

*More than half of the globe's
seven billion human beings
now live in cities.*

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REACHING THE CITY (EMS 20)

Reflections on Urban Mission
for the Twenty-first Century

Gary Fujino, Timothy R. Sisk, Tereso C. Casion, editors

Rapid urbanization and globalization processes worldwide have changed the landscape of our times. In Asia and Africa the number of urban dwellers increases by an average of one million per week, according to the United Nations. More than half of the globe's seven billion human beings now live in cities. These realities have far reaching implications for mission in urban contexts at the start of the third millennium. *Reaching the City: Reflections on Urban Mission for the Twenty-first Century* seeks to address the missiological challenges associated with this new world order.

Each author in this collection respectfully builds upon the significant contributions of seminal writers such as Ray Bakke, Jacques Ellul, Basil of Caesarea and others, while making new and creative proposals for urban mission in our world today. Beginning with the bigger picture of the global challenges of urbanization, and moving through theological, historical, and educational perspectives, this volume concludes with a rich bevy of case studies engaging these new realities of both North American and international cities to encourage a missional thrust to reach these communities.

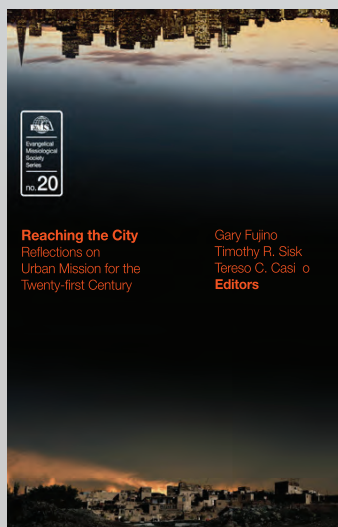
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Dear Praying Friends,

This is my last editorial for the *Global Prayer Digest*! We are merging our efforts with Joshua Project's Unreached of the Day (UOTD). That means the following:

1—You will still be able to get our prayer requests in our sister publication, *Mission Frontiers*. If your subscription to *GPD* isn't over, it will roll over into *Mission Frontiers*. But when you need to renew, go to: <http://www.missionfrontiers.org/> and look in the top right corner for "subscribe."

2—There are all kinds of way to get UOTD prayer materials by going to the Joshua Project website, <https://joshuaproject.net/pray>. You can get these prayer materials as a daily email, an app, or download them and print them on your own. These prayer entries are even available in at least five languages!

GPD writers will be writing and editing UOTD prayer materials, and we will always focus on the unreached people groups. The only difference will be the writing style.

I hope you will continue this journey of prayer. The bowls of incense still need filling!

God bless you in 2021.

Keith Carey

Keith Carey, editor, Unreached of the Day (UOTD)

December 2020

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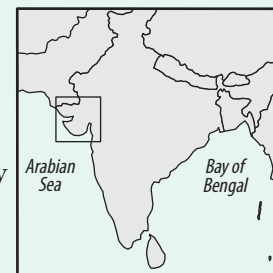
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GUJARAT: A PROVINCE OF PROGRESS ... AND PERSECUTION

(Week 19, Dec 5-11)

—by Justin Long, Missionary researcher

Halfway down India's western side, Gujarat is seated on the coast of the Arabian Sea and shares a small border with Pakistan. Over 40 ports line Gujarat's coast. This region includes the ancient Indus Valley civilization, and there are many historical and archaeological sites.



The province has a rapidly growing population. From 40 million in the early 1990s, it has risen to 60 million today, adding on average about a million people per year. Most are concentrated in the urban areas of Ahmedabad, Surat, and Vadodara, and these are gaining populations at the expense of the rest of the province.



Gujarat is a strongly agricultural state with over half its land under cultivation. The land is well watered and fertile. Primary crops include cotton, fruits, and nuts, and there is also a significant dairy industry. But Gujarat is also heavily industrialized, and some of India's largest businesses are headquartered there. A large petroleum refinery is found in Jamnagar, and shipyards and natural gas terminals are on the coast. Most of the roads are paved, most of the villages have electricity and broadband internet connections, and literacy averages better than 70 percent. For all this rapid development, Gujarat has much left to do in terms of health: infant mortality and malnutrition are both higher than average in the nation, particularly in the rural areas.

Most of the people are Gujarati-speakers, but there are some concentrations of tribals and other minorities (particularly in the north), as well as notable groups of expatriate workers in the cities.

The Spiritual Climate of Gujarat

The first Christian work in Gujarat was likely that of Jesuit priests out of their mission hub in Goa in the 1590s. They built a church in Khambhat, but overall saw little response except for a handful of converts from various untouchable classes. Protestant work in the area got its start after the 1813 Charter Act permitted English missionaries into East India Company Territory, something that was previously forbidden. A rush of missions began, and Joseph van Someran Taylor completed the translation of the Bible into Gujarati by 1861. Several Bible colleges formed in the 1800s merged to create the Gujarat United School of Theology. Several denominations merged to form the Church of North India. Throughout the 1900s the work continued to expand on both Protestant and Catholic sides, with schools, agricultural programs, relief efforts (floods and famines), printing presses, active evangelism, and church planting.

The late 1990s saw Gujarat become a “laboratory” for Christian persecution by fundamentalist Hindus. There have been frequent acts of violence against believers, pastors, and buildings, encouraged by extremist Hindu groups with tacit governmental support. Gujarat passed an “anti-conversion” law in 2003, making evangelism and church planting difficult.

This dampened church growth, which despite all the work has never been very successful amongst the Gujaratis. As of 2015 the strongest Christian presence is concentrated in the Dang District amongst the Bhils. There are many districts with very little Christian work. What church growth exists has mostly occurred among low-caste and untouchable groups, and it is difficult for these to have any kind of evangelistic impact among higher castes.

Today the vast majority in Gujarat are Hindus. Muslims make up a significant minority, estimated at about 10 percent or several million, and are among the less evangelized. Jains are also an important religious community.

Pray for persecution to fuel movements to Christ among each of Gujarat’s 625 unreached people groups.

SYLHET, BANGLADESH: A CITY, A PROVINCE OR BOTH?

(Week 20, Dec 12-18)

—by *Keith Carey*

Is Sylhet a city or a province? It’s both, just like New York is both a city and a state. But the similarities with New York don’t go much further.

Hindus only make up 12 percent of the population in this province of north-eastern Bangladesh, and Muslims make up 86 percent. Yet the most prominent unreached people groups are often Hindu, so we will be praying for many Hindu groups this week. Christians of any kind only make up one percent of Sylhet’s population.

