



**LOVING** THE LOST

*of the World*

THROUGH **PRAYER**

*Eighteenth Edition*



WEEK 1

# *Central Hongshuihe Zhuang of China*

And I sought for a man among them who should build up the wall and stand in the breach before me for the land, that I should not destroy it, but I found none.

EZEKIEL 22:30

The gospel first came to Guangxi in 1862, and many churches were planted among the Han Chinese. A gospel foundation eventually was laid among the Central Hongshuihe Zhuang people group, but even today, less than 1% of its 1 million people is evangelical. The Central Hongshuihe physically resemble the Han Chinese but have a separate language and distinct customs. Over the years, the Zhuang have reportedly been receptive to the gospel, and some gospel video resources are available in their heart language. Why then do so many of the 50 Zhuang subgroups, like the Central Hongshuihe, remain unreached and even unengaged? Please stand in the gap on their behalf.

## PRAYER STARTERS

God, reveal Yourself to the Hongshuihe people, speak to their hearts, and send messengers to proclaim the Good News to them in their own language...

Holy Spirit, embolden local Christians to share the truth they know with those around them...

Father, You desire that none should perish, yet the 1 million Hongshuihe are blind to Your love. Give them eyes to see You...

# *Khmer Krom of Vietnam*

Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world.

1 JOHN 4:1

The Khmer Krom are the remnant of the Khmer civilization that once encompassed much of the present-day Southeast Asia mainland. The majority live in what is now Cambodia, and many thousands remain in Vietnam. Bombings, civil war, and war with Vietnam turned Cambodia into a killing field in 1970. At the same time, Vietnam was in civil war, with devastating effects on the people of this region. The Khmer Krom in Vietnam have, in many ways, been absorbed into the Vietnamese community. They have intermarried and now blend the religions, customs, and cultures of both the Vietnamese and Khmer. Theravada Buddhism is the public veneer of the Khmer Krom religion, but animistic belief in the spirit world may have more of a hold on their daily lives.

## PRAYER STARTERS

Lord, we ask You to open doors to this difficult-to-access people group and to raise up key leaders from within the Khmer Krom...

Father God, guide Khmer believers from Cambodia or abroad to see the need and have the passion to reach this group...

Holy Spirit, help the Khmer Krom overcome the prejudice they encounter...

WEEK 3

# *Jain (Hindi) of India*

Jesus said to him, I am the way, and the truth, and the life.

No one comes to the Father except through me.

JOHN 14:6

The Hindi-speaking Jains are an unengaged and unreached people group of over 1 million people. Jainism is a religion birthed in India that promotes nonviolence and equality towards all living things. Jains feel that every living thing, including plants and animals, has a soul. They often sweep paths in front of them as they walk to avoid stepping on insects. They do not believe in a creator god but think that the world has always existed and that human life continues through cycles of reincarnation. Jains labor through rituals, meditation, and self-will in hopes of achieving liberation from reincarnation and dwelling eternally at the summit of the universe in perfect peace.

## PRAYER STARTERS

Lord of the harvest, call out and send out laborers to work among Hindi-speaking Jains...

Living Word, thank You for the Scripture resources available in Hindi. Please draw Jains to Yourself through the Word...

Holy Spirit, reveal the lies of the enemy and show Jains how to build their lives on the Way, the Truth, and the Life that is found in Christ alone...

# *Gurani/Hawrami Kurds of Iran*

All the earth worships you and sings praises to you; they sing praises to your name. Come and see what God has done: he is awesome in his deeds toward the children of man.

PSALM 66.4-5

Kurdish people are a proud, ancient people with a history going back to biblical times. Among them, distinct languages and cultural differences exist that distinguish groups from one another. Over 350,000 Kurds live in the mountainous border region of Iran and Iraq. In Iraq, they're called Hawrami Kurds. In Iran, they are Gurani Kurds. Historically they're a poor people from the hills. Although Gurani-Hawrami Kurds can blend into larger Kurdish communities around them, they speak a unique language. The "JESUS" film already exists in their language, and work is underway to translate Scripture. Despite limited access to this region, outsiders have identified one Gurani-Hawrami family who professes faith in Christ.

## PRAYER STARTERS

God, please use internet and satellite ministries to bring the JESUS film in their language to the Gurani-Hawrami Kurds...

Father, bless Scripture translation work and bring Your living Word to many Gurani-Hawrami families...

Lord, hundreds of thousands of believers live in Iran. May many reach out to Gurani-Hawrami Kurds with the gospel...

**WEEK 5**

# *Nubians of Sudan*

Nobles shall come from Egypt; Cush shall hasten  
to stretch out her hands to God.

**PSALM 68:31**

Situated along the banks of the mighty Nile River from Sudan to upper Egypt, the land of Nubia is considered one of the world's earliest, great civilizations. The Ethiopian eunuch in Acts 8 was probably from the land of Cush, which then encompassed three ancient Nubian kingdoms. In the late 6th century, Nubia was considered a Christian nation, and a Christian presence remained until the 15th century. Today, there are few known Nubian believers in Sudan. The small number of local fellowships are composed of nearby believers from similar cultures. Nubians are proud of their history and culture. Some young educators are finding interest in their ancient Christian heritage.

## **PRAYER STARTERS**

God, draw Nubian men, women, and children to hunger for You, so they will stretch out their hands to You...

Father, give nearby believers who understand Nubian culture a deep love for their neighbors and contextual words with which to share Jesus...

Lord, build a strong, vibrant church again in the land of Cush, among the Nubians of Sudan...

# *Mahafaly of Madagascar*

[My word] shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

ISAIAH 55:11

The Mahafaly of dry, dusty southwest Madagascar fight for survival, practicing animal sacrifices to gain blessing. Years ago, a seer foretold that a foreigner would bring news to bless them. In 2009, IMB missionary Grant Waller arrived with national partners. Because of the prophecy, the independent Mahafaly received him. The Wallers and other IMB families brought stories from God's Word in the Mahafaly dialect. They learned God became the sacrifice—once and for all—as Jesus. Later, baptized believers met under trees where bulls had been sacrificed before. Six churches formed through IMB missionaries and national partners. By 2016, those six churches had planted over 100 more—and continue to grow!

## PRAYER STARTERS

Jesus, help the Mahafaly leaders to guard themselves and their churches. Grant them Your care to lead Your people...

Lord, continue growing strong relationships between the independent Mahafaly churches and their partners (Philippians 1:5-7)...

Jesus, meet the Mahafaly's daunting physical needs. May they know You alone as Provider...

**WEEK 7**

# *Jula of Burkina Faso*

Continue steadfastly in prayer,  
being watchful in it with thanksgiving.

**COLOSSIANS 4:2**

The Jula of Burkina Faso live primarily along the trade routes in the southwestern part of the country. The name dyula (Jula) means “itinerant trader,” and the Jula are respected for their trading abilities. They number over 2 million. They are one of the two largest ethnic groups in the country. To be Jula is to be Muslim. It is part of their identity, and it is very difficult for them to separate the two. Because of this, there are very few ethnic Jula believers. West African Islam does, however, generally retain local traditions and is more tolerant of diversity than elsewhere. Many still hold to traditional animistic beliefs that are thinly veiled by Islam.

