



20th
EDITION

Loving the Lost
PEOPLES AND PLACES
through prayer

Brothers and Sisters,

Thank you for choosing to faithfully pray for people who desperately need to hear the gospel. God is answering your prayers! Last year, Southern Baptist international missionaries reported that 592,408 people heard the gospel, 22,744 new churches were planted, and 93 new people groups and places were engaged with the gospel. We rejoice in what God has done.

Yet lostness continues to be the greatest problem in the world. According to our latest statistics, 157,690 people die daily without Christ. The Father has given us the solution for this problem: the gospel of Jesus Christ. And God chooses to use His people to take this gospel to lost people living in spiritually dark places. We can pray, give, go, and send, because God's grace allows us to be a part of His plan.

*So, let's pray together for the people represented on these pages. God's Word says, "This is good, and it pleases God our Savior, who wants everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth" (1 Timothy 2:3-4). Thank you for the time you will spend praying for these peoples and places this year. Your prayers will have a direct impact on our IMB vision — **a multitude from every nation, tribe, people, and language knowing and worshiping our Lord Jesus Christ** (Revelation 7:9).*



Dr. Paul Chitwood
IMB President



Dr. Todd Lafferty
IMB Executive Vice President

God answered your prayers!

Last year, we prayed together for the Yezidi Kurds of Iraq. They were an unreached people group in the 19th edition of *Loving the Lost*. **God heard your prayers and made a way for His church to form and grow among the Yezidi Kurds.** This year, their story is one of eight Gospel Transformation Stories in this booklet. God is transforming this lost people group. There are still 4.7 billion people who are considered unreached.



“How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching?” **Romans 10:14**

This Scripture reminds us that it is vital for us to pray for the lost because without hearing the Word of Christ and responding to Him in faith, they will spend eternity apart from God. Together, we seek to take the gospel to every nation, tribe, people and language. We give ourselves to this mission every day.

Will you pray with us for the unreached people groups in the 20th edition of *Loving the Lost*?

This prayer guide will lead you to pray for the lost in different regions of the world.



59% of the world today is considered **unreached** — meaning **4.7 billion people** have little or no knowledge of Jesus.



CENTRAL ASIA

SOUTH ASIA

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

ASIA-PACIFIC RIM

7,327

UNREACHED
PEOPLE GROUPS

Data and statistics provided by IMB Global Research and IMB's Annual Statistical Report based on 2021 data.

Deaf of Niger

POPULATION
246,000



Less than 2% of the Deaf community in Niger follow Christ. More than 15 years ago, several Deaf Nigeriens came to faith through the witness of Deaf and hearing workers. They have faithfully followed Christ over the years even without access to Scripture in their local sign language. Workers recently started a Bible translation project to reach the Deaf of Niger. Using these translated Bible stories, local believers can share Christ and disciple the Deaf people of Niger.

Let's pray 1 Chronicles 16:24 | *Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples!*

Sudra Das *of India*

POPULATION
884,000



The Sudra Das of India live in the northeast Indian state of Assam, a land of rolling hills, flowing rivers, thick forests, and beautiful tea gardens. They speak Bengali and practice Hinduism. Assam, India is filled with famous Hindu temples that are hundreds of years old. **A long Hindu heritage makes it hard for the Sudra Das to put their faith in Jesus Christ.**

Let's pray Acts 26:18 | *To open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.*

Shawiya *of France*

POPULATION
196,000



The Shawiya [sha-WEE-yah] of France are from the Berber group of Algeria. Many first-generation Shawiya immigrants find work in blue-collar jobs. Many second and third generation Shawiyas in France enjoy dual citizenship between France and Algeria. They have integrated into French culture and work life, receiving a French education and speaking the French language. They work as teachers, lawyers, doctors, and business owners. **They still strictly adhere to Sunni Islamic beliefs that they were taught as children.**

Let's pray **John 1:12** | *But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.*

Indigenous Peoples *of Northeastern Brazil*

POPULATION
2,500



*Gospel
Transformation
Story*

God opened a door among an Indigenous tribe in northeastern Brazil. Historically, their animistic and syncretistic beliefs kept them closed off to the gospel. Local believers started praying for this tribe and intentionally built relationships with their leaders. The tribal leaders gave them permission to teach a language class in the village and even welcomed outside medical professionals to serve the tribe. God continues to work in a Bible storying group that meets in a tribal leader's home. **We thank God for the transforming power of prayer.**

