADESH, INDIA

*(This story
illustrates truths
about this
people group.)*

Lekha was happy it was the first time they would be taking their young daughter, Keya, to the Hanuman Temple in Bhedaghat, Madhya Pradesh. Keya asked, "Please, mother! Tell me about Hanuman." "Hanuman had a human face and a long monkey's tail. One day he thought the sun was a piece of fruit, and he tried to fly up to grab it. This made Indra, king of the gods, very angry, and he hit him on the jaw (hanu) so he was named Hanuman. One day he led some monkeys to help the god Rama and his soldiers rescue Rama's wife, Sita, from the demon, Ravan. You will see many monkeys in the temple, Keya. We will give many prayers to Hanuman today, so he will make us strong, smart, caring, and loyal."

The estimated 147,000 Chadars live mainly in small towns spread across Madhya Pradesh. They have their own association of educated men who keep law and order in their towns. Many are farmers or work in government service jobs. They are also known for their beautiful weaving work.

Pray for believers to reach out to the Chadar people and that there will soon be a movement to Christ among them.—PD



Hanuman, the Hindu monkey god

GAL 1:15, NLT

But even before I was born, God chose me and called me by his marvelous grace. Then it pleased Him to reveal His Son to me so that I would proclaim the good news about Jesus to the Gentiles. When this happened, I did not rush out to consult with any human being.

*Pray that the Lord will
raise up someone with
Paul's tenacity to reach
the Chadar people to turn
their allegiance to Jesus
Christ alone.*

BHIL PEOPLES IN MADHYA PRADESH, INDIA

JOSH 24:15, NLT

But if you refuse to serve the LORD, then choose today whom you will serve. Would you prefer the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates? Or will it be the gods of the Amorites in whose land you now live? But as for me and my family, we will serve the LORD.

Pray that many Bhil heads of households will choose to lead their people to the Lord of lords.

iStock/Kailash Kumar



A Bhil festival

A young man swaggers down the street, his head encompassed by a colorful rag. Earrings glint in his ear as the sword strapped to his person swings with his gait. His companion, similarly dressed, carries a gun. Despite the colorful imagery, these aren't pirates. They are Bhil boys, descendants of immigrants from the plains to the hill country, who fought hard to maintain their independence. While those in the city carry blades or firearms, those in the rural areas carry the bows for which their people are so well known. Though they are often shy, they enthusiastically incorporate music, dance, drama, and lengthy exuberant festivals into their culture. Most are small-time farmers, laborers, and watchmen, though most of their land is unproductive.

Though the mountain-dwelling Bhil practice Hindu-influenced traditional religions, there have been very interesting moves of God among their gurus. Some worship the light and “the Word,” and have prophecies of a sinless incarnation. One of their gurus even went so far as teaching people to worship this God and turn away from all others.

Pray that His works among them will lead to lasting good fruit. Pray for courageous and dedicated discipleship efforts among them and that their eyes would be opened enmasse. Pray that the Bhil would be a people transformed, and powerfully influence Madhya Pradesh.—BK

SAHARIA PEOPLE IN MADHYA PRADESH, INDIA

Between 1864 and 1865, the British expeditionary forces expanded the British occupation of India to the central hill region, executing or transporting local leaders and bringing the area under control. When they tried to collect taxes, the Saharia (or Sor) rebelled. To this day, their actions have earned them a reputation of being a fierce people, though anthropologists disagree.

The Saharia have had little contact with outsiders and are just now learning how to deal with national politics. The younger generations are learning to read and write while the older generations remain illiterate. There are five sub-tribes of Saharia, each based on an occupation: farmers, weavers, iron workers, potters, and basket makers. There were some Saharias in the early 20th century who left the hills for temporary work in other parts of India. Many stayed and made their new locations home.

The Saharia are not Hindu, though they are aware of this religious system. They maintain their ethnic religious traditions.

Pray that this new era of learning for the Saharia people will result in their discovering and embracing Jesus Christ. Pray that they will discover and commit their communities to the God who made the things they worship now. Pray for discipleship movements to spring up amongst the Saharia.—BK



Tribal woman in Madhya Pradesh

iStock/DavidCallan

GAL 5:5, NLT

But we who live by the Spirit eagerly wait to receive by faith the righteousness God has promised us.