## **PRAYER STARTERS**

Lord, we ask You to call out national believers from the Burkinabé churches to share the Good News with their Jula neighbors...

Almighty God, we ask You to open doors for deeper relationships and ministry as we pray for existing teams that are living life alongside the Jula...

Father, bring forth a triumphant Jula church for the glory of Your name!



# *Serbs of Austria*

Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.”

**MATTHEW 9:37-38**

The Serbians of Austria are the second-largest foreign population in Austria. There are an estimated 300,000 Serbs or those of Serbian descent living in the country, with approximately 100,000 located in the capital city of Vienna. Many came as refugees in the 1990s, but most now immigrate for education or employment opportunities, while others are attracted by higher wages. After their arrival, they seek out a social network that is reminiscent of their Serbian culture and traditions. The Serbian Orthodox Church has the largest Orthodox community of 100,000 parishioners, with the largest church located in Vienna. Although many identify themselves as Christians, they have become disillusioned with religion, and less than 0.5% of the Serbs of Austria are evangelical.

## PRAYER STARTERS

Lord, we pray for the Serbian people in Austria to encounter the true and living God...

Father, lead believing Austrians to answer the call to bring the gospel to their Serbian neighbors, coworkers, and friends...

We pray that those attending the Serbian Orthodox Church will seek to learn more about God by reading the Bible for themselves...



**WEEK 9**

# *Quilombolas of Brazil*

For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore,  
and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

**GALATIANS 5:1**

Decades ago, the Quilombolas, descendants of runaway African slaves, formed villages in remote areas of Brazil to escape oppressive discrimination. Today, many still live in mud houses, grow their own crops, hunt, fish, and make their own musical instruments. Their African ancestry has influenced much of their art, dance, and music. A long history of forced acceptance of Catholicism has conditioned the Quilombolas to syncretize the gospel with their traditional Afro-spiritism, often by honoring Catholic saints alongside African deities during local rituals. Lingering prejudice has kept many Brazilians from engaging them with the gospel. Those who do hear are reluctant to give up their Quilombola identity to become true Christians.

## **PRAYER STARTERS**

Father, raise up nonprejudiced believers who are willing to share with the Quilombolas so that they might hear the truth and believe...

May the Quilombolas overcome their fears of losing their temporal identity in the world to eternally identify with Christ...

Jesus, please guide the hearts and minds of the Quilombolas away from the oppression of sin and into Your freedom...



WEEK 10

# *Deaf of Malaysia*

Build up, build up, prepare the way! Remove every  
obstruction from my people's way.

ISAIAH 57:14

Although every province in Malaysia has a Deaf school, Deaf children have few opportunities to attend school. They are limited, since Malaysian Sign Language (MSL) is not used in those institutions. Some Deaf will find employment after completing school, but few earn enough on which to live. Over half of the 320,000 Deaf in Malaysia come from Muslim families, and gaining access to them with the gospel can be extremely difficult. Some churches reach out to the Deaf through interpreters, but only one known Deaf church exists in the country.

## PRAYER STARTERS

Righteous One, encourage Deaf believers from Thailand and Singapore who regularly try to share the gospel with the Deaf of Malaysia...

Word and Truth of God, bless the current Scripture project that will eventually include 300 Bible stories online in MSL...

Compassionate Lord, stir the hearts of Deaf believers in Malaysia to reach out to the Deaf from Muslim backgrounds in their country...



WEEK 11

# Mandar of Indonesia

Then Isaiah is so bold as to say, “I have been found by those who did not seek me; I have shown myself to those who did not ask for me.”

ROMANS 10:20

The 500,000 Mandar people of West Sulawesi in Indonesia are 99.9% Muslim. Their language is Mandar, which has at least five dialects. Mandar is a name unifying 14 regional kingdoms, and the people are primarily farmers and fisherman. In Mandar tradition, a king is not determined by heredity but is chosen by leaders called “Hadat.” If the headdress of the Hadat member is worn angling to the left, it is a call for the king to reconsider his leadership and policies. Although Muslim, many Mandar hold to their animistic beliefs. They believe that spirits inhabit sacred places, so they visit a local “dukun” or shaman to help with casting out spirits, calling down curses, healing the sick, and gaining influence over others.

## PRAYER STARTERS

King of kings, reveal Yourself to these people so that the Hadat headdress will tilt, calling for a new allegiance to King Jesus...

Lord, please send believers to the Mandar people who will intentionally share the good news of Jesus Christ with them...

Savior, we pray that the Mandar will become fishers of men and live in freedom from the evil influences surrounding them...



WEEK 12

# *Sutradhar of India*

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

EPHESIAN 2:8-9

The Sutradhar people live primarily in eastern India and speak the Bengali language. The approximately 826,000 Sutradhar are Hindus and have no known gospel presence among them. They are a caste of carpenters, metal workers, and blacksmiths. The word Sutradhar translates to mean “the one who holds the string.” A puppet show would have a “sutradhar,” which figuratively seems to correlate with the way this people group moves through life as the evil one seeks to order their steps. The Sutradhar are trapped in a Hindu system of works and sacrifices that offer no hope. They are on the road to eternal separation from Christ.

## PRAYER STARTERS

Ruler of all nations, give laborers courage to boldly profess the name of Jesus to the Sutradhar of India...

Scripture resources are available in the Bengali language. Light of the World, penetrate the hearts of the Sutradhar peoples with the gospel...

Loving Jesus Christ, grant the Sutradhar of India freedom from their bondage through a relationship with You...

WEEK 13

# *The Highland People\* of China*

Therefore, do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord, nor of me his prisoner, but share in suffering for the gospel by the power of God.

2 TIMOTHY 1:8

Over the past decade, village after village of Highland People responded to the gospel. Bible storytellers were trained and sent out, Scripture was translated and passed around, leaders were coached, and churches multiplied. Then persecution began. Was the church mature and strong enough to survive? It appears it was! Churches have been forced to close, but they simply multiply into smaller groups. Baptisms quietly continue, and church leaders who have been arrested courageously share the gospel with interrogators. One pastor said, “When police interrogate me, I use the chance to share the gospel. Isn’t that what the apostles did? Isn’t that what the Bible teaches us to do when we are brought in for questioning?”

\*name of people group has been changed to protect them from additional persecution

## PRAYER STARTERS

Almighty God, continue to strengthen Highland People churches and protect them as they push into new areas yet unreached...

Provider God, we praise You for the boldness You give church leaders who are not afraid to suffer for the gospel...

Authorities are close to discovering the ongoing Bible translation project. God, hide translators and their work in the shadow of Your wings...



WEEK 14

# *Rumelian Turks of Greece*

For God is the King of all the earth; sing praises with a psalm!  
God reigns over the nations; God sits on his holy throne.