Let's pray Revelation 3:8 | *I know your works. Behold, I have set before you an open door, which no one is able to shut. I know that you have but little power, and yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name.*

Pashtun *of Central Asia*

POPULATION
53 million



The Pashtun are the largest tribal society in the world and the largest unreached people group in Central Asia. Most live in Afghanistan and Pakistan. They find their identity in Islam and a cultural code of loyalty, honor, and hospitality. Historically, the Pashtun haven't had much opportunity to meet a Christian or hear the gospel. But this is changing. **More Pashtun men and women scattered around the world have opportunities to meet Christians and hear the gospel.** And today, millions of them can read and listen to the gospel online.

Let's pray Acts 4:12 | *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.*

Suba of Tanzania

POPULATION
163,000



Less than 2% of the Suba of Tanzania are evangelical, and there is no intentional disciple-making effort among them. Most speak Luo, but a portion speak the Suba language. In November 2021, an IMB team met with Baptist believers among the Suba of Kenya to encourage them to take the gospel of Jesus Christ to their Suba relatives in Tanzania. A leader of one of the Baptist associations among the Suba of Kenya is researching the most effective way to do this.

Let's pray Deuteronomy 4:29 | *But from there you will seek the LORD your God and you will find him, if you search after him with all your heart and with all your soul.*

Bisaya of Malaysia

POPULATION
80,000



The Bisaya [bee-SIGH-ah], an Indigenous people group of Malaysia, live in western Sabah on the island of Borneo. They are often called “people of the river” or “people of the middle” because they live in the middle area of the Limbang River. They farm rice and vegetables. Homes are built several feet above ground and have multiple apartments for family members. Most Bisaya are Muslim, but some practice animism. Many believe that disease is caused by soul loss. **Most Bisaya have never had the opportunity to hear the gospel.**

Let's pray Psalm 107:9 | *For he satisfies the longing soul, and the hungry soul he fills with good things.*

Basque *of Spain*

POPULATION
2.2 million



*Gospel
Transformation
Story*

God is using His people to impact lostness. Between northern Spain and southern France, Basque [bask] Country is home to one of the oldest Indigenous people groups in Europe.

The Basque language, culture, and customs are distinct from the rest of Europe and a source of pride to the Basque people. Most celebrate pagan roots and embrace a postmodern worldview. Less than 1% profess faith in Christ. God loves the Basque people and by His grace, He used an IMB team to plant a church in the capital city, San Sebastian, in 2021. Since then, several Basque people have trusted in Christ. We thank God for His work.

Let's pray 1 Thessalonians 2:8 | *So, being affectionately desirous of you, we were ready to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you had become very dear to us.*

Laki of Iran

POPULATION
1.2 million



The Laki [LAH-kee] people live in western Iran and speak their own language, different from Farsi. They were once a nomadic people, but most Laki tribes have now settled into towns and cities. The Iranian government encourages Laki assimilation into the majority culture through compulsory education that's only available in Farsi. The Laki, however, still speak their own language at home. They practice Shia Islam, along with the majority population. **A few gospel recordings are available in the Laki language, and a handful of Laki in Iran have come to faith in Christ.**

Let's pray Romans 10:14 | *How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching?*

Moors of Northern Africa

POPULATION
3 million



The Moors are descendants of the Berbers in northern Africa. Arabs drove them towards the Sahara Desert, where they now reside in Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, and Niger. These nomadic people live as traders, merchants, shepherds, and farmers. Some Moors have relocated to the cities in search of a better life. Their cuisine, music, and art represent a fusion of past colonizers, the Arabs and the French. Many Moors practice folk Islam, which is traditional Sunni Islam combined with animistic practices. **Very few follow Jesus, even though the Bible is available in their language of Hassaniya Arabic.**

Let's pray **Isaiah 43:19** | *Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.*

Chikunda of Zimbabwe

POPULATION
225,000



Many Chikunda [chi-KUN-duh] believers gather in two Baptist churches in Zambia, but their Chikunda relatives in Zimbabwe remain unengaged and unreached with the gospel. Historically, Chikunda worked along the Zambezi Valley as enslaved soldiers to protect estates. Their name means "to conquer," and they hunted ivory and slaves. Today, their youth are interested in all things Western, and their traditions are rapidly dying out. **The New Testament is available in their language, and believers are currently working on translating the Old Testament into the Chikunda language.**

Let's pray **Isaiah 12:2** | *Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid; for the LORD GOD is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation.*

Deaf of Suriname

POPULATION
5,700



In Suriname, a small South American country, nearly half of the population identifies as Catholic. The Deaf community does not connect with the Catholic practice and teaching. There is one Deaf school in the country but little advocacy for Deaf people. **The Deaf of Suriname do not have Scripture in their language nor access to a clear gospel witness.** Workers plan to start a Bible translation project and church planting efforts among the Deaf of Suriname.