Pray for the Saharia people to live by the Holy Spirit and receive His righteousness, one that will draw others in Madhya Pradesh to the King of kings.

PARDHANS OF MADHYA PRADESH

PS 103:19, NLT

The Lord has made the heavens His throne; from there He rules over everything.

Pray that many family heads among the Pardhan will understand that God is sovereign.



It was a wedding, and the guests all had expressions of rapture on their faces. What was going on? They were listening to Pardhan singers singing long songs of romance at the wedding feast. This is a common scene in Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh where the Pardhan live. The Pardhan are well-known for their musical abilities and are asked to perform at many Hindu ceremonies. Besides singing and performing, they also do menial jobs, and often their children do not receive an education. The Indian government is concerned about their lack of education and is working to alleviate the problem.

The Pardhan are a tribal people, so they are considered outside the Hindu caste system and are therefore Dalits or outcasts. But they are not considered outcasts by our Heavenly Father, who sent His Son Jesus so that all people might know that He died to save them. He desires that the Pardhan would be among those from every tongue, nation, and tribe gathered around His throne! The Pardhans have no known believers.

Pray that the Pardhans of Madhya Pradesh would be open to hearing about Jesus Christ, their Savior, through a musical outreach to Pardhan families. Pray for the Holy Spirit to soften their hearts.—JS

GONDS OF MADHYA PRADESH

He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also, He has put eternity in their hearts, except that no one can find out the work that God does from beginning to the end. (Ecc 3:11, NKJV). Christian researchers have discovered that most unreached people have something in their cultural or religious beliefs that can be used as an entry point for sharing the gospel.



Gond man

This is certainly the case with the Gond people. Animal sacrifice is the “eternity in their hearts” that can be a way of witnessing to them. The Gonds believe that evil spirits are the causes for sickness, and they believe sacrifices will keep away these evil spirits. The Gond people offer animal sacrifices in hopes of driving them away, the same spirits Jesus has conquered!

They are mostly farmers and plant their crops near rivers so that they can have adequate water for irrigation. The rivers are usually surrounded by forests where they hunt. All farmers offer a sacrifice after the harvest; the bigger the yield, the bigger the animal offered.

Pray for workers to share the gospel truth that Jesus Christ was the only sacrifice acceptable to God, and that they will in turn share this with others through songs and stories.—JS

PS 111:4, NLT

He causes us to remember His wonderful works. How gracious and merciful is our Lord!

Pray that He will cause Gond leaders to remember His wonderful works and respond to them with joyful devotion.

WATTU RAJPUTS OF PUNJAB, PAKISTAN

PS 93:1, NLT

The Lord is king! He is robbed in majesty. Indeed, the Lord is robbed in majesty and armed with strength. The world stands firm and cannot be shaken.

Pray for Wattu Rajputs to allow the Lord to be their King of kings.

iStock/Imranahmedsg



This Pakistani soldier is probably a Rajput

Rajputs are all Indians, right? Wrong! About 159,000 of them live in Pakistan's Punjab Province. Most of these Rajputs are not Hindu, but Muslim. They became politically important in the seventh century, when Rajput dynasties ruled northern India. Rajputs were warriors who defended

local kingdoms from invaders.

Later, they settled down to become nobles and enjoyed the life of landed gentry. Some Islamic invaders eventually penetrated the Hindu wall, and some Rajputs converted to Islam. It is worth noting that conversion was not done individually, but as a group. Those wishing to take Christ to Muslim Rajputs would do well to remember that like most people groups, they adopt changes as a group.

Many Rajput in Pakistan are still in the armed forces, but some have moved to other livelihoods. Wattu Rajputs who are Muslims follow the same practices as most Muslims—keeping their wives secluded, observing five daily ritual prayers, giving alms to the poor, and going on the pilgrimage (haj) to Mecca, Saudi Arabia.