When you think of this province you are likely to think about Sufi Muslim shrines. There is a famous tomb for Hazrat Shah Jalal, a 14th-century saint. Muslims make pilgrimages to it in hopes that his spirit will intercede to Allah for their needs. There is also a mosque at that location for those who wish to worship Allah. For those who are interested in religious history there is also a Museum of Rajas which holds belongings of Hasan Raja, a local poet. The Bengali-speaking people have always been noted for their literary arts.

There are 138 unreached people groups in Sylhet according to the Joshua Project. Pray for a movement to Christ among each of them.

Pray that the spiritually hungry will have the chance to learn about the King of kings so they can seek and find His blessings in a land where people look to tombs of the dead to reach Allah.

Pray that spiritual and family leaders will find Christ and direct others to find His answers to the very real spiritual needs of the peoples of Sylhet.

WEST SUMATRA, A PROVINCE OF POWERFUL WOMEN

(Week 21, Dec 19-25)

—by Keith Carey

West Sumatra is a province where buildings are often designed to emulate the look of buffalo horns, and the main Muslim people group gives power to the wife, not the husband. Along with Borneo, Sumatra is the only place where you can find wild orangutans.

This is the second time we have prayed for a province in Sumatra. In October, the key people group cluster was the Lampungese; in West Sumatra it is the Minangkabau, or Minang for short. The Minang are the people mentioned earlier that give power to women; it is a matriarchal society. That means that the inheritance is given to the daughters, not the sons. In previous generations, a woman might marry and divorce several husbands.

Men often leave South Sumatra to earn a better living in other parts of Indonesia and Malaysia, where they are a sizeable minority. The Minang are noted for their restaurants, which feature their own cuisine, including a delicious, spicy, coconut infused beef/buffalo dish called redang. Others have made their fortune in trade, especially with jewelry.

The Minang peoples are solidly Muslim, and only an act of the Holy Spirit will give them the willingness to give Jesus a chance to bless their communities and families. At this point in time, it's still true that to be Minang is to be Muslim.

- Pray for a Holy Spirit-directed movement among all Minang subgroups in the 2020s.

- Pray for all unreached people groups in West Sumatra to experience the blessings of a relationship with the only savior, Jesus Christ.

WHAT MAKES MYMENSINGH WHAT IT IS TODAY?

(Week 22, Dec 26 2020-Jan 1, 2021)

—by Keith Carey

Mymensingh (pronounced moy-mon-shin-haw) is named after a Muslim ruler by the name of Momen Shah. The 1760s were key years for Mymensingh. It was acquired by the infamous East India Company from a Mughal emperor. This was the beginning of greater British control of a Muslim land. The British Raj (Empire) formed it into a district in 1787. The remaining part of the 1700s included political revolts, floods, famines, and other disasters. It remained part of India until independence in 1947, at which time it became part of East Pakistan, and eventually Bangladesh in 1971.

Today Mymensingh is on the northern edge of Bangladesh bordering India's smaller northeastern states which include many Buddhist and Hindu peoples. Like the other provinces of Bangladesh, Mymensingh includes a Muslim Bengali majority. One thing Bengalis are known for is their love of academics, and as a result, you will find many places of higher learning throughout Mymensingh. There are special academies to train the next generation for skills in agriculture, medicine, and military science.

Along with the Muslim majority, there are several Hindu people groups that spill over into northeastern India. Many of those small states of India have a large Christian minority like Meghalaya, Mizoram, and Nagaland that can potentially reach Mymensingh with the gospel.

Pray for believers from India to take the blessings of Christ to Mymensingh.

Pray for a disciple-making movement in Mymensingh to flourish and grow this decade.

LIMIN (LEEMIN) PEOPLE IN GUIZHOU PROVINCE, CHINA

MICAH 7:7, NLT

As for me, I look to the Lord for help. I wait confidently for God to save me, and my God will certainly hear me.

Pray that the Limin people will look to God for help and find salvation in His name.

Asian Harvest



Limin

Imagine that you are facing two options. You don't like Option A very much, and you haven't been given any details about Option B. There is no Option C, which is "your way." In the 1980s, the Limin people faced a conundrum like this. They were previously listed as an "undetermined minority," but on the next census, the Limin told the authorities that they wanted to be identified with the Yi peoples. Joining the Yi people was their Option A. The Limin didn't like it, but it was better than being arbitrarily assigned to a group they knew nothing about.

Despite the official designation, the Limin, who number around 100,000, consider themselves a distinct people group. From the time of the Qing Dynasty (1644-1912), the Limin have made a name for themselves as influential businessmen. Additionally, many are esteemed poets.

While the Limin do not consider themselves religious, they do worship their ancestors. In Guizhou Province, there are a few hundred Limin believers. Two Limin missionaries tried spreading the gospel to their own people, but encountering rejection, they took their message to the neighboring Bouyei. Those efforts resulted in the conversion of 300 Bouyei.

May God open up the hearts of Limin hearers and lead them into discipleship groups.—CMW

SHUI (SHWAY) PEOPLE IN GUIZHOU

Have you heard it said that the Inuit (Eskimo) people have 50 words for "snow?" In a similar fashion, the Shui people have 10 words for "fish." Common sense would lead you to deduce that the Shui live near a lake or an ocean. Looking at a human terrain map, however, you would see that these people live nowhere near the coast.

Upon further investigation, you may discover that Shui means "water." How do you explain a landlocked people with these two strong references to water? The Shui were originally part of a tribe that lived along China's southeastern coast. They eventually migrated to their current mountainous region but kept their "water" name.

Catholic missionaries came to the Shui, and in the early 1900s, 3,000 Shui converts were counted among the people. Unfortunately, all the believers fell away or were put to death during a time of persecution. Today, though most Shui worship their ancestors, there are about 100 believers, thanks to outreach efforts in the 1990s.

Pray that these believers will be disciplined by older brothers and sisters in Christ, and that in turn, they will shine God's transforming love to unbelieving friends and family. Pray for a spiritual hunger that will lead Shui families to the cross.—CMW



Shui

Asian Harvest

AMOS 7:15, NLT

But the Lord called me away from my flock and told me, "Go and prophesy to my people in Israel."

Pray that the Lord sends His messengers to the Shui people to speak His message of salvation and mercy.

XI (SHEE) PEOPLE IN GUIZHOU PROVINCE, CHINA

HOS. 6:6, NLT

I (God) want you to show love, not offer sacrifices. I want you to know me more than I want burnt offerings.