Let's pray Mark 13:10 | *And the gospel must first be proclaimed to all nations.*

Yaitepec Chatino *of Mexico*

POPULATION
5,900

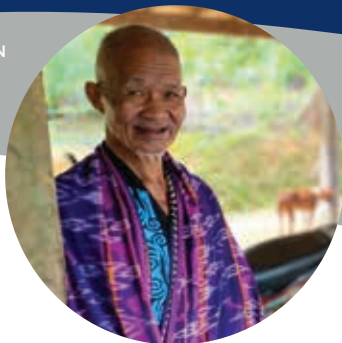


The Yaitepec Chatino [yai-tay-PEK; cha-TEE-no] live in the western highland area of Oaxaca, Mexico. They speak a Chatino dialect. They believe a story that claims Jesus's death is the cause of death in the world, which directly contradicts the gospel. **IMB missionaries trained believers from several indigenous language groups to tell stories from the Bible in their heart languages.** While two Chatino-speaking women received this training, it's unknown if the Chatino dialect of these women is the same as the Yaitepec Chatino.

Let's pray 2 Timothy 1:10 | *And which now has been manifested through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.*

Luwu *of Indonesia*

POPULATION
547,000



The Luwu people live in South Sulawesi, Indonesia. Most of them are agricultural farmers who live in villages on hills or plains. These villages are made up of extended family members all sharing one home. They are Sunni Muslims who value diligence, respecting elders, and putting family needs before individual needs. The Luwu strengthen family bonds by allowing friends and relatives to co-raise their children. **They have no evangelical church or Scripture in their language. The Luwu people need a witness to hear about faith in Jesus and how to be a part of God's family.**

Let's pray **John 1:12** | *But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.*

Ukrainian Refugees *in Israel*

POPULATION
13,500



*Gospel
Transformation
Story*

God is near to the suffering! A Ukrainian Jewish family in a desperate situation felt they had to escape war-torn Ukraine. When Israel invited Ukrainians to resettle in their ancient homeland, the family took the opportunity. Once in Israel, the religion and culture felt familiar, but everything else was different. The family was dazed from what they experienced, but God provided believers in Israel to help them. They assisted with food, lodging, and other necessities. **This Ukrainian family saw the love of Jesus in the believers' lives and decided to follow Jesus. We thank God for working through people.**

Let's pray Psalm 91:2 | *I will say to the LORD, "My refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust."*

Chhattisgarhi-speaking Badhai of India

POPULATION
844,000



The Chhattisgarhi-speaking Badhai live in the Indian state of Chhattisgarh and primarily practice Hinduism. Most Badhai are carpenters and wood carvers. They believe they are descendants of a Hindu carpenter deity who makes weapons and chariots for the gods. The Bible and gospel recordings are available in their language, but less than 2% of Chhattisgarhi-speaking Badhai know Jesus as their Savior. **There is no known evangelical influence or missionary presence trying to reach them.**

Let's pray **John 1:12-13** | *But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.*

Kwangali *of Namibia*

POPULATION
139,000



The Kwangali of Namibia live along the Kavango River, which is the country's most northern border. Worship is a significant part of their culture. They worship their ancestors, the gods of the river, and the god of their traditional healers, Nyambi. To the Kwangali, adding Jehovah God to these is easily done. They struggle to understand and believe that Jesus is the only way to approach the one true God, and He alone deserves their worship. **A few strong believers among a small neighboring people group have responded to God's call to take the message of only Jesus Christ to the Kwangali.**

Let's pray Colossians 2:8 | *See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ.*

Deaf of Uganda

POPULATION
403,000



Efforts are underway for workers and their local partners to translate Scripture into Ugandan Sign Language. **The local partners are excited to be a part of future outreach among Deaf Ugandans.** Groups of Deaf believers in hearing churches meet regularly for discipleship, but they are rarely trained to lead. These partners have opportunities to lead in evangelism and church planting among Deaf Ugandans.