Ask the Holy Spirit to put a special spiritual hunger in Wattu Rajput's hearts to believe that there is more to life than just fulfilling basic Muslim tenets. May they hear the gospel message through all forms of media. Pray for a church planting movement.—JS

JATS IN PUNJAB, PAKISTAN

Muslim Jats in Pakistan number a whopping 33,276,000 people! They are the largest people group in Pakistan. The Jats also have a military tradition. After 1858, under the British Raj, they were known for their military service and were categorized as a “martial race” by the colonial British. Often when they retired from the military, they became landlords with their swords girded round their waists, always ready to defend.



iStock/HasanHaider

Besides being ready and able fighters, they are also fiercely independent in character and value self-respect more than anything. They are known for their pride and readiness to sacrifice their lives in battle for their people. The Jats are required to marry within their own community. Traditionally they lived in a large house where generations shared one roof. Now, with the advancement of modern life, that is no longer the practice.

The Muslim Jats have the same spiritual needs as other Muslim people. They need to meet Jesus Christ, the only one who can pay for their sins.

Pray for God to send to Jat leaders dreams and visions that will soften their hearts when they hear that Jesus has conquered death. Ask God to send people who can identify with their martial heritage and enlist them to be spiritual “soldiers” for Christ.—JS

PS 113:5, NLT

Who can be compared with the Lord our God, who is enthroned on high?

Pray for many Muslim Jats to discover that no god can compare to the Lord. Pray for them to humbly submit to Him alone!

AHMADIS IN PUNJAB PROVINCE, PAKISTAN

PS 119:14, NLT

I have rejoiced in your laws as much as in riches.

Pray that you and many others will rejoice in His word, and regard them as valuable riches.

iStock/dk_photos



Punjab Province, Pakistan

The Ahmadi believe that their spiritual leader posed as Jesus Christ in a previous life.

Such strange beliefs put the Ahmadi at odds with mainstream Muslims.

The Ahmadi follow the teachings of Mirza Ghulam Ahmad. In 1889, he issued a new set of teachings in Pakistan that shocked most Muslims. Ahmad's teachings about angels, prophets, and the end times were at odds with the way most Muslims interpreted the Qur'an. Thousands began following Ahmad's teachings, and these people were branded as heretics. Persecution became a problem, especially after Pakistan became independent in 1947, and many Ahmadi fled from Pakistan. Today there is a large Ahmadi community in Britain, but they are still very prominent in Pakistan's Punjab Province. In 1974, Pakistan amended its constitution to declare the Ahmadi to be non-Muslims, which only made the persecution worse. There have been anti-Ahmadi riots in Pakistan in 1974 and 1984.

Pray that the Ahmadi would hear and receive the true teachings about Jesus Christ and His grace. Ask God to lead mission agencies to reach out to this people group and lead them to blessings and eternal life. May the Ahmadi come to see Jesus Christ as the only source of salvation.—WK

ARAINS IN PUNJAB PROVINCE, PAKISTAN

(This story illustrates truths about this people group.)

Wassim was a college student in Lahore, Pakistan.

He sat in court and took notes as the lawyers argued their cases. Wassim knew he would one day be a lawyer. He was a Muslim of the Arain people group and had been studying Qur'anic law. He knew that this law was perfect; it came from above. If everyone followed it, the world would be a much better place.

The Arains started off as an agricultural caste in what is now Pakistan. According to legend, the first Arains came to Pakistan from Syria with Muhammed Qasim, one of the first Muslim missionaries to Pakistan. These people quickly intermarried with local Muslim converts to form the Arain people group. Today many Arains have become lawmakers and politicians. There are few, if any, followers of Jesus Christ among this people group.

Ask the Holy Spirit to show the Arain people the light of Jesus Christ and that they will use their influence to take His name to other Muslim peoples. Pray that this people group will come to see Jesus Christ as the only one who can forgive their sins. Pray that God will use dreams and visions to open their spiritual eyes.—WK



Students in Lahor, Pakistan

iStock/PPI Images

PS 130:3, NLT

Lord, if you kept a record of our sins, who, O Lord, could ever survive? But you offer forgiveness that we might learn to fear you.

Pray that many Arains will understand that the only one who can offer forgiveness for sin is Jesus Christ, the Lord of lords.