Pray that the Xi people gain the knowledge of the true God.

Asian Harvest



Xi

Have you watched television broadcasts of British royal weddings at Westminster Abbey? That historical landmark seats 2,000 people. Well, in a world away, there is an entire people group, the Xi, that could all fit into Westminster Abbey! When it comes to weddings, the Xi people have a strange standard, which is that the marriage partner must come from another village.

With a scant population of under 2,000, the Xi do not receive their own minority listing. Instead, they are incorporated with the neighboring Miao people. Ironically, the Xi and Miao share neither language nor custom, and were enemies in the 18th century.

By tradition, the Xi are animists. Though they did give an audience to evangelists who spoke to them in the 1990s, they did not accept Christ. Unfortunately, the Xi had been previously abused by a Chinese Christian cult, and they were not able to distinguish between the true Shepherd and the wolves in sheep's clothing.

Pray that God will overcome this stumbling block and bring this small people group to Himself. Pray that many of them, especially their elders, will experience the loving kindness of the Lord and actively draw their people into His fold. Pray for the Lord to show His kindness and love by providing the Xi with an abundant harvest this next year.—CMW

YUOMAI PEOPLE OF GUIZHOU PROVINCE, CHINA

What can we know about a small people group whose exact location is unknown? Approximately 2,700 Youmai people live somewhere in the south of China's Guizhou Province. Along with their precise location, the true identity of the Youmai is also unclear. For decades, China considered the Youmai an "undetermined minority," but today, China classifies them under the Yao nationality. However, the Youmai speak a distinct language more akin to the Hmong peoples.



Youmai woman

Asian Harvest

In addition to their unique ethnolinguistic identity, the Youmai follow ethnic religious beliefs that include spirit worship, ancestor worship, and Daoism. The Youmai ethnic religion is deeply rooted in their ethnic identity. To "convert to a different religion," a Youmai person would think it necessary to take the huge step of changing their culture and identity.

The Youmai language, Iu Mien, contains the complete Bible, the JESUS Film, and audio Bible teaching. However, the Youmai are an unengaged people group with no known believers and no witness among them.

Ask for great blessing to come upon all the Youmai communities. Ask for dreams and visions from the Lord to prepare Youmai hearts. Pray God stirs intercessors and equips Chinese believers to reach the Youmais. Pray for gospel seeds to be planted among Youmai families through Iu Mien Bible resources.—CR

IS. 61:11, NLT

The Sovereign Lord will show His justice to the nations of the world. Everyone will praise Him! His righteousness will be like a garden in early spring, with plants springing up everywhere.

Pray for a disciple-making movement among Guizhou's Youmai people to bring forth God's righteousness and praise in the beauty of their unique culture.

AUDICH BRAHMANS IN GUJARAT, INDIA

1 PET. 3:18, NLT

Christ suffered for our sins once for all time. He never sinned, but He died for sinners to bring you safely home to God. He suffered physical death, but He was raised to life in the Spirit.

Pray that the Audich Brahmans will accept these terms to be forgiven by the Lord of lords.

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The Audich Brahmans in Gujarat are just like us: fallen human beings in need of a Savior. And just like us,

they tend to ignore or reject that need when their lives are comfortable. For many, “comfortable” is the appropriate description for their economic and social situation since as Brahmans, they enjoy an elevated status.

Many of the Audich Brahmans have the opportunity to attend college and graduate school. Armed with advanced degrees, they are able to obtain leadership positions in business, sciences, technology, and education.

As the saying goes, the Audich Brahmans are “living the good life.” Their affluence combined with their high status in Hinduism has contributed to their rejection of the gospel message.

Pray for the Lord to reveal to the Audich Brahmans that they are separated from their Creator. Pray for Him to soften their hearts and bring conviction of their sin and repentance. Ask the Lord to send workers who can communicate His love and invitation to reconciliation in a way they can hear, understand, and respond to. Ask for a move of the Spirit in Gujarat that will draw the Audich Brahmans into relationship with God. Pray for the Lord’s Church and Kingdom to be extended in Gujarat.—CL

VAGHELA RAJPUTS IN GUJARAT

The Vaghela Rajputs have endured great disappointment. They were once part of a powerful dynasty that ruled Gujarat from the 10th to the 13th century, but their reign ended when Muslim invaders arrived in 1299. By 1304, the Vaghela Dynasty had been defeated.



A Rajput man

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The Vaghela always enjoyed a heritage as prestigious Rajputs. Long after Muslim domination of the region, the Rajputs endured and maintained a reputation as brave warriors. They were even recruited by British military units because of their skill in battle. However, by the 1930s, the Rajputs were no longer noted on the Indian census, and by the 1970s, their titles and property rights had been abolished by India’s government.

Today, there are about 47,000 Vaghela Rajputs in Gujarat. Though they can look back at their history with pride, they have lost much of their identity and face an uncertain future. While this is a distressing time for the Vaghela Rajputs, it could well be an opportunity for them to put their identity on the firm foundation of Jesus Christ.

Pray for the Lord to speak to the Vaghela Rajputs, revealing to them the purpose for which they were created: to be in relationship with Him. Pray for them to hear the gospel and be encouraged that God has not forgotten about them.—CL

1 PET. 2:2, NLT

Like newborn babies, you must crave pure spiritual milk so that you will grow into a full experience of salvation. Cry out for this nourishment. . .

Pray that the Vaghela Rajputs will humbly cry out to God for the spiritual nourishment that comes from a relationship with Jesus Christ.

LOHANAS IN GUJARAT, INDIA

IS. 8:19B-20, NLT

But shouldn't people ask God for guidance? Should the living seek guidance from the dead? Look to God's instructions and teachings! People who contradict His word are completely in the dark.

Pray that many from the Lohana people group will look only to the Lord for provision, guidance, and understanding of truth.

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Vishnu

The Chinese explorer, Fa-hien (414-399 BC) wrote that the Lohanas were a strong, brave group who ruled the northwest territory of India. Originally, Lohanas settled in Afghanistan and Pakistan. However, when Muslims invaded these regions, a large number of Lohanas migrated south and primarily settled in

Gujarat, where the majority live today. A small number of them are Muslim, and these live in Pakistan.