Let's pray Matthew 24:14 | *And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.*

Rumelian Turks *of Greece*

POPULATION
154,000



Rumelia means “land of the Romans” and refers to the region of land now known as the Balkans. Rumelian Turks have lived in Greece since the 14th century when the Ottoman Empire conquered the land. While some Turks in Greece have migrated back to Turkey, Rumelian Turks can still be found in the mountain villages of northeast Greece. They cling to their Turkish identity and resist assimilation into Greek culture. They speak the Turkish language and hold to Sunni Islam. **Most have never heard the truth about Jesus and the saving power of the gospel.**

Let's pray 1 Timothy 2:1 | *First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people.*

French *of France*

POPULATION
55 million



Only 1% of French people profess to have a relationship with Jesus Christ which identifies them as one of the largest unreached people groups in the world. Many churches, cathedrals, and basilicas in France are protected by the government as historical monuments. Behind these breathtaking monuments are people who have a deep spiritual need. In this global center of art, science, and philosophy, the French pride themselves in their secular identity, confident that they have progressed beyond all that Christianity has to offer.

Let's pray 1 Corinthians 1:23-24 | *But we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.*

Barad *of India*

POPULATION
5,800



*Gospel
Transformation
Story*

God provided a bountiful harvest. For several years, believers prayed and labored among the Barad people. In 2021, God called a believing family to travel hours every Sunday to a village and share the gospel with the Barad. In 2022, they saw fruit as Barad turned from their idols and began following Christ. The gospel has already spread through these new Barad believers to other villages. **Now, more than 50 Barad people in four different villages gather weekly to worship and study God's Word. We thank God for moving among the Barad.**

Let's pray Isaiah 52:7 | *How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."*

Toku-no-shima *of Japan*

POPULATION
27,000



The Toku-no-shima are an Indigenous people group of Japan. They live on Tokuno Island, part of the Ryukyuan Islands in the East China Sea. **The Toku-no-shima are known for having both a high birth rate and many people who live beyond 100 years, yet they spend these years separated from God.** While they are considered Buddhist, shamanistic practices are evident as they worship many unseen gods, demons, and ancestral spirits. They strive to appease the spirits to avoid harm, and they seek the spirits for wisdom before making decisions.

Let's pray Psalm 71:18 | *So even to old age and gray hairs, O God, do not forsake me, until I proclaim your might to another generation, your power to all those to come.*

Hararghe Oromo *of Ethiopia*

POPULATION
6 million



The Hararghe Oromo [Ha-RAR-gay A-ROH-moh] can be found among Ethiopia's high mountain passes, desert valleys, fertile plains, and rocky hillsides. Most are poor and live far from education, basic health care, electricity, and running water. Some Hararghe Oromo are pastoralists who herd sheep, goats, cows, donkeys, and camels. They live in portable houses and travel to search for water and pasture for their animals. Others farm the same fields as previous generations before them and live in homes made of wood and mud. **They follow Islam and have little access to the gospel.**

Let's pray Zechariah 8:20 | *The inhabitants of one city shall go to another, saying, "Let us go at once to entreat the favor of the LORD and to seek the LORD of hosts; I myself am going."*

Albanians of North Macedonia

POPULATION
538,000



Albanians are the largest minority group in the Republic of North Macedonia. They are segregated from the majority population of Macedonians and speak Albanian, a co-official language in the country. Most Albanians prefer to attend schools in their language until university. Albanians and Macedonians also hold different religious beliefs. **Albanians follow folk Islam, a syncretistic form of the religion that merges Muslim tradition with belief in the power of religious customs.**

Let's pray John 14:6 | *Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."*

Northern Teke *of Gabon*

POPULATION
116,000



The name Teke means “to buy,” revealing their ancient occupation as traders. The economy of these traditional traders is based primarily on farming, but they are also skilled hunters and fishermen. A large family is valuable to the Teke because the head of the family gains prestige as the family grows. The Teke show strong beliefs in and practice of African traditional religion. In addition to venerating their ancestral spirits, they also follow a tribunal chief whose rule is supreme over the life and death of all family members. **These practices make turning away from their religious traditions extremely challenging for the Teke.**

Let's pray Acts 17:30 | *The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent.*

Deaf of Kyrgyzstan

POPULATION
61,000



Deaf people in Kyrgyzstan have no schooling in their local sign language, and most people are unemployed. In Kyrgyzstan, Islam is the dominant religion, which is closely tied to people's cultural identity and family loyalty.