BARWALA PEOPLE OF PUNJAB PROVINCE, PAKISTAN

PS 144:9, NLT

I will sing a new song to you, O God! I will sing your praises with a ten-stringed harp.

Pray that many from the Barwala people in Pakistan will accept His lordship and will make joyful, praiseful music to Him.



Serving food at a wedding

Sometimes called “outsiders” because outcasts live in the outskirts, the Barwala caste has traditionally worked in low class jobs, serving people who were thought to be more important. In the traditionally feudal setup of the early 20th Century, the Barwalas were required to tend to wedding guests, fill pipes, bear torches, and hold up the bridegroom’s throne. The Barwala name is also thought to be derived from the kind of grass they used to make mats and fans, still a low caste occupation. Today they are the attendants of the prestigious Rajputs.

With a small population of more than half a million, the Barwala are spread across Pakistan and India, though today we will focus our prayers on those living in Punjab Province, Pakistan. They are largely Muslim, with a Hindu minority. The two communities get along; the differences fall on the geographical line, with the Muslims living on the plains and the Hindus living in the mountainous regions. As far as we know, none follow the Savior.

Pray that the Barwala will understand Christ’s proclamation of how blessed it is to be a servant, and that this will give them honor. Pray that they will understand that God gave them dignity through the sacrifice of His son.—LR

MUSLIM BHATHIARA PEOPLE OF PUNJAB PROVINCE, PAKISTAN

She gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped Him snugly in strips of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no lodging available for them (Luke 2:7, NLT). It was Mary, the mother of Jesus, who wrapped her newborn in “swaddling cloths” and laid Him in a feeding trough. All the inns were full that night in Bethlehem.



If any of the Bhathiara people of Punjab, India had been available, there might have been a room for this special family. The Bhathiara were well known as innkeepers for travelers, mostly for Muslims who journeyed along the trade routes of northern India and Pakistan.

Today they mostly work in agriculture, factories, and small businesses. Some Bhathiara have benefited from Pakistan's educational system and have become professionals in medicine, law, engineering, and computer science, but lack of education is a problem among the Bhathiara. The Bhathiara often live in their own sections of the cities and villages. They only marry within their caste and clan, and newly married couples frequently live with or near the groom's parents.

Pray that the Bhathiara would be open to the gospel and that the Lord would raise up a network of Bible-believing fellowships among them.—JY

PS 145:13, NLT

For your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom. You rule throughout all generations. The Lord always keeps His promises; He is gracious in all He does.

Pray that many from the Bhathiara people will be thankful that God keeps His promises.

MUSSALI OF PUNJAB PROVINCE, PAKISTAN

IS 53:3, NLT

He was despised and rejected—a man of sorrows, acquainted with deepest grief. We turned our backs on Him and looked the other way. He was despised, and we did not care.

Pray that the Mussali people will seek and find this Savior, the same one rejected by man.

iStock/gajendra



Sanitation worker

of Pakistan live like this. Formerly Hindus, the Mussalis were forced to convert to Islam when Islamic armies arrived in South Asia. Today, they have low status, and typically they work in sanitation doing disgusting jobs. They wish for a better life, but they are trapped and oppressed by those with power in all provinces of Pakistan, including Punjab, where they are most numerous.

Hinduism has tainted their form of Islam. Considered inferior by other communities, the Mussalis can only look to Allah with hope that they will be rewarded when the day of judgment comes. They are hostile to Christianity, though the New Testament, audio Bible teaching, and the JESUS Film are available in their primary language of Western Punjabi.

Ask for great spiritual and physical blessing to come to Pakistan's Mussali communities. Ask for churches to adopt the Mussali and pray consistently for them. Pray for the derided Mussali people to soften to the love, acceptance, dignity, and truth found in Jesus Christ. Pray for prepared Christ followers to befriend Mussali families and help them with their spiritual, educational, and medical needs. Pray for a spiritual breakthrough and a disciple-making movement.—CR

How would you like your name to be used in contempt? The 2.6 million Mussali people

ABUNG LAMPUNGSE OF SOUTH SUMATRA, INDONESIA

Do you like to put pepper on your food?