Hindu Lohanas proudly associate their ancestral roots to Lord Rama, who is said to personify Lord Vishnu, protector of the Universe. Almost all Hindu Lohana families have a picture of their revered Saint Jalaram Bapa (1799 -1881) in their homes. He is remembered for his acts of charity and performing miracles. His pilgrimage center in Virpur, Gujarat draws thousands of visitors daily. Today, most of the 576,000 Lohanas are known to be generous and charitable people. Many work in the areas of small businesses, trade, and various other industries.

Pray the Lohanas will be open to listening to believers share the miracles and teachings of Jesus and that they will understand that He is Lord of lords. Pray that the Lohanas will become strong, compassionate believers who will bring many of the spiritually lost Hindus to the grace of God through Jesus. Pray for them to instigate a movement to Christ among Hindus.—PD

KHALPA PEOPLE IN GUJARAT, INDIA

(This story illustrates truths about this people group.)

A bheer, a Khalpa, was happy as he received his



The end result: Hides

pay for his work as a beef skinner at a production company in Gujarat. Other Hindus criticized him for his work by telling him that he could not be Hindu because of his job. He tells them that he honors and worships Gaumate (mother cow) and always gives tributes to her in the temple. He also points out that his work is not with cows but buffalo. He further explains that most of the meat is being sold to Muslims and Christians, and the hides are used for the shoes that many Hindus wear each day. However, most of the Hindus do not believe this; they say that cows are also being slaughtered.

The estimated 117,000 Khalpa of Gujarat work in the livestock industry, often as skinners. Others work as farmers or repairmen for broken items like musical instruments. Khalpas strongly identify themselves as Hindus and are loyal to multiple Hindu deities.

Pray the Khalpas will be open to hearing and accepting the grace of Christ, and that there will be a movement to Christ among them this decade. Pray for them to put their identity in Christ, not in a religious system.—PD

IS. 25:4A, NLT

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

May the Lord alone be the shelter for this people group that lives with constant criticism.

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DHODIA PEOPLE IN GUJARAT, INDIA

REV 22:9, NLT

But he said, "No, don't worship me. I am a servant of God, just like you and your brothers the prophets, as well as all who obey what is written in this book. Worship only God!"

Pray for the Dhodia people to obey the angel's command and worship the one and only God.

iStock/DipakShelare



Idol of Lakshmi, a favorite Hindu goddess

(This story illustrates truths about this people group.)

Saachee, a Dhodia, bowed and placed rice before her house idol Kanseri (also known as Ananapurna), the Hindu goddess of food. It was harvest time, and soon the

people in her village located in Gujarati would be singing, dancing, drinking, and enjoying the food that they believed Kanseri had given them. With deep reverence, Saachee chanted the prayer she gave to Kanseri each day, "Oh Kanseri, who is forever complete, more beloved to Lord Shiva than life. Give me the alms of your grace and awaken within me spiritual knowledge, inner freedom, prosperity, and spiritual attainment." Tearfully completing her prayer, Saachee also prayed, "Kanseri, please help my husband, so he will not drink too much beer."

Most of the 675,000 Dhodia earn their living through farming, selling their produce, and fishing in the Tapi River that flows close to their villages. With few temples to their gods, they make idols of the gods to pray to and worship them, and they have a deep fear of demons and witches. It is a great blessing that there are an estimated 5,400 Christian Dhodias.

Pray that believers will show Dhodia community leaders the way to the sovereign Lord, who guides and protects His children.—PD

CHAUDHARI PEOPLE IN GUJARAT

While most people groups in India are organized by caste, there are some that have maintained a separate identity. This non-participation in the national societal structure, however, has the effect of making outsiders of people groups like the Chaudhari of Gujarat, and they are looked down upon by most others.

Most Chaudhari work as agricultural laborers, though some work as artisans in their villages, which lack modern conveniences. The Chaudhari tend to marry within their tribe, but not within their clan, and families negotiate and arrange their marriages. Women do not retain property rights, and the father's title and the family home are passed to the eldest son.

The Chaudhari are Hindu but retain their folk religion as well. Alongside the Hindu pantheon, the Chaudhari also worship their own deities. One common household god is Mount Abu. Although the Bible is available to them in Gujarati, there are only few known followers of Christ.

Pray that the Chaudhari would obtain better education and medical care, and that the infrastructure in their communities would improve. Pray that they would hear the life-changing message of Christ in a way that reaches their hearts. Pray for the few believers among them to boldly proclaim Christ, and for far-reaching disciple-making movements to begin this decade.—BK



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REV 21:4, NLT

He (God) will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All these things are gone forever.

Pray that many Chaudhari people will trust in the Lord Jesus and experience the joys and blessings of heaven.

DUBLA PEOPLE IN GUJARAT, INDIA

IS 55:12, NLT

You will live in joy and peace. The mountains and hills will burst into song, and the trees of the field will clap their hands!

Pray for joy and spiritual peace for the Dubla people!

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In neighboring Maharashtra, they honor the Maratha Empire

Long ago Gujarat was a center of great culture and prosperity. As culture and prosperity are wont to do, they attracted the

attention of raiders, and Gujarat became a target of annual raids by the Maratha Empire. When new conquerors moved in to settle, the Dubla were forced to migrate south. After years of oppression, the Dubla were no more than agricultural slaves, unable to obtain their freedom until 1923, when agricultural slavery was abolished.

Despite government assistance, the Dubla remain among the poorest of the poor wherever they are found. They often do migrant work just to survive, and they rely solely on local shopkeepers for the sale of their crops as they have little to no contact with those living in cities. Their homes are single room mud huts and house as many people as they will fit.

The Dubla are meek yet stubborn, worn by hard lifestyles. They look to the village "bhagat" as the ultimate "good man" who can communicate with the gods. Their education level is low; literacy is only 10 percent.

Pray for the Dubla to hear of the true "ultimate good man" who made a way to know God personally. Pray for softened hearts and for education to help them rise above their current hardships.—BK

MUSLIM MALLIK PEOPLE IN SYLHET, BANGLADESH

If you approached a Muslim Mallik in Sylhet, Bangladesh and asked him if he knew Isa-al-Masih, he would

respond, "Oh, yes, of course, He was a famous prophet. All Muslims know Him." And that is all that they know about Him. They have no idea that Jesus is so much more. He is Jesus Christ, the promised savior who died to save all those who put their faith in Him. He is mankind's only hope!

There are many hindrances that prevent them from coming to Christ. Anyone coming to Christ in a Muslim community is likely to face ostracism or worse: rejection by family and friends. How can Christ followers penetrate this group? It will take prayer before anything can happen. It will take God's people, GPD readers, to specifically pray for this people group to lay the groundwork and create a spiritual hunger in their lives that only knowing Jesus can satisfy. Only then can believers be successful in reaching them and winning them to a saving faith.