There are no churches for the Deaf in Kyrgyzstan, no meaningful access to God's Word, and no gospel witness in their language.

Workers are exploring opportunities to minister among the Deaf and share the gospel with them in their heart sign language.

Let's pray Acts 13:47 | *For so the Lord has commanded us, saying, "I have made you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth."*

Northern Conchucos Ancash Quechua *of Peru*

POPULATION
115,000



The Northern Conchucos Ancash Quechua [cohn-CHOO-cohs, KETCH-whah] live and farm high in the Andes Mountains of Peru in difficult-to-reach areas. Their worship appears Catholic, but their worldview is influenced by their ancestors' animistic practices of maintaining balance in the spirit world for everyday needs. The people give offerings to spirits, hoping to receive favor and avoid curses. **While this group is largely unengaged and unreached, a church from the U.S. plans to work alongside a church in Lima, Peru, in evangelistic efforts among the Northern Conchucos Ancash Quechua.**

Let's pray Hebrews 12:28-29 | *Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, for our God is a consuming fire.*

Noorbasha *of India*

POPULATION
715,000



The Noorbasha people are a Muslim people group in southern India. They converted from Hinduism to Islam over the last few centuries. Traditionally, the Noorbasha have worked in trades related to cotton. The Bible, Jesus Film, and audio gospel recordings are available in Telugu, their language. **Some believers in southern India speak Telugu, yet the Noorbasha remain unengaged and unreached with the gospel.**

Let's pray Romans 10:13 | *For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."*

Peoples *of Remote Indonesia*

POPULATION
Over 1.3 million



*Gospel
Transformation
Story*

God is moving among people groups. For two decades believers faithfully shared the gospel among two unreached people groups in a remote corner of Indonesia. Together, these unreached people totaled more than 1.3 million. God answered, and a house church network developed among one of these people groups. Leaders from that group commissioned their local believers to go and share with the other people group. God also worked among this people group through an influential family who decided to follow Jesus after their son was miraculously healed. **The network of believers grew as God strengthened them amid persecution. By God's grace both people groups are no longer unreached.**

Let's pray **Habakkuk 2:14** | *For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.*

Russians *of Russia*

POPULATION
109.5 million



Russia is the largest country in Europe and stretches across 11 time zones. Russians practice diverse religions: Eastern Orthodox Christianity, Roman Catholicism, Buddhism, Islam, shamanism, and atheism. Less than 2% of Russians have a personal relationship with Jesus. **A recent study states that more Russians die every day without Christ than any other unreached people group in the world. Many die without ever hearing the name of Jesus.**

Let's pray Psalm 135:15-18 | *The idols of the nations are silver and gold, the work of human hands. They have mouths, but do not speak; they have eyes, but do not hear, nor is there any breath in their mouths. Those who make them become like them, so do all who trust in them.*

Kotokoli of Togo

POPULATION
340,000



The Kotokoli people of Togo are primarily farmers, and some are taxi and truck drivers. They are also known as sharp yet sometimes underhanded in business. A small percentage of this majority-Muslim people group have heard the gospel and now follow Jesus. **These believers face persecution and even death threats, but they are united in the desire to bring other Kotokoli to Christ and disciple new believers.**

Let's pray Acts 26:18 | *To open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.*

Afar of Eritrea

POPULATION
329,000



In Eritrea, church doors are sealed, and believers are persecuted. This country is considered closed to the gospel. **But for the past 18 years, believers have broadcasted God's Word in the Afar language across Eritrean borders into Muslim, Afar communities.** Nomads minding their herds of camels and goats, fishermen relaxing after a catch, and families sitting outside in the cool of the evening can listen to Scripture on their radios. They listen to worship songs, Bible stories, and prayers offered in the name of Jesus the Messiah.