The Abung Lampungese of the southeastern tip of the island of Sumatra in Indonesia grow pepper and rice as their cash crops. According to legends, the Abung Lampungese were once headhunters. The Abung have clung to their animistic beliefs in magic, natural spirits, and charms even though they see themselves as devout Muslims.

Currently, they are experiencing tension. The Indonesian government has sent thousands of “transmigrants” from the overly crowded island of Java to live in South Sumatra. The Javanese are often more educated and more sophisticated than the indigenous Abung, and the Javanese frequently take the highest paying jobs and best farmland from the Abung.

Only portions of the Bible are available in the Lampung Nyo language that the Abung Lampungese speak. The vast majority of the churches on Sumatra are filled with Javanese and Sudanese believers, not Lampungese. To become an Abung follower of Christ will probably mean serious persecution from one's family and village.

Pray that the tiny number of Abung Lampungese believers find each other, are bold in their witness, and have God-given power to withstand persecution. Pray that agricultural experts come to help them improve their crop yields. Pray that believers in Sumatra reach out and build relationships with the Abung.—DK



iStockcherry-hai.jpg

PS 43:4, NLT

There I will go to the altar of God, to God—the source of all my joy. I will praise you with my harp, O God, my God!

Pray that the Sovereign God of the Bible becomes the source of joy for the Abung Lampungese people.

PESISIR LAMPUNGSE OF SOUTH SUMATRA, INDONESIA

PS 105:1, NLT

Give thanks to the Lord and proclaim His greatness. Let the whole world know what He has done.

Pray for many from every Lampungese people to join in worshipping the Lord for what He has done!

Create Intl.



A Lampungese woman

Sumatra means coffee, right? Yes, but what matters most about this island are the people. South Sumatra province is home to the various Lampungese peoples, whom we started praying for yesterday and will pray for during most of this week.

Today we pray for the Pesisir Lampungese, a people group with many contradictions. They live along the coast, so you would expect them to be fishermen, relying on the sea to sustain them. Instead, most are farmers. The Pesisir Lampungese are very family-oriented, living in extended familial groups and observing many regulations and obligations. You would assume that this means they are closed to outsiders. On the contrary, the opposite is true; they are a friendly, open, and hospitable people. In yet another contradiction, though they have followed Sunni Shafi'i Islam for centuries, they continue to mix in animism and ethnic practices involving symbols, graves, and magic. They have portions of the Bible in their language but not the entire Bible.

Ask the Lord to send mission workers to South Sumatra and for the Pesisir Lampungese to welcome them and the life-giving Savior they bring. Pray for them to see the contradictions in the syncretism they practice, turn from it, and embrace the truth of Jesus Christ. Pray for a movement to Christ among the Pesisir Lampungese people.—CL

PUBIAN LAMPUNGSE OF SOUTH SUMATRA, INDONESIA

Understanding who the Pubian Lampungese are is no simple task! Originally made up of three clans, they now consist of two subgroups that break down into at least 12 clans! How many of these will need a special church planting effort?

Learning about all these groups can be daunting. The important thing to know about the Pubian Lampungese, however, is that they were created specifically by God for His unique purpose. He loves them, desires to have a relationship with them, and wants for them to be well represented among the sea of worshippers in heaven.

The other important thing about the Pubian Lampungese is that missiologists classify them as unreached – with 99.98 percent of them practicing Islam. That means that even until now, they have not realized that God sent His only Son to rescue them from sin and provide them with eternal life.

Pray for God to raise up believers who will go to the Pubian Lampungese and share His love. Ask Him to reveal to them a strategy for effectively starting a church-planting movement. Pray for Him to send His Spirit to soften the hearts and open the eyes of the Pubian Lampungese to their need for the only Savior.—CL

PS 142:5, NLT

Then I pray to you, O Lord. I say, "You are my place of refuge. You are all I really want in life."

Thank Him that He is our only refuge. Pray that He will also be the place of refuge for the Pubian Lampungese people.

Create Intl.



A Lampungese woman

SUNGKAI LAMPUNGSE IN SOUTH SUMATRA, INDONESIA

PS 130:6, NLT

I long for the Lord more than sentries long for the dawn, yes, more than sentries long for the dawn.