Pray for the power of the Holy Spirit to convict the Mallik people that they have sinned, that they need a Savior, and that only faith in Jesus Christ can assure them of salvation and eternity with a loving Heavenly Father.—JS



A tourist attraction in Sylhet

iStock/saif6996

MATT 2:1-2, NLT

Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the reign of King Herod. About that time some wise men from eastern lands arrived in Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw His star as it rose, and we have come to worship Him."

Pray that the Mallik people will have many among them who are as willing to seek and find Jesus as the magi were 2,000 years ago.

MUSLIM DHOLIS IN SYLHET, BANGLADESH

PROV 25:28, NLT

A person without self-control is like a city with broken-down walls.

Pray that the Lord protects the tiny number of Dholi believers and that they would share the gospel with their families and friends.

iStock/Muhammad Tahreer Abbas



Weddings in Bangladesh can be very noisy affairs with lots of drums all throughout the service.

As is common in South Asian societies, specific groups of people have had the responsibility of performing certain tasks. The Dholi people of India and Bangladesh have traditionally been drummers, and one of their main jobs was to drum at weddings. Fortunately, many of those caste-based limitations have been lifted due to educational opportunities and shifting expectations.

Most are also farmers. The Dohli, however, have made sure that their sons and daughters go to school at an earlier age, and most stay in school until about age 15. The Dholi may be Hindu or Muslim, and often they mix the beliefs of the two together in a form of hybrid worship. One of the most effective evangelism methods has involved the evangelization of the whole family, which can lead to the evangelization of an entire community.

Pray for the Lord to thrust out workers to Dohli families in Bangladesh. Pray for the hearts of Dholi leaders to experience God's blessing through a movement of family-based discovery Bible studies. Pray for the Holy Spirit to open the hearts of seekers of spiritual truth to discover who Christ is and join His eternal family.—JS

PINJARA PEOPLE IN SYLHET, BANGLADESH

Did you ever wonder how your sheets and pillowcases were made, or who might have made them? If you lived in Sylhet,

Bangladesh and asked this question, you would find out that the name Pinjara would come up. The Pinjara derive their name from the term Pinjala, which means “cotton weaver.” Their traditional occupation is one of cleaning and reeling cotton to make pillows, quilts, or even mattresses.

They are known to adopt practices of both Hinduism and Islam in their worship, especially in celebrating holy days of both religions. People who are strong in either Hindu or Muslim beliefs are critical of Pinjaras.

In Revelation, Jesus addressed the church in Laodicea saying, “I know your deeds, that you are neither hot nor cold – I am about to spit you out of my mouth.” Being double-minded is not good in anything, but it is especially troubling in religion. Yet the important thing is for the Pinjara people to be faithful not to a religious system, but to the Savior, Jesus Christ.

Pray that God will give the Pinjara discomfort and a feeling that they are missing something in their spiritual lives. Pray that His representatives will befriend the Pinjaras and lead them into discovery Bible studies that will result in a movement to Jesus.—JS



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ACTS 3:19-20, NLT

Now repent of your sins and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped away. Then times of refreshment will come from the presence of the Lord, and He will again send you Jesus, your appointed Messiah.

Pray that the Lord moves the Pinjara people to repent and turn from their sins. Pray for God to send them an unprecedented time of spiritual refreshment.

MOGHAL PEOPLE IN SYLHET, BANGLADESH

MATT 3:11, NLT

I baptize with water those who repent of their sins and turn to God. But someone is coming soon who is greater than I am—so much greater that I’m not worthy even to be His slave and carry His sandals. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.

Pray for the Holy Spirit to move Moghal believers to be as zealous for Jesus as John the Baptist was.

iStock/ryuivist



the Moghals of India and Bangladesh are of a relatively high social status as people from the conquering Muslim kingdoms, and they are highly respected. They are probably originally from Mongolia and speak mostly Urdu. Like many other social groups in society, they usually marry within their own family clan group. Their inheritance laws are very fair with both sons and daughters inheriting equally. Although some Moghals serve in government and public service jobs, most today are farmers. A married Moghal woman can be easily identified by rings on her finger, nose, toe or ear and the many bangles she wears.

Most likely a very small number are Evangelical. This small group could be the tiny “mustard seed” that Jesus used in a parable: “The Kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds come and perch in its branches.”

Pray that this will happen! Pray for a growing and multiplying people movement to Jesus Christ among the Moghals in Bangladesh.—JS

Unlike some of the people groups that we have been reading about this month,

HINDU NAMASSEJ CHANDEL IN SYLHET, BANGLADESH

Do you remember a man named Naamaan from 2 Kings 5? Naaman ... was a great man ... highly respected ... a valiant

warrior, but he was a leper. The Arameans had taken captive a little girl from the land of Israel, and she waited on Naaman’s wife. She said to her mistress, “I wish that my master were ... with the prophet who is in Samaria! Then he would cure him of his leprosy.”... Naaman came with his horses and chariots and stood at the doorway of the house of Elisha. Elisha sent a messenger ... saying, “Go and wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh will be restored to you and you will be clean.”

The Namassej Chandel people in Sylhet, Bangladesh are like Naamaan, a gifted, very intelligent people who enjoy many distinctions and accomplishments. Yet, they have a terminal illness – unbelief in the only person who is greater than all their personal accomplishments and can give them their most important provision: justification from their sins and eternal life.

Pray that these dear people for whom Christ died will see their need for Him. Pray that this will be the decade when the Holy Spirit begins a movement to Christ among the Namassej Chandel people in Bangladesh and India.—KH



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2 KINGS 5:15, NLT

Then Naaman and his entire party went back to find the man of God. They stood before him, and Naaman said, “Now I know that there is no God in all the world except in Israel. So please accept a gift from your servant.”

Pray for this people group to find that the Lord is the only God worthy of devotion.

HINDU PATNI IN SYLHET, BANGLADESH

JER 14:22, NLT

Do any of the worthless idols of the nations bring rain? Do the skies themselves send down showers? No, it is you, Lord our God. Therefore, our hope is in you, for you are the one who does all this.

Pray that this people group will have enough rain for their needs and that they will know that only God can give them rain.

Hindu Patni people in Sylhet, Bangladesh live in a smoldering melting pot of endless confusion regarding their religion. Some say they are Hindu while others say they are Muslim, but they do not practice either nor religiously worship their respective gods. They worship any gods that they believe will benefit them yet remain unaware of the one true God who has a much better plan for them.

