

Afshari in Afghanistan



Most Afghan Ashari believe that Ali, Muhammad's cousin, was ordained by Allah to follow Mohammad, and after him came 11 more imams selected by Allah. The 12th one, Hujjat-Alah, is recognized as the promised Mahdi, their messiah, whom they say has been living in seclusion since 874. They believe that in God's time, he will return with Jesus to establish Islam in the world. This is called the Twelver Shia doctrine of Islam. Asharis mainly live through farming, herding and carpet weaving in isolated regions close to Kabul, Afghanistan. Others are found in Iran, Syria and Turkey.

Ministry Obstacles

Anyone who decides to follow Christ in Afghanistan is rightfully fearful of persecution. For this reason, the small number of Ashari followers of Christ usually hide their beliefs.

Outreach Ideas

Believers in Afghanistan need to be trained in how to introduce Christ through culturally appropriate music and skits. There can also be radio broadcasts for Ashari women, who have lost many of their rights within the last 15 years.

SCRIPTURE But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. Acts 1:8

PRAY that today's people group would receive God's Spirit and become empowered to tell others about the grace of God in Jesus Christ.



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POPULATION: 15,000

LANGUAGE: Azerbaijani, South

RELIGION: Islam

BIBLE: Complete

STATUS: Unreached

Prayer Focus

Pray that God would strengthen the faith of Afghan believers to be His witnesses to the Ashari people. Pray that all Ashari would be open to hearing the gospel in their language through radio, gospel recording and print.