Pray for a deep longing among the Sungkai Lampung people for the God who gave them life.

Create Intl.



Lampungese men

That is the case of the Sungkai, a Muslim subgroup of the larger Lampungese peoples in South Sumatra Province. Authority within families operates by consensus regarding their internal issues. They remain fiercely against conversion to other beliefs although they are socially interactive with those from other religious communities. Perhaps this social bent would provide an opportunity for disciples to find people of peace who will welcome the truth that they need the Savior. They operate family and home-based coffee industries, producing powder from coffee beans. Marketing help would be an excellent opportunity for disciples to appeal to the Sungkai Lampung's economic needs.

Bible portions, audio, and the JESUS Film exist in their language; however, the Sungkai Lampungese people have no movement to Christ in their community. Someone must tell them!

Pray that the 2020s will be a time of true spiritual growth among Sungkai Lampungese people, for whom Jesus Christ gave His life. Pray that Bible resources will find Sungkai Lampungese communities. Pray for a chain reaction of families reaching families, resulting in thousands of new believers sharing their faith with others and planting many new churches.—KH

WAY KANAN LAMPUNGSE IN SOUTH SUMATRA, INDONESIA

Why are we praying for all these Lampungese peoples this week? The Lampungese peoples are one of the key people group clusters in South Sumatra, and a couple of them have their own dialects, including the Way Kanan Lampungese.

Most also speak Indonesian or the languages of the transmigrants in the area, such as Javanese and Sundanese.

Farming is their primary means of livelihood. Roads among Way Kanan are in bad condition, and one paved road exists in the whole area—the Central Trans-Sumatra Highway. Those remaining are dirt or gravel roads, which are difficult to pass. The regency government is still trying to open most isolated areas by creating passable roads. They are still dependent on an electric power station that runs on diesel fuel in North Lampung. If that one electric power station fails, electricity for the entire area is cut off.

This people group is completely Muslim in their beliefs and traditions. They forbid marriage with outsiders and changing religion.

Pray that Way Kanan Lampungese people will encounter the Lord in dreams and visions and that witnesses would go forth and lovingly proclaim the gospel. Pray for a spiritual awakening and harvest among the Way Kanan that will affect all Lampungese peoples.—KH



Lampungese woman

Create Intl.

PS 139:17, NLT

How precious are your thoughts about me, O God. They cannot be numbered!

Meditate on this verse.

PALEMBANG IN SOUTH SUMATRA PROVINCE, INDONESIA

PS 138:3, NLT

As soon as I pray, you answer me; you encourage me by giving me strength.

Pray for the Palembang people to understand that only the Lord of lords can answer prayer, and they need to forsake all other spirits.

iStock/ridzk



From a Palembang wedding

What if you either had never heard of Jesus, or your understanding of His mission was twisted?

What if you didn't know that He offered an abundant life and eternal salvation—a fact that would bless you for eternity? What if you had only demons to beg for mercy and help in time of need? What if there was no one to tell you otherwise? Palembang people face these tragic spiritual challenges.

The name Palembang means, “to wash muddy river water to find gold.” The Musi River flows through their homeland, and the area was previously known for its gold and tin. Today most live in poverty while a few live in affluence brought by the oil industry. Many young Palembang people leave the area to seek job opportunities in Jakarta.

They have many spiritual and practical needs that could translate into opportunities for openness to the gospel by those who would offer practical help. They mix Islamic beliefs with traditional religion, adding to their spiritual bondage.

Ask the Lord to soften the hearts of Palembang leaders towards Jesus Christ. Pray for the Holy Spirit to raise up “persons of peace” who will welcome gospel messengers and help to spread the fame of Christ from family to family and village to village.—KH

SEMENDO PEOPLE IN SOUTH SUMATRA PROVINCE, INDONESIA

Can you imagine a Muslim people group that gives primary authority to women? That is what the Semendo people of South Sumatra

do; their kinship system is based on the mother's line. All of the parents' inheritance is given to the oldest daughter. In addition, she has the right to tend, cultivate, and collect their yields of rice and coffee from their land, which is about 3,000 feet above sea level.