PSALM 47:7-8

In the 13th century, the expansive Ottoman Empire extended west into modern-day Greece and the Balkans. This area was known as Rumelia, “the land of the Romans.” Today, Rumelian Turks are a remnant of this empire, and more than 150,000 Rumelian Turks live in Greece. Rumelian Turks hold fast to their Turkish identity and Islam. They resist assimilation into Greek culture and are closed to outside influences. They also tend to live in rugged countryside. One Greek pastor wants to reach out to the Turks but doesn’t speak Turkish or know where to start. He needs help in learning how to gain access and engage with Rumelian Turks around him.

## PRAYER STARTERS

Lord, raise up believers with a burden to bring the gospel to the Rumelian Turks...

Father, cause many Rumelian Turks to find the gospel online and be saved...

God, may the gospel burn in the hearts of the Christian Greeks. Mobilize them to reach out to Rumelian Turks with truth and hope...

WEEK 15

# Poles of Brazil



...so that your faith might not rest in the wisdom  
of men but in the power of God.

1 CORINTHIANS 2:5

Polish immigrants started arriving in Brazil in the mid-1800s. Today, the number of Poles or Polish descendants in Brazil is estimated at approximately 2 million, with the highest concentration found in the state of Paraná. Many of the early immigrants were fleeing political changes and turmoil and adapted well in the urban areas of Brazil. They have remained very Polish culturally and religiously. Many remained loyal to Catholicism, and even today, the Catholic church in Poland oversees the Polish regions of Brazil by sending priests and missionaries to the country. It is very hard to find an opening into these communities, and those leaving the church are rejected by their community. Therefore, they remain unreached, with less than 0.5% evangelical.

## PRAYER STARTERS

Lord, tear down the barriers of religion that keep the Poles of Brazil from believing in You. Please allow them to experience Your love and salvation...

Father, we pray that You will send Your chosen servant(s) to develop a strategy to reach the Poles in Brazil...

Holy Spirit, prepare the hearts of the Poles in Brazil to accept the gospel when they hear Your truth...





# *Bedouin of Saudi Arabia*

So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” And he said, ‘How can I, unless someone guides me?’”

**ACTS 8:30-31**

When one hears, “Bedouin,” groups of turbaned men perched on camels or women cooking beside black-and-white tents are the pictures that may come to mind. 2.8 million Bedouin live in Saudi Arabia, a fluid number, as they frequently cross borders to visit relatives. Some migrate with flocks among barren hills, but many Saudi Bedouin now live in villages and towns. Their fame for hospitality has not changed. Bedouin serve guests glasses of tea or coffee and platters of succulent meat and rice. They may share Arabic poetry, passed down from father to son. Family honor is nonnegotiable, and this includes not leaving Islam, the religion that permeates Bedouin society.

## PRAYER STARTERS

Lord, You said to humble ourselves and pray. May the proud Bedouin bow the knee...

Jesus, thank You for dying on the cross for the Bedouin of Saudi Arabia. Send people to them to tell them...

God, as You provided the Scriptures to the Ethiopian in Acts, provide the Word to the Bedouin and help them understand...



WEEK 17

## *Salampasu of Congo, DR*

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

1 PETER 2:9

The Salampasu (SAH-lum-PAH-soo) live in rural villages on the frontier between the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Angola. Their name means “hunter of locusts,” and they are regarded by their neighbors as fierce warriors. While the Salampasu are involved in hunting and farming, they are best known for their elaborate masks, which hold great significance in their sacred rituals as warriors. These masks are used to initiate boys into the society of warriors and are earned through performing specific deeds. The masks also act as guardians for the children and are believed to have spirits dwelling within them. Currently, there are no known believers or churches among the Salampasu.

### PRAYER STARTERS

Father, send someone to share the hope of the gospel with the Salampasu and call them out of darkness into Your marvelous light...

Lord, change the status of the Salampasu from no known believers to an entire generation of those who call on Your name...

Father, may the Salampasu realize that You desire for Your Spirit to dwell in them...



WEEK 18

## *Desano of Colombia*

To whom then will you compare me, that I should be like him?  
says the Holy One. Lift up your eyes on high and see: who  
created these? He who brings out their host by number, calling  
them all by name; by the greatness of his might.

ISAIAH 40:25-26

Known as “sons of the wind,” the Desano of Colombia typically earn their livelihood through hunting and farming. Men are taught to hunt from childhood and perform a series of rituals before hunting. Men also prepare the land for farming, while the women plant and harvest the crops. The Desano live in communal homes that are also used for ceremonies, such as life-cycle celebrations, healings, and spiritual mediations. The Desano believe that the “Sun Father” created the universe, land, rivers, jungles, and all living beings in the world from his light, including the Desano people. They also believe that the jungle is full of spirits, some of which are demons.

### PRAYER STARTERS

Oh God, the land of the Desano is rugged and rough, so please give strength to those going to bring the Good News...

Armed revolutionary groups live alongside the Desano and there is great need for Your salvation...

Sow Your seed of righteousness in this place where plants are grown to produce illegal drugs...



**WEEK 19**

# *Deaf of Nepal*

At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us  
a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ.

**COLOSSIANS 4:3**

Many of the 290,000 Deaf in Nepal live in remote, mountainous areas of the country, separated from other Deaf communities. There were no Deaf schools in the country until 1966, and access to education outside of the capital can be a huge problem. Even with recent attempts by the Nepali Deaf Association to encourage employment with a restaurant chain, hearing people shy away, fearing bad “karma” being passed on through the food that the Deaf prepare. Some outreach has been done in recent years among the Deaf, and training in Bible translation is going on. A Deaf community in the capital is trying to form a congregation and reach out to isolated Deaf communities.

## **PRAYER STARTERS**

Jesus, thank You for the open doors that workers have had with the Deaf school in Kathmandu and opportunities to share Christ...

Almighty God, please bless the ongoing Scripture project as it provides Bible stories translated into Nepali Sign Language and available online...

Gracious Lord, encourage Deaf believers in Nepal as they seek community through a Deaf church and share with Deaf in remote areas...

# *Arumanen Manobo of Philippines*

So that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. For not only has the word of the Lord sounded forth from you ...  
but your faith in God has gone forth everywhere.

1 THESSALONIANS 1:7-8

The Arumanen were an unreached people group when God called Catalino to share the gospel. Catalino is a Filipino pastor from a neighboring tribe. The first year was very tough and Catalino experienced serious culture shock, but Southern Baptists prayed for Catalino and his work. He started teaching basic agricultural techniques as an entry point into the Arumanen through a mobile Baptist Out of School Training (BOOST) project. Every BOOST participant heard the gospel and learned how to share the Good News and plant churches. God moved in amazing ways among the Arumanen, and now almost 10% of the population are baptized believers who meet in churches. From the Arumanen, the gospel has now spread to other Filipino tribes and even to other parts of the world.

## PRAYER STARTERS

Holy God, we give praise for Your mighty work among the Arumanen Manobo people! Guide them...

Omniscient Father, we pray for the Arumanen leaders to have wisdom in knowing how to develop more church leaders...