Most are either land owning farmers or day laborers. The name “Patni” means to ferry by boat, so perhaps that was their trade in past centuries, and they have low status among others in India and Bangladesh. They need to know that they have a choice to make in order to inherit the abundant life only Jesus can offer.

Pray that Lord Jesus would use the showing of the Bengali version of the JESUS Film to bring Patni families into His kingdom. Pray that Almighty God’s Holy Spirit would create an insatiable spiritual hunger for Bengali audio Bible resources among them, since few of them can read. Pray that the Lord will grant His wisdom, safety, and endurance to those who are called to lay down their lives for the Patni people’s eternal welfare.—KH



Farming in Sylhet, Bangladesh

HINDU LOHARA IN SYLHET, BANGLADESH

“Who created what we see?” and “What was the origin of our creativity?” These are vitally important questions Lohara people in Sylhet, Bangladesh must ask. If any of them have asked this question, they are getting the wrong answer.

“Loha” means iron, and Lohara people are traditionally ironworkers. They are respectful people and make beautiful pieces that grace their artistic homes. They are also known as singers and dancers, participating in festivals and rituals, and others are shepherds, cattle breeders, basket weavers, and experts on handlooms. Lohara people celebrate many social and religious festivals, some at home and others within their communities. During festivals, they worship folk gods. They work to please these gods and to be blessed by them.

Back to our original questions – Lohara people are in a desperate position, regardless of the pleasures in their social lives of festivals and artistic productivity. They need the one true almighty God, who loves them and has given them all that they have. They do not need to perform to earn His blessings; rather, they need to receive His provision for their sins.

Pray that many believers will show these friendly, social Lohara people the glory, power, and grace of Christ. Pray for servant disciples to go to the Lohara people to help them begin a family-based movement to Christ.—KH



Iron worker

iStock/photographer

JER 51:15, NLT

He made the earth by His power; He founded the world by His wisdom and stretched out the heavens by His understanding.

Pray for the Lohara people to understand this and respond to it.

PEKAL PEOPLE IN WEST SUMATRA, INDONESIA

REV 19:15, NLT

From His (Jesus') mouth came a sharp sword to strike down the nations. He will rule them with an iron rod. He will release the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty, like juice flowing from a winepress.

Pray for this people group to realize that when Christ returns, He will not come as a baby but as an almighty, conquering king.

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The Pekal live only along the southwest shores of Sumatra, the sixth largest island in

the world. To the west, their area is bordered by the Indian Ocean while to the east are the Bukit Barisan Mountains.

The majority of the Pekal work as farmers and plantation workers during the rainy season and as fishermen in the dry season. They live in homes on stilts; these homes are long and narrow.

Almost all Pekal profess Islam but still believe in spirits. This can be seen when they use mantras to call down rain, drive out evil spirits, and purify their village from immoral acts. Unfortunately, there are no Bible translations, JESUS Film, written materials, or Christian radio programs in the Pekal language, and there are no known believers among these people who desperately need Jesus Christ.

Pray for His light to break through among the Pekal people. Pray for them to be drawn to His revelation so that sin will be cast off, and they will be set free to worship Him. Pray that God will raise up prayer intercessors so that the Pekal people would be open to embracing the cross of Jesus Christ.—JY

KERINCI PEOPLE OF WEST SUMATRA, INDONESIA

There are high mountains in the Kerinci homeland along with crystal clear lakes, a perfect

place to attract tourists! The Indonesian government has designated a place in West Sumatra to be a national park near where the Kerinci people live.

The Kerinci once lived in the lowlands of Sumatra, but they fled to the mountains to escape the control of Muslim armies invading Sumatra. Eventually the Kerinci converted to Islam. They are rice farmers who also grow vegetables, spices, and coffee. Up until recent years, they had few visitors because their homeland is remote, but that started to change when Indonesia created a national park near their homeland. The arrival of tourists has exposed this people group to the outside world. Most Kerinci know little or nothing about Jesus Christ except what they hear from their imams, Muslim prayer leaders.

Pray for the Kerinci people to flourish economically and spiritually. Pray for the Lord to send the Kerinci people tourists who will expose them to the ways of Jesus and the message of salvation. May this people group come to see Jesus Christ as the Son of God and not just a prophet. Pray for the Kerinci people to soon have a rapidly growing movement to Christ.—WK



West Sumatra scenery

iStock/Faisal Hidayat

IS 59:2, NLT

It's your sins that have cut you off from God. Because of your sins, He has turned away and will not listen anymore.

Pray that the Kerincis repent of their sins and enter into a love relationship with God through Christ.

LUBU PEOPLE OF WEST SUMATRA, INDONESIA

JOHN 1:29, NLT

The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!

Pray for the Lubu people to understand that only Jesus can take away their sins.

Did you know that there's a people group in the province of West Sumatra that refuses to take baths?



They are the Lubu, and they consider water to be contaminated and therefore bad. The Lubu also have other strange customs; they are one of the few people groups who sing but won't dance. The Lubu have been Muslims for many years, but they also believe in good and evil spirits.

The Lubu are one of many people groups in Sumatra who have yet to hear the truth about Jesus Christ. Islam is the dominant religion in West Sumatra, and although Indonesia has many followers of Jesus Christ, most such people live on the neighboring island of Java. The Lubu had once been wild jungle dwellers but in recent years had settled down and become rice farmers. Because they used to live in a remote area, this people group still has had no contact with Christian missionaries. There are no known followers of Christ among this people group.

Pray that a mission agency would reach out to the Lubu people and demonstrate the love of Christ by helping them with medical and spiritual needs. May the Lord raise up faithful workers. Pray for an unstoppable disciple-making movement among the Lubu people of West Sumatra.—WK

MANDALING PEOPLE OF WEST SUMATRA, INDONESIA

(This story illustrates truths about this people group.)

The chief looked angry when he approached the man and his wife. "You may not sell your land," said the chief. "The land is not yours to sell." The man looked sad but still obeyed. He was from the Mandaling people group that lives in West Sumatra. Among the Mandaling, the chief owns all the land and assigns plots for each family to farm.



In recent years valuable minerals have been found in the Mandaling homeland. Many tribal chiefs have become distrustful of the outsiders who have approached them and have refused to sell their land. Many of these outsiders represent mining companies, and this situation could lead to trouble in the future.

Almost all members of this people group are Muslims. Few, if any, have heard the truth about Jesus Christ.