Semendo customs, music, and dance are greatly influenced by Islamic Malay culture. The Semendo have been Muslims for generations. Places of worship, both large and small, as well as Islamic schools are seen everywhere. The Islamic schools teach Semendo boys and girls to spread Islamic teachings in the area. However, they are tolerant of people of other religions, and there have been no religious conflicts in their area. Printed and audio Bibles, plus JESUS Film videos are available in their Central Malay language. Global Recordings Network (GRN) also has audio Bible teaching in the Semendo dialect. Despite this, there are no followers of Jesus among them.

Pray that God will open the door for the Semendos to hear His word and the message of salvation in Christ alone. Pray that hearing the word will lead to an unstoppable movement to Christ.—AHS



iStock/Rowpixel

GAL 2:16, NLT

Yet we know that a person is made right with God by faith in Jesus Christ, not by obeying the law. And we have believed in Christ Jesus, so that we might be made right with God because of our faith in Christ, not because we have obeyed the law. For no one will ever be made right with God by obeying the law.

Pray that the Muslim Semendo people will understand that they must depend solely on God's provisions instead of their own righteousness.

SAINI PEOPLE IN HARYANA, INDIA

GAL 3:3, NLT

How foolish can you be? After starting your new lives in the Spirit, why are you now trying to become perfect by your own human effort?

Pray for the Saini people to understand this, rejoice in the provisions of God, and follow His ways.

iStock/ndphotographer



Today we begin to pray for the Sainis in Haryana, a small and very unreached state in north India. Traditionally the main occupations of the Saini people were farming and animal management. Many are still landowning farmers, but today many are shopkeepers, own manufacturing businesses, or have government jobs. Some are even notable scientists and professors. They are active in local and regional politics, so they hold political clout. Saini people enjoy a high literacy level. Men normally have one spouse, and divorce is allowed but rare. Property is inherited through the male lineage only, and all sons inherit equally. The oldest son becomes the head of the home after the patriarch dies.

Most Saini people are Hindus, worshipping the main Hindu gods and goddesses and their ancestors. They sometimes have exorcisms. Written, audio, and visual Bible resources are available in Hindi and other languages, yet Saini people remain unreached.

Pray for the Saini people to understand that their good works and worship of gods will never pay the penalty for their sins, and that the Almighty God has made the only provision for their salvation through Jesus Christ. Pray that this will be the decade when thousands of Saini people join the family of God and disciple others in His ways.—AHS

Pray for Haryana, India

(Week 14, October 31–November 6)

—By Justin Long, missionary researcher

The small province of Haryana is part of the Punjabi cultural region, which was split between India and Pakistan when the two separated in 1947. Haryana, which was carved out of Indian Punjab in 1966, is more Hindu (religiously and linguistically), while Punjab is more Punjabi-speaking Sikh. Its southeast half surrounds Delhi, so large parts of the province are included in the national capital region. There are significant cultural and economic differences between this southeastern region (which has become more like Delhi) and the rest of the province.

The two largest language communities are Haryanavi (spoken by the Jat communities) and Bagri. Haryanavi is seen officially as a dialect of Hindi, so it does not have official status, but Hindi is widely considered a second language. The Jat peoples have been noted by in-field sources as a strong, change-resistant and even aggressive culture.

The whole of the Punjab (“five rivers”) area is a fertile agricultural powerhouse (variously called a “rice bowl” or a “breadbasket”). Haryana is a major source of grains and milk, and part of the reason India is self-sufficient in food production. It is one of the wealthier provinces, with significant development as India’s largest automotive manufacturer and a hub for its services. The population is highly educated, with numerous universities and colleges operating particularly around Delhi.

According to the official census, Hindus make up 88 percent of Haryana, Muslims make up 5.78 Percent, and Sikhs make up 5.5 Percent. Haryana has the second largest Sikh population after Punjab. Christians are estimated variously between 0.3 Percent and 0.5 Percent. Haryana is one of the least evangelized provinces in the nation.

• **Pray for a move of the Holy Spirit in Haryana to penetrate all communities in the 2020s.**