Loving Lord, we pray for tribal missionaries who have been sent out around the world, that You may give them open doors...

WEEK 21

# Laba of China

Go and learn what this means: “I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.” For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners.

MATTHEW 9:13

The Laba people of China have access to numerous Christian resources, yet less than 1% follow Christ. They speak Mandarin, the official language of China, but have an ethnicity distinct from people groups around them. Christian work began among the Laba in 1899, and gospel recordings were made 100 years later, but the gospel has yet to take root among these people. They worship the spirits of their ancestors and have been known to sacrifice cows because they believe that their ancestors will eat the meat in the afterlife. The gospel has reached many of their neighbors, the Miao people, but has yet to greatly impact the Laba.

## PRAYER STARTERS

God, unveil their eyes to see the futility in repeated animal sacrifices and to accept the once-for-all sacrifice that Jesus made...

Father, we pray their only sacrifices will be those offered to You—offerings of praise made with their lives...

Lord, Your Word has gone forth; we pray that this year, it will accomplish that which You purpose...

# *Badhai (Chhattisgarhi) of India*

Turn to me and be saved, all the ends of the earth!

For I am God, and there is no other.

ISAIAH 45:22

The Chhattisgarhi-speaking Badhai are an unengaged and unreached people group of more than 800,000. The Badhai trace their lineage to a Hindu god who is believed to have been a wood worker and iron worker to the gods. Thus, the Badhai have historically been carpenters and have focused some of their time and effort on creating idols for worship. Hindus worship many different gods, and these gods (idols) are seen in homes, businesses, vehicles, temples, and a myriad of other locations. Scripture resources are available in the Chhattisgarhi language, but most Badhai have never heard the good news of Jesus, the Messiah.

## PRAYER STARTERS

Gentle Father, please put the Badhai people on the heart of believers who will be obedient to go to them and share the gospel...

Holy Spirit, prepare the hearts of the Badhai to hear and receive the message of salvation...

Blessed Savior, begin a church-planting movement among the Badhai and allow it to spread to other unreached people...



WEEK 23

# *Nuristani Peoples of Afghanistan*

Finally, brothers, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may speed ahead and be honored, as happened among you, and that we may be delivered from wicked and evil men.

2 THESSALONIANS 3:1

The people of Nuristan, the “land of light,” are as rugged as their mountainous terrain in eastern Afghanistan. They live with limited access to resources like education and medical care. Women farm while the men hunt and fish. Traditional wrestling matches earn victors valuable resources, such as sheep. In homes, wood carvings represent these honors and victories. The roads into Nuristan’s villages are dangerous and difficult to access. Language also raises barriers to access. The people of Nuristan, likely numbering more than 150,000, speak at least seven languages. Nuristan came late to Islam through forced conversion in the late 1800s. In modern years, Nuristani people are known for violence and blood feuds.

## PRAYER STARTERS

God, may the gospel shine into each mountain village and bring life, making the land truly Nuristan—the land of light...

Father, Nuristanis are hard to reach. May Nuristanis who travel to the cities meet followers of Christ, hear the gospel, and believe...

Lord, most Nuristani people are nonliterate. Please make a way for the creation of gospel audio and video resources in their languages...



# Somali of Mogadishu

The light shines in the darkness,  
and the darkness has not overcome it.

JOHN 1:5

Situated on the coast and built of bleached white coral blocks, Mogadishu, Somalia, was once known as the “White Pearl of the Indian Ocean.” This capital, boasting 2.5 million, is the largest city in Somalia. Home to the largest mosque in the Horn of Africa, it has been the leading Islamic center in the region since the 13th century. After decades of civil war, with various groups fighting for control of the city, the government regained control in 2011. Since then, there has been massive reconstruction, with resorts being built along the sandy beaches. Extremism still cripples progress, leaving the government vulnerable. The darkness of lostness continues to reign.

## PRAYER STARTERS

Father, cause Your light to shine on the Somali people of Mogadishu, dispelling darkness...

Jesus, Prince of Peace, bring peace to this city so that believers can live there, being Your light and sharing Your light...

Holy Spirit, lead thousands of Somalis to use the internet to know the Light of the World and share Him with others...



WEEK 25

## *Zigua of Tanzania*

For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened.

ROMANS 1:21

People all over Africa will claim they believe there is a God who is the creator of all things and who is all powerful. But Islam teaches that one cannot truly know God or have a relationship with Him. Animism--the belief that spirits inhabit inanimate objects--often displays its practices in whatever religion one embraces. The Zigua (zee-GOO-ah) of Tanzania are a rural, agricultural people of more than a half a million who live in the northeastern part of Tanzania. The Zigua are predominately Muslims, and although they claim to know God, they have never truly yielded their lives to their Creator. Islam has grown in strength and has brought a lot of confusion and resistance to the spread of the gospel, thus forcing some Christian workers to relocate away from the Zigua.

### PRAYER STARTERS

Father, we praise  
You for Great  
Commission  
partners who are  
able to continue to  
work among the  
Zigua for now...

Father, we ask that  
Zigua believers  
will be bold to  
share the gospel  
with their friends,  
family members,  
and neighbors...

Father, we pray  
for children who  
have heard the  
gospel. We pray for  
spiritual seeds that  
were planted to be  
watered by others...



WEEK 26

## *Roma of Europe*

But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it  
we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ...

PHILIPPIANS 3:20

The Roma people, estimated at 10-12 million in Europe, are Europe's largest minority people group. They have been considered outcasts, despised, and marginalized for centuries. They are a reached people group, with about 4.2% of their population classified as evangelical. God has raised up mature Roma brothers to be spiritual leaders who are influencing the health of established churches, attending seminaries and Bible school as well as actively engaging in evangelism, opening up new areas for the gospel across cultures, and planting churches. Martin is a Roma who leads a small but growing church in his northern Serbian village. He serves faithfully among Roma, Serbians, and Romanians, and the work God is doing in and through him is indeed victorious!

### PRAYER STARTERS

Father, may the Roma people know Your great love for them...

Lord, may the Roma boldly proclaim the gospel and grow in their knowledge of You and Your Word, contending for the faith...

Lord, raise up a generation of Roma brothers and sisters who will take Your message of salvation to the ends of the earth...

WEEK 27

# *Tucano of Colombia*

So, they feared the Lord but also served their own gods, after the manner of the nations from among whom they had been carried away.

2 KINGS 17:33

The Tucano live in both Brazil and Colombia, especially along the “U River.” They are part of 17 ethnic groups that intermarry and trade goods and services. Their language is distinct from the other groups and is the trade language of the area. They are known for manufacturing traditional ceremonial benches that are painted with distinctive geometrical designs similar to that seen in weavings. The benches are used for formal ceremonies and religious rituals. As with most Amazonian people groups, the Tucano believe in spirits and often think it is acceptable just to add Jesus to the other spirits. Total surrender to Christianity is seen as rejection of their cultural identity.