Pray for the Lord to help the Mandaling people prosper economically and spiritually. Pray that this people group would be protected from exploitation. May the Mandaling come to see Jesus Christ as the true source of spiritual treasures. Pray for a movement to Christ among them that will make them a light in a dark world.—WK

ACTS 6:7, NLT

So God's message continued to spread. The number of believers greatly increased in Jerusalem, and many of the Jewish priests were converted, too.

Pray for the number of believers among the Mandaling people to multiply as a church planting movement thrives among them.

MUKO-MUKO PEOPLE IN WEST SUMATRA, INDONESIA

JOHN 5:39, NLT

You search the Scriptures because you think they give you eternal life. But the Scriptures point to me!

Pray the Lord gives the Muko-Muko people a hunger for the Word of God and that they find eternal life in Jesus Christ.

iStock/GWMB



(This story illustrates truths about this people group.)

How many people groups do this: When a Muko-Muko couple gets married, they live with the bride's family. They are a matrilineal

culture like the larger Minangkabau people, but they take their inheritance rules one step further.

The Muko-Muko originally migrated south from northern Sumatra. They reluctantly came under the control of the Dutch colonialists in the 19th century, and the Dutch encouraged and often forced the Muko-Muko to work in rubber, coconut, clove, and coffee plantations. With the birth of the island nation in 1949, Sumatra Island became part of Indonesia. Since then, many Javanese have moved into Muko-Muko lands and have taken government jobs and the best farmland.

The Muko-Muko consider themselves devout Muslims, and their Islam is strongly influenced by animistic practices. They believe that spirits inhabit trees, rocks, rivers, and animals, and they believe that only through rituals, incantations, and charms can one keep from offending the evil spirits. A tiny number of Muko-Muko are believers.

Pray that Indonesian believers befriend the Muko-Muko and tell them of the Savior. Pray that the Muko-Muko find safety from evil spirits by resting in the power of the one, true God. Pray that entire Muko-Muko villages and families come to the saving knowledge of Christ.—DK

MINANGKABAU PEOPLE IN WEST SUMATRA, INDONESIA

How can a war be decided without the lives lost and destruction of property? The ancient peoples of the Indonesian island of Sumatra came up with a unique solution: have the strongest male water buffalo of each side fight to decide the winning side for the war. The name Minangkabau means “winning buffalo.”

The Minangkabau or Minang are the largest people group on Sumatra with a population of nearly seven million. Most live on Sumatra, and the main economic activities of the Minangkabau are agriculture, fishing, weaving, and trade. Most Minang people who engage in agriculture grow rice, coconuts, palm trees, cotton, and coffee, and they are famous as traders of cloth, jewelry, and spices.

The Minangkabau are also famous for their delicious cuisine. Their restaurants are located all over Indonesia and Southeast Asia. Almost all Minang are Muslims who also practice elements of folk religion. There is a tiny group of believers in this people group.

Pray that God sends believers to the Minang to build relationships and tell them about Isa or Jesus. Pray that whole villages and families come to the right knowledge of God found in Jesus Christ. Pray for the Minang to have a growing desire to internalize the Word of God.—DK



Minang girl

Create International

LUKE 2:29-32, NLT

Sovereign Lord now let your servant die in peace, as you have promised. I have seen your salvation, which you have prepared for all people. He is a light to reveal God to the nations, and He is the glory of your people Israel!

Pray that this people group will embrace the blessings and salvation of Jesus Christ, the light of the nations.

REJANG PEOPLE IN WEST SUMATRA, INDONESIA

LUKE 1:31-33, NLT

You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name Him Jesus. He will be very great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give Him the throne of His ancestor David. And He will reign over Israel forever; His Kingdom will never end!”

Pray for the Rejang people to understand and embrace that Jesus was born to be savior of all nations.

iStock/GWMB



Farmer in West Sumatra

How did it come to be that the language of the Rejangs of Sumatra is so different from those of other people on this island? Linguists

and anthropologists believe the Rejang came from Borneo over 1,000 years ago with their own language. Today they are still somewhat isolated from other Sumatran peoples, so their language continues to differ from others.

The primary occupation of the Rejang is agriculture, but they also fish and hunt to obtain food. Most Rejang live in small villages of 10 to 15 houses governed by an elder. Rejang children are encouraged at an early age to make their own decisions, and Rejang teenagers are allowed to decide whom to marry.

Illiteracy is a major problem for the Rejang. Not being able to read, write, or speak Indonesia’s national language keeps the Rejang from entering the modern Indonesian economy.

The Rejang practice Islam with a strong folk influence and live in fear of evil spirits that inhabit the forces of nature. They see tigers as a sacred animal.

Ask the Lord to send workers to help free the Rejangs from fear. Pray that Rejang elders will repent and draw others to the Savior. Pray that teachers come to help the Rejang learn to read and write.—DK

GHAZI PEOPLE IN MYMENSINGH, BANGLADESH

Today we begin a week of prayer for Mymensingh, another highly unreachable district in Bangladesh.

This district is in north-central Bangladesh, and it has been a unique district since the 1760s when it was still under British rule.

One of the unreachable people groups in this district are the Ghazi people. We know very little about them, but they have made their mark in Bangladeshi society. One of them, Golam Dastagir Gazi, was a guerrilla fighter for Bangladesh’s successful war for independence from Pakistan. This man, who was born almost on the first anniversary of independence from Great Britain, became an important politician and later had many other achievements. More recently, the Ghazi people have produced one of Bangladesh’s finest cricketers.

The Ghazis are Muslim like the Bangladeshi majority. Their spiritual lives are stunted by their belief that they do not need a savior and that they can achieve favor from Allah through obedience to the Qur’an, their holy book. As far as we know, there are no known followers of Christ among the Muslim Ghazi people.

Pray for the Holy Spirit to move mightily among this important people group. Pray that by the end of this decade there will be a network of Ghazi followers of Christ who respond to the only Savior.—KC



One of the Ghazis was a Sufi saint

iStock/Moin Uddin

IS 55:6, NLT

Seek the Lord while you can find Him. Call on Him now while He is near.

Pray that the Ghazi people will seek and find the Lord Jesus Christ.

ABDUL PEOPLE IN MYMENSINGH, BANGLADESH

ACTS 19:20, NLT

So the message about the Lord spread widely and had a powerful effect.

Pray that the word of the Lord spreads and prevails among the Abdul people.



Percussion instruments are important during Ramadan

(This story illustrates truths about this people group.)