## PRAYER STARTERS

Father, may the Tucano desire to live in reverence and submission to You alone...

We pray that the fears and bondage that the Tucano live under will be overcome by the love and truth from Jesus Christ...

Bless this small group of indigenous peoples with a great outpouring of Your grace and mercy so that they might believe...



WEEK 28

## *Deaf of Pakistan*

And he said to them, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.

LUKE 10:2

The Deaf of Pakistan number nearly 2.2 million and are second only to India as the largest Deaf community of South Asia. Although there are laws stipulating quotas for Deaf people to be employed, few have jobs, and most jobs don't pay enough to sustain them. Some estimates indicate that less than 10% of Deaf people in Pakistan even attend school. Pakistani Sign Language is not recognized by the government. Often the Deaf are viewed as less than human and are harassed in public. Although Christian groups seek to do educational and humanitarian work among the Deaf, there are few evangelical believers in Pakistan and no Deaf churches.

### PRAYER STARTERS

God of the harvest, send workers to share the gospel among the fertile fields of Pakistan...

Creator of all nations, bless translators seeking to provide access to nearly 300 Bible stories in Pakistani Sign Language...

Lord of all, give near-culture Deaf believers fresh ideas in reaching out to the Deaf in Pakistan...

# Global Prayer



1. Central Hongshuihe Zhuang of China
2. Khmer Krom of Vietnam
3. Jain (Hindi) of India
4. Gurani/Hawrami Kurds of Iran
5. Nubians of Sudan
6. Mahafaly of Madagascar
7. Jula of Burkina Faso
8. Serbs of Austria
9. Quilombolas of Brazil
10. Deaf of Malaysia
11. Mandar of Indonesia
12. Sutradhar of India
13. The Highland People of China
14. Rumelian Turks of Greece
15. Poles of Brazil
16. Bedouin of Saudi Arabia
17. Salampasu of Congo, DR
18. Desano of Colombia
19. Deaf of Nepal
20. Arumanen Manobo of Philippines
21. Laba of China
22. Badhai (Chattisgarhi) of India
23. Nuristani peoples of Afghanistan
24. Somali of Mogadishu
25. Zigua of Tanzania
26. Roma of Europe



- 27. Tucano of Colombia
- 28. Deaf of Pakistan
- 29. Qiubei Zhuang of China
- 30. Brunei Malay of Brunei
- 31. Hungarians of France
- 32. Garo of Bangladesh
- 33. Semnani of Iran
- 34. Jews of London, England
- 35. Fulakunda of Senegal
- 36. Georgians of Russia
- 37. Kalmyk-Oirat of Mongolia
- 38. Enn People of Myanmar and China
- 39. Luli people of Uzbekistan
- 40. Shina of Pakistan
- 41. Tlahuitoltepec of Mexico
- 42. Deaf of Sierra Leone
- 43. Buriat of China
- 44. Thakkar of India
- 45. Serbs of Bosnia and Herzegovena
- 46. Tajik of Uzbekistan
- 47. Venezuelan Diaspora, Global
- 48. Jerba of Tunisia
- 49. Manyika of Mozambique
- 50. Chinantec of Mexico
- 51. Deaf of Turkmenistan
- 52. Kabyle of Africa and Europe



WEEK 29

# Qiubei Zhuang of China

Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit  
of the Lord is, there is freedom.

2 CORINTHIANS 3:17

For years, the Qiubei Zhuang have remained unengaged with the gospel. They live isolated in the mountains of China's Yunnan Province. Most live in market towns or villages and work in the fields during the day. Villages vary in amenities, but none resemble most towns and cities of the 21st century. The men are known for their love of alcohol and its accompanying problems, and they do not trust people who won't drink with them. The Qiubei Zhuang live in fear of the spirits they worship and believe that ghosts and spirits can be their ancestors, so they try to manipulate the spirits to leave them alone or help them.

## PRAYER STARTERS

Holy Spirit, may the Qiubei Zhuang know You and be set free from the oppression of alcohol addiction and worshipping other spirits...

Lord of the harvest, provide opportunities for the Qiubei Zhuang to hear the gospel and read Scripture portions in their own language...

God of peace, draw the Qiubei Zhuang to You so that peace will fill their hearts and harmony will define their relationships...





WEEK 30

# *Brunei Malay of Brunei*

For God gave us a spirit not of fear but of  
power and love and self-control.

2 TIMOTHY 1:7

Brunei is a small country on the northern coast of Borneo. It is one of the richest countries per capita in the world. The 2015 per-capita GDP (PPP) in Brunei was US \$79,000—ranking them among the top 10 in the world. The country has recently begun implementing sharia law, as the Sultan desires to leave Islam as his legacy. Consequently, the local police are vigilant in arresting anyone accused of sharing the gospel with Muslims (especially those that are ethnically Malay). As a result of the wealth and the implementation of Islam, the Brunei Malay have little-to-no access to the gospel or desire for it. However, there are churches in Brunei that are filled with Chinese, tribal, and immigrant Christians. As you can imagine, they are afraid to share the gospel with those outside their churches.

## PRAYER STARTERS

Lord Jesus, fill Your church in Brunei with boldness to proclaim the gospel...

Father, secure their witness by protecting them from the aggressive attempts to stifle proclamation...

Father, send more believers to Brunei to share the gospel in word and deed by opening doors for access to the Brunei Malay...

WEEK 31

# *Hungarians of France*

And I will lead the blind in a way that they do not know, in paths that they have not known I will guide them. I will turn the darkness before them into light, the rough places into level ground. These are the things I do, and I do not forsake them.

ISAIAH 42:16

Hungarians have sought refuge in France for centuries. A large influx occurred in the early 1930s due to a world economic crisis, another happened in the mid-40s when the Red Army entered Hungary, and still another wave of immigrants arrived in the mid-50s. After fleeing from oppressive governments or escaping the Communist regime that ruled their home nation for 40 years following WWII, the last census population estimates approximately 150,000 Hungarians in France. Many have tried to assimilate into French culture, including atheism or other religious beliefs (about 1% evangelical). There is now a movement underway to recapture their cultural heritage, maintain their ancestral language, and connect with citizens of Hungary.

## PRAYER STARTERS

Lord, we pray that as Hungarians in France try to reconnect with their heritage, they will come to know the One who created all nations...

Father, pray for a work to begin that spreads knowledge of You to these people...

Jesus, we pray for these lost sheep to know You as Lord and Savior...



WEEK 32

## *Garos of Bangladesh*

I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth.  
So neither he who plants nor he who waters is  
anything, but only God who gives the growth.

1 CORINTHIANS 3:6-7

The Garos were an animistic, head-hunting people who lived in the hills of India and Bangladesh. According to historical accounts, in the 1850s, God used a discarded tract to introduce two Garo cousins to the gospel. They repented of their sin and chose to follow Christ. They later received baptism and then discipleship from missionaries and, enduring much persecution from their own tribe, took the gospel message to the Garo villages. Today, approximately 100,000 Garos live in Bangladesh. Many are farmers and continue to follow the Christian faith. Garos have a reputation among Bangladeshis as being people who are hardworking and live with integrity.