The Abdul man glided down the early morning road from one town to another playing his dafali (*percussion instrument*) and singing out the names of Allah. It was Ramadan, the great Muslim holiday, and his people were nicknamed “wandering singers” because of this tradition.

We don’t know many specifics about this small people group of low social status. With a population of 27,000, they live mainly in Bangladesh but are also found across the border in India. In West Bengal and in some other parts of India, the Abdul people are sometimes called by their instrument: *Dafali*. Besides offering their music, the Abdul people also sell perfume as they travel and sometimes beg for alms.

The Abdul people are entirely Muslim, though they share food and water with the Hindu communities. None of them have been identified as Christian, although their amicable ways make them potentially easier to reach than more clannish peoples.

Pray that regional Christian believers will intentionally reveal Christ to the Abdul community. Ask God to send them visions and dreams of the One who calls their name. Pray that this will be the decade when there is a massive movement to Christ among them in Bangladesh.—LR

MUSLIM RAYEEN PEOPLE IN MYMENSINGH, BANGLADESH

One traveling in Mymensingh, Bangladesh would most likely come upon a Rayeen person.

The Rayeen people are the cow herders who can be seen moving cattle in about every district of the country, as well as in neighboring India, Nepal, and Pakistan. Long a tradition for this people group, cattle herding and cattle breeding create a common bond with other people groups engaged in this profession. This creates a space for learning and sharing ideas, perhaps for sharing Jesus.

While the nomadic cow-herding life does continue for many Rayeen, others now work in agriculture, horticulture, and gardening as well as other manual labor jobs. They value formal education, but many Rayeen children must discontinue studies due to economic reasons.

Although Bangladesh hosts 58,000 Rayeen living there, the worldwide population of more than a million eclipses that number. Most likely all Rayeen people are Sunni Muslim; they closely follow the laws and rituals of Islam.

Pray that the truth of Jesus finds a home in all Bangladeshi cattle herding communities, including the Rayeen. Pray that believers will easily share the ways of Christ through music and drama, resulting in a movement to Christ. Pray for the Lord to bless the Rayeen people materially and spiritually.—LR



Cow herding on the beaches of Bangladesh

REV 19:9, NLT

And the angel said to me, “Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding feast of the Lamb.” And he added, “These are true words that come from God.”

Pray for a great number of Rayeen people to be invited to the wedding feast of the Lamb.

HINDU BAGDI PEOPLE OF MYMENSINGH, BANGLADESH

JOHN 8:12, NLT

Jesus spoke to the people once more and said, "I am the light of the world. If you follow me, you won't have to walk in darkness, because you will have the light that leads to life."

Pray that the Lord heals the spiritual blindness of the Bagdi people. Pray that they see Jesus as the light of the world.

iStock/Andrew Marcus



Bagdi peoples are Dalits, Hinduism's lowest caste—even those living in Muslim Bangladesh

are considered to be at the bottom of society, most likely because they are descended from aboriginal peoples who were later absorbed into the caste system in the distant past (Maloney, Peoples of South Asia). Another word for Dalit is Harijan, meaning "children of God." They are not low caste in God's eyes!

Most of the Bagdi live in India, but there are more Christ followers among them in Bangladesh than in India. They number some 79,000 in Bangladesh and speak Bengali. Whatever their origin, they are over 99 percent Hindu and about a quarter of one percent Christian of any kind.

They engage in a number of occupations, some traditional. Some are fishermen, and others work in industry or construction. Most, however, work in agriculture. They speak Bengali, and the Scriptures are available in that language.

Pray that the Bagdi people will become children of God through faith in Jesus. Pray that the few Christ followers among them will follow the Great Commission and witness to their Hindu neighbors so that a disciple-making movement may begin and grow throughout their communities in Bangladesh and India.—TP

HINDU BHUINMALI PEOPLE OF MYMENSINGH, BANGLADESH

The Bhuinmali people of Mymensingh, Bangladesh, like yesterday's Bagdi people of the same region, are predominantly Hindu. Of the 107,000 Bhuinmalis, only a third of a percent are followers of Christ. Like the Bagdi, they speak Bengali, and thus, have the Scriptures and JESUS Film available to them. They are a scheduled caste, so they are outside the caste system, despite the classification. They are divided into two sub-groups; more live in India than in Bangladesh. By occupation, they are sweepers, which puts them at the bottom of society, supposedly for offending the god Shiva, whom they worship. Many are landless agricultural workers, but some are in civil service.

Pray for the Lord to raise up believers to help the Bhuinmali people in their spiritual and economic needs. Pray for many Bhuinmali elders to open the doors to those who want to bless them in Jesus' name. Pray that they come to realize that they have offended the Creator because they worship Shiva, the destroyer. Pray they let Jesus sweep them clean of sin, so that in God's Kingdom they may own the dignity of people who are part of His family. Pray that the few believers among them will evangelize others and spark a disciple-making movement.—TP



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JOHN 17:17, NLT

Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.

Pray for the Bhuinmali people to be sanctified by God's truth.

HINDU HAJONG PEOPLE OF MYMENSINGH, BANGLADESH

ACTS 2:41, NLT

Those who believed what Peter said were baptized and added to the church that day—about 3,000 in all.

Pray for an abundant harvest of new believers among the Hajong people in the 2020s.

istock/saif6996



Maybe you thought the potato was Irish? Or Russian? Or from Idaho? Think again! When the Spaniards reached the Andes spine

of South America, they encountered the potato. Later the potato migrated to France, where it was re-named “earth apple.” Eventually it went to Bangladesh, where today it is raised along with wheat and rice by the Hajongs on small family farms.

Among these 18,000 strong people, there are no known Christ-followers. Of Bengali and Assamese ethnic mix, they fled Muslim invaders for the Chittagong Tract Hills in the 17th and 18th centuries. Whether Hindu or Muslim, caste and social rank are important to them. Their religion is a mixture of local animism plus Hindu or Islamic practices, and those who are not Muslim are persecuted and considered outcasts by more orthodox Hindus. They have experienced a number of revitalization movements based on non-violence (ahimsa). Clearly they have a history of religious longing. Currently, their language is unwritten.

Pray that God will send someone to reduce their language to writing and give them the Scriptures in their language so that their religious longing will be fulfilled in Christ. Pray that a Christ-ward revitalization movement begin among them until many believe in the Savior who came to give life to the full.—TP

PRAY FOR HALF OF THE UNREACHED PEOPLE IN ONE MONTH WITH THIS NEW PRAYER GUIDE

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.

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