### PRAYER STARTERS

Lord, we praise You for Your redemptive work among the Garo people. May each Garo person individually seek to turn away from sin and follow Christ...

Omnipotent God, raise up Garos to share the Good News with the 99% of Bangladeshis who do not know Christ...

Holy Spirit, we pray for the Good News to go forth from the Garo hills throughout Bangladesh...

WEEK 33

# *Semnani of Iran*

Lift up your heads, O gates! And be lifted up,  
O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.

PSALM 24:7

The city of Semnan, Iran, looks like many other university cities: bustling crowds, a popular soccer team, and a growing tourism industry that attracts outsiders to its youthful energy. Yet Semnan is unique. Like Native Americans in the U.S. today, the Semnani people once had a vibrant language and culture. Now, they have largely assimilated into the modern culture, but they know where they came from and are proud of it. They speak the mainstream language of Farsi, yet thousands of Semnan's 150,000 Muslim citizens also know their ancient Semnani language. Some Semnani even pursue the revitalization of their language and a closer identity with their ancestors. There are no known believers among the Semnani people.

## PRAYER STARTERS

Lord, it is hard to know if the Semnani need resources in their ancient language. Please give wisdom to gospel-media producers...

Father, raise up Iranian believers who will contextualize and bring the gospel to Semnani families...

God, thousands of people in the city of Semnan live in darkness. Please save many and raise up a church in this city...



WEEK 34

# *Jews of London*

For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. ... For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.

ROMANS 10:2-4

During World War II, approximately 80,000 Jewish people fleeing Nazi Europe were allowed into England. Now, England hosts the second-largest Jewish population in Europe and the fifth largest in the world. They have thrived safely in London, but sentiment against them is growing. This community is guarded and suspicious of outsiders; the more they observe rejection, the more isolated they become. The population varies greatly in their orthodoxy, thus creating divisions between the religious and secular Jewish communities. Different believers have tried to reach out to the Jewish community in London; however, within the past 10 years, little attention has been given to them in this part of the world.

## PRAYER STARTERS

Lamb of God, show the Jewish people their need for You, the Anointed One, their Savior...

Holy Spirit, pierce their hearts with the words of Psalm 2 and Isaiah 53 and give them spiritual understanding...

Abba, Father, show believers the best ways to share Your fulfillment of prophecy with Jewish people in London...

WEEK 35

# *Fulakunda of Senegal*

How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than  
honey to my mouth! Through your precepts I get  
understanding; therefore I hate every false way.

PSALM 119:103-104

Traditionally, the Fulakunda have been herdsmen throughout western and central Africa. Their roots grow from the Fulani people, who intermarried with another people group in Senegal. Over time, their descendants became known as the Fulakunda. These nearly 2 million Fulakunda people are overwhelmingly Muslim, holding steadfast to their beliefs and traditions. They are also very hospitable and enjoy sharing a local tea with visitors. The tea takes time to make and is served in rounds. The first round is very bitter (even with all the sugar), the second round is less bitter, and the final round is very sweet. The tea ceremony symbolizes relationships, as the different rounds, like relationships, grow sweeter with time.

## PRAYER STARTERS

God, like the third round of tea, help the Fulakunda find God's word sweet and turn from false teachings...

Lord, allow nonliterate Fulakunda to hear the word through oral Scriptures and come to faith in Christ...

God, make a way for Fulakunda believers to be disciplined well and become bold witnesses and disciplemakers...

# Georgians of Russia

For my eyes have seen your salvation that you have prepared  
in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to  
the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel.

LUKE 2:30-32

Although Georgians in Russia are approximately 200,000 in number, they are one of the smaller ethnic minorities in the country, with the 2010 census noting significant inflow of ethnic Georgians into the larger Russian cities such as Moscow and Saint Petersburg. Most Georgians proudly trace their ancestry back to Japheth, a son of Noah. Because of their ethnicity, many are discriminated against and try to blend in with Russian society while remaining proud of their heritage. Eastern Orthodox traditions are strong among Georgians of Russia, and includes a Muslim segment and a Jewish segment. Approximately 1.5% of this group is considered to be evangelical.

## PRAYER STARTERS

Lord, we pray that the light of salvation through Your Son, Jesus, will be revealed to the Georgians of Russia...

Father, we pray that the Georgians in Russia will be relieved of their persecution and discrimination...

Jesus, we pray for workers among these people so that the Georgians of Russia may soon know You as Lord and Savior...



WEEK 37

# *Kalmyk-Oirat of Mongolia*

In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

2 CORINTHIANS 4:4

The Kalmyk-Oirat are a branch of the Mongolian people who follow a religion that is a mix of Tibetan Buddhism, Taoism, and ancestor worship. Forms of black magic have been practiced for hundreds of years, and every New Year, their prayers are offered up to Okeen Tenger, their female spirit protector. Bible translations do exist in their language, but less than 0.5% are Christian. Major community activities include dancing, a tradition that is still being passed on to the youth within the family or through apprenticeship. Other favorite pastimes are storytelling and singing. Imagine how far the gospel could travel if Scripture was the foundation of the stories told and the songs sung!

## PRAYER STARTERS

Lord, Your Good News is veiled to the Kalmyk-Oirat who are perishing. The god of this world has blinded their minds. Open their eyes to see Your glory...

Father, raise up mature Christians who will pass their faith to the next generation...

Jesus, we pray that Your light will break through the darkness that surrounds the Kalmyk-Oirat and bring salvation...





# *Enn People of Myanmar & China*

Where shall I go from your Spirit? . . . If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me.

PSALM 139:7-10

According to local tradition, the Enn people are the remnants of a long-lost civilization who originally settled the lush mountain highlands between Myanmar and China. As more powerful civilizations migrated into the area, the Enn were displaced. They now have a strong fear of outsiders and embrace an extreme form of spirit worship and superstition. The Enn people are known in the area mostly by derogatory names meaning something like “runaways.” They received these names by avoiding any outsiders and literally “running away” when they saw anyone who was not of their tribe. However, within the past few years, several Enn have become interested in the gospel, and access has become easier. God is opening doors to bring these “runaways” back to Himself!

## PRAYER STARTERS

Lord, send Your Spirit to the Enn people through dreams and visions. Send Your people to share the gospel with the Enn people...

Father, provide the resources and translations to share the gospel in the Enn language...

Comfort the fears of the Enn people toward anything outside their tribe and build trust with those who will bring the gospel to the Enn villages...

WEEK 39

# *Luli People of Uzbekistan*

...that you might have him back forever, no longer as a bondservant but more than a bondservant, as a beloved brother—especially to me, but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

PHILEMON 16

As professional beggars, the Luli are the lowest people on the social ladder in Central Asia. Two years ago, a group of workers united in prayer for the Luli. God answered by opening doors into the migrant community. The workers rejoiced to learn that some Luli men and women had believed in Christ. Over time, the numbers multiplied; now at least 100 Luli in Uzbekistan have professed faith. Some Luli believers receive technical training for the production of audio Scriptures in their language. One man was interrogated on his way home from the training. He was fearful but shared his testimony with the officials. The police released him, and the man left with strengthened faith.

## PRAYER STARTERS

God, we praise You for the miracle of what is happening among the Luli of Uzbekistan. Be glorified among these marginalized people...

Father, protect and bless the creation of audio Scriptures in the Luli language...

God, we celebrate two groups of Luli believers who meet together weekly for worship. May they grow into healthy churches...



**WEEK 40**

# *Shina of Pakistan*

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

**JOHN 3:16**

With a population of more than 650,000, the Shina are the largest unengaged, unreached people group in Pakistan. They live predominantly in the northern part of the country called Gilgit-Baltistan. This region borders China, India, and Afghanistan. Gilgit-Baltistan is in the highly contested Kashmir region, one of the most militarized zones in the world. The Shina live in hard-to-reach and politically unstable areas. They are Muslim and follow the teachings of Islam. Praying five times a day, giving alms to the poor, fasting during Ramadan, sacrificing an animal once a year, and going on a pilgrimage to Mecca at least once in their lifetime are all areas of importance to the Shina.

## **PRAYER STARTERS**

God, please call out Pakistani believers and believers from other nations to go to the Shina...

Lord, grant the Shina access to the Good News in their own language...

Father, provide opportunities to reach Shina people in the major cities outside Gilgit-Baltistan...

WEEK 41

# *Tlahuitoltepec of Mexico*

That their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, to reach all the riches of full assurance of understanding and the knowledge of God's mystery, which is Christ.

COLOSSIANS 2:2

Oaxaca (wah-HAH-kah) is an ethnically diverse part of Mexico and is home to the Tlahuitoltepec Mixe (tlah-wee-tol-TAY-peck MEEKS-ay). Many speak only Mixe and not the national language of Spanish. A large number of their young people move away to find jobs, and their language is being lost. They are highly artistically inclined, both musically and in the skill of embroidery. Some would say that their textiles are their identity. Evangelical Christianity arrived in this area of Mexico decades ago but is vehemently opposed by those of the national religion. When the Mixe convert to evangelical Christianity, they are persecuted, losing their jobs, homes and land.

## PRAYER STARTERS

Father, please protect those who follow You in the face of hardships and persecutions...

From Your hands come all good things, Lord. May the Tlahuitoltepec people see You for who You really are and not as just another saint...

Please send brave and steadfast workers who will proclaim truth and light to these precious mountain people...



# Deaf of Sierra Leone

But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.

JOHN 4:23-24

The Deaf in Sierra Leone face much discrimination and a very difficult life. There are only three Deaf schools in the country, and two are in the capital city. International groups have come in and tried to help provide services for the Deaf, but little or nothing has been done to address spiritual needs among this population of 80,000. No Deaf churches are known to exist, and only recently has the conversion and baptism of a Deaf person who received the gospel from Deaf believers from Senegal been reported. Some churches do outreach to the Deaf, but it is through interpretation and often tied to the prosperity gospel cult.

## PRAYER STARTERS

Our God, inspire the few believers in Sierra Leone who seek to worship You in truth and share with others...

Jehovah Jireh, provide all that is needed for the Scripture project that will offer up to 300 Bible stories in the local sign language via video...

Everlasting Father, challenge Deaf believers in neighboring West African countries to reach out, evangelize, and plant churches...



**WEEK 43**

# *Buriat of China*

I was ready to be sought by those who did not ask for me; I was ready to be found by those who did not seek me. I said, “Here I am, here I am,” to a nation that was not called by my name.

**ISAIAH 65:1**

The Buriat live where China, Russia, and Mongolia meet, and they share many of the same customs and traits as the neighboring Mongols. Many practice shamanism and allow mediums to control interactions between them and the gods. In the 1500s, Buddhist missionaries traveled to this area and greatly influenced the people, resulting in a mixture of beliefs. Under Communism, many became atheists. Christian work has been successful among the Buriat, and evangelistic outreaches have resulted in numerous professions of faith. Unfortunately, a lack of Scripture or gospel recordings in their language has restricted their growth. They need a firm foundation based on God’s Word in order to grow his church.

## **PRAYER STARTERS**

Father God, we pray that more Buriat will hear You calling them in their own language and will lay down idols and traditions to follow You...

Thank You, Lord, for bringing salvation to many of the Buriat! May the joy they have found in You permeate their life...

God, provide resources for the Buriat in their heart language so they can grow in knowledge and obedience of Your Word...



**WEEK 44**

# *Thakkar of India*

And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.

**ACTS 4:12**

The 700,000 Thakkar people live predominantly in the Indian state of Maharashtra. They practice Hinduism and are considered to be high-caste Hindus. The Thakkar are well educated, and many have lucrative jobs in fields such as engineering, medicine, and entertainment. Their high caste status and education also affords them access to areas of leadership in Indian society. The Thakkar have Scripture in their language, the means to buy it, and the education to read it. The pleasures and pursuits of this life will not bring real and lasting hope to the Thakkar. They need to surrender their lives to the one true God.

## **PRAYER STARTERS**

Jesus, our Shepherd, draw the Thakkar to Yourself. May they find purpose and strength through a relationship with You...

Mighty God, raise up bold witnesses among the Thakkar...

Holy One, use the Thakkar for Your glory in India and beyond...



**WEEK 45**

# *Serbs of Bosnia and Herzegovina*

But I am afraid that as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your thoughts will be led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ.

**2 CORINTHIANS 11:3**

Many evangelicals in Bosnia and Herzegovina came to faith after the Bosnian War of the 1990s. Mission organizations came with both humanitarian aid as well as the gospel. However, most organizations focused on Bosnian Muslims and Bosnian Croats, as tensions were still high with the nation of Serbia. Therefore, the Serbs of Bosnia and Herzegovina are one of the least reached people in Europe, with less than 0.1% evangelical. There are an estimated 100 Bosnian Serb believers and two evangelical pastors in the Serbian part of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Most of the Serbians are culturally Orthodox and believe that they are saved through infant baptism. Evangelicals are ridiculed as being part of a cult because they believe in the Word of God over the word of a priest.

## **PRAYER STARTERS**

Lord, please send workers among these people. We pray for European believers to come alongside and share the Good News with them...

Father, we pray for the small churches in this country not only to survive, but also thrive as they suffer ridicule from their fellow countrymen...

Jesus, we pray for the children to come to faith and believe the gospel and become a mighty voice for You...





**WEEK 46**

## *Tajik of Uzbekistan*

...a wide door for effective work has opened to  
me, and there are many adversaries.

**1 CORINTHIANS 16:9**

Tajiks are an ancient Persian people inhabiting the same land since biblical times. During the period of the Soviet Union, Russia divided Central Asian peoples by redrawing borders. Now, at least 3 million Tajiks live in neighboring Uzbekistan. The Uzbekistan-Tajikistan border was closed for years, and Tajiks struggled to see family and friends in the neighboring country. The Uzbek government banned education in the Tajik language as well as spoken Tajik on the street. In the past several years, however, a new Uzbek president has brought reforms, including open border crossings. Now, Tajiks pass easily between countries. Believers who visited Uzbekistan in recent days found that even after years of persecution, the Tajik church in Uzbekistan has survived and grown.

### **PRAYER STARTERS**

Lord, we ask that believers faithfully take advantage of this open door for the advancement of the gospel...

Father, bless discipleship opportunities and raise up leaders among the Tajiks of Uzbekistan...

God, please strengthen marriages of Tajik believers so that they will reflect the gospel to a watching world...

WEEK 47

# Venezuelan Diaspora, Global

Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

JAMES 1:2-4

Faced with starvation, a total lack of medicines or medical supplies, and empty shelves in every store, over 4 million Venezuelans have fled their homeland in order to survive. Venezuelans have come to Christ in record numbers to the point that the country is no longer considered unreached. Many believers who have left the country are emigrating purposefully to places that are unreached and are planting churches where they land. The church in Venezuela continues to be strong and vibrant despite the heartbreaking hardships, and believers are reaching out to those who have remained with whatever physical assistance they can render. Most importantly, believers continue to share light and love with their hurting countrymen.

## PRAYER STARTERS

Father, please provide comfort and peace in the midst of great suffering for the Venezuelan people...

Encourage and strengthen those who have fled their homeland yet are taking the Good News to others who have never heard...

May Your blessings be bountiful to these suffering children of Yours, O Lord. May they find welcome and favor in foreign lands...

WEEK 48

# *Jerba of Tunisia*

By awesome deeds you answer us with righteousness, O God of our salvation, the hope of all the ends of the earth and of the farthest seas.

PSALM 65:5

Tunisia is a country in North Africa with a stretch of coastline along the Mediterranean Sea. On its far eastern border, you can find the edge of the Nafusa Mountains, a mountain range found mostly in northwest Libya. The people who live there are known as the Jerba of Tunisia. Numbering only 58,000, they are both ethnically and culturally Berber, and their primary language is Nafusi, named for the mountains from which they hail. Since the Arab conquest of North Africa over 1,300 years ago, the Jerba practice mostly Islam. Currently, there are no known efforts to reach out to the Jerba, and little is known about the status of believers.

## PRAYER STARTERS

Father God, send believers to Tunisia so the Jerba might hear the good news of Your saving power and...

Holy Spirit, soften their hearts and open their eyes that they may follow Jesus...

Lord, perfect love removes fear; embolden new believers to share what they have heard and gather together for worship...

**WEEK 49**

# *Manyika of Mozambique*

In that day man will look to his Maker, and his eyes will look on the Holy One of Israel.

**ISAIAH 17:7**

The Manyika people live in Mozambique and Zimbabwe and number more than 200,000. The Manyika language is related to the Shona language. The Manyika is the last unengaged, unreached people group (UUPG) of more than 100,000 in Mozambique. The Manyika people are warm and friendly. They grow their food and raise sheep, cattle, and goats. They are spiritual people, animistic at their core, and have been exposed to Catholicism, the Zionist church, and related traditional churches. Praise God that the Manyika people will not be unengaged and unreached for much longer. God has called a couple to come and engage the Manyika people!

## **PRAYER STARTERS**

Father, help the Manyika cut all ties with occult and animistic beliefs...

Lord, help this couple to learn language well so they can communicate with the Manyika about Your love for them...

Father, break the powers of darkness among the Manyika so that they will be able to hear and receive the gospel...



WEEK 50

# *Chinantec of Mexico*

For there is one God, and there is one mediator  
between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.

1 TIMOTHY 2:5

Another indigenous group living in the mountains of Oaxaca, Mexico, are the Chinantecs (chee-NAHN-tecks). They farm the rugged land with crops of corn, yams, cassava (yucca), and beans, and they raise cattle and pigs. Weaving cloth for clothing and baskets is a time-honored skill. They are simple people who live in the ways of people from a century ago, planting and harvesting without the aid of modern machinery. Their homes are often mud or log huts with thatched roofs. When asked, they will say that they are Roman Catholic, though they mix these beliefs with the worship of other spirits, especially those who will bring rain and good crops.

## PRAYER STARTERS

Lord God, show the Chinantecs that following You alone in pure worship is the desire of Your heart...

You have knit us together, Father, so that we might glorify You. Show Yourself in truth and strength to the Chinantecs...

May the peoples of Oaxaca come to salvation and share their faith with those around them...

A close-up photograph of a silver teapot pouring tea into a clear glass. The background is dark with a pattern of white circles. The text 'WEEK 51' is overlaid on a blue rectangular background in the top left corner.

WEEK 51

# *Deaf of Turkmenistan*

Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings,  
knowing that suffering produces endurance.

ROMANS 5:3

Over the past few years, workers have been able to train Deaf leaders from Turkmenistan in Scripture story translation, church planting, and leadership training. Since workers cannot go in country, these leaders have been trained elsewhere when they leave their country for the holidays. Life is difficult for the nearly 55,000 Deaf in Turkmenistan since they are often unemployed and discriminated against. Yet even with the oppression of the Muslim majority, the Deaf there are seeing people come to faith and become part of churches and new groups that are starting.

## PRAYER STARTERS

Holy Spirit, comfort Deaf leaders of Turkmenistan as they endure persecution and seek to demonstrate the love and power of God...

Bread of Life, bless the Scripture project that will soon begin focusing on providing up to 300 Scripture stories in Turkmen Sign Language...

Ancient of Days, help the handful of Deaf churches in Turkmenistan as they continue reaching out and sharing Christ...

# *Kabyle of Africa and Europe*

But just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, so we speak, not to please man, but to please God who tests our hearts.

**1 THESSALONIANS 2:4**

Kabyle Berbers are 10 million strong in their Algerian homeland, with another half a million in Europe. Pioneer efforts among this traditionally Muslim group began in the early 20th century and continued until Algeria won its independence from France mid-century. These faithful pioneers saw little positive response. In the late 20th century, these seeds of truth began to bear fruit. Kabyle believers in Europe started sharing through their heart language with Kabyles still living in Algeria. Those in the homeland began to respond positively to the Good News via various media. Consequently, they are no strangers to persecution. Even so, conservative estimates point to approximately 40,000 believers in the homeland.

## PRAYER STARTERS

Father, help Kabyle brothers and sisters to grasp the importance of being in community and under leadership. Use them to glorify You...

Lord, send out thousands of Kabyle believers to live and share among unreached cities and peoples...

Holy Spirit, protect Kabyle believers from false teaching and give them the endurance to persevere and pass down their faith...



# imb

*Every church. Every nation.*

---

[imb.org](http://imb.org)

For additional daily prayer requests visit  
[imb.org/pray](http://imb.org/pray), download the IMB Pray  
mobile app, and follow us on social media.



Unless otherwise noted, all Scripture references are taken from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version, copyright © 2001 by Crossway.