Let's pray Isaiah 55:11 | *So shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it 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.*

The Hui of Yunnan Province, China

POPULATION
Over 4 million



The Hui [WHEY] are the largest and most widespread of China's Muslim people groups and the third largest minority group in China. For Hui people, Islam is a total way of life, not just a set of religious beliefs. Globally, only .0001% of them know Christ. The Hui are extremely hospitable and are known for their delicious cuisine. Though Mandarin Chinese is their heart language, the language they speak in mosques and read in the Quran is a mixture of Arabic and Persian. **Few people are intentionally planting their lives among the Hui in Yunnan to tell them of Christ.**

Let's pray 2 Corinthians 10:4 | *For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds.*

Deaf of West Africa

POPULATION
4.2 million



Gospel
Transformation
Story

The gospel is God's solution to lostness. Abdu is a young Deaf man who lives in West Africa. Many in his family and village are also Deaf. Before coming to know Christ, he performed daily religious practices of kneeling, chanting, and praying. But this routine made no difference in Abdu's life. Despite his own efforts, he continued to live a tumultuous life. Then God led a Deaf believer to share the gospel with Abdu. When he trusted in Christ, his life completely changed. **Despite threats from his family and neighbors, Abdu wants to share the life-changing power of Jesus Christ with every Deaf person in his country.** We thank God for Abdu.

Let's pray **2 Corinthians 5:17-18** | *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation.*

Khakas *of Russia*

POPULATION
73,000



The Khakas of Russia, from the Republic of Khakassia, are an Indigenous people in southeastern Siberia. Many make their livings through cattle and small-scale agriculture, as their ancestors did before them. Historically, the Khakas people practiced shamanism and were also influenced by Eastern Orthodoxy. **Today, many identify as Christians, but they continue to practice shamanism.**

Let's pray John 17:3 | *And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.*

Suruwahá *of Brazil*

POPULATION
150-200



The Suruwahá [soo-roo-wah-HAH] are an Indigenous group in the Amazon jungle of Brazil. They are difficult to access due to their remote location and government restrictions that prevent Indigenous peoples from changing their cultural identity. The Suruwahá live along rivers and creeks, where they farm bananas, manioc, and sugarcane. For large portions of the year, they live in a common hut, ruled by the man who built the hut. **Only 150-200 Suruwahá remain, so time is of the essence to reach them with the gospel.**

Let's pray **Isaiah 45:23** | *By myself I have sworn; from my mouth has gone out in righteousness a word that shall not return: "To me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear allegiance."*

Southern Nuna *of Burkina Faso*

POPULATION
316,000



*Gospel
Transformation
Story*

God's Word transforms lives. Randy, a Baptist pastor from the Lyélé people of Burkina Faso, joined a Bible storying training. Being shy and the youngest in the room, Randy looked down at his shoes as he practiced telling Bible stories to the training group. Over time, he gained experience and confidence. He even shared the gospel cross-culturally with the Southern Nuna, a nearby people group, and saw God's Word impact those who accepted Christ. **Today, Randy is a master Bible storying trainer. He trains local churches to use Bible stories in evangelism and discipleship. We thank God for His transformative Word.**

Let's pray 1 Peter 5:5 | *Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders. Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."*

Assamese-speaking Namasudra *of India*

POPULATION
831,000



The Assamese-speaking Namasudra often fish and work on boats along the extensive river systems of northeast India. They practice Hinduism and worship countless idols, hoping for a better life for their children. **They are of low social rank, and there is no known evangelical influence or missionary presence trying to reach them with the good news of Jesus Christ.**

Let's pray **Colossians 1:5-6** | *Because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. Of this you have heard before in the word of the truth, the gospel, which has come to you, as indeed in the whole world it is bearing fruit and increasing—as it also does among you, since the day you heard it and understood the grace of God in truth.*

Tai Khun *of Myanmar*

POPULATION
100,000



The Tai Khun people live in northeast Myanmar (formerly Burma) and have a deep-rooted culture of self-determination. They are mainly Theravada Buddhists. They seek to daily appease what they believe to be the spirit of the land and annually worship their ancestors. A small number of Tai Kuhn have become believers. One Tai Khun pastor said that in the past, Buddhist monks mocked them and asked why, if God was so great, was there not a Bible in their language. **Now there is one, and the monks have requested numerous copies and are studying it intently.**

Let's pray Hebrews 4:12 | *For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.*

Kazakhs of Uzbekistan

POPULATION
1 million



The Kazakhs are the third largest people group in Uzbekistan. Their first language is Kazakh, but they primarily communicate with those around them in Russian, rather than in Uzbek. This creates a language barrier for believers in the Uzbek church who want to reach out. Meanwhile, the Russian church in Uzbekistan struggles to effectively engage with Kazakhs because of cultural barriers. **Praise the Lord for reports that Kazakhs have shown interest in the gospel. Some have even received copies of the Scripture in their own language.**

Let's pray **Ephesians 1:7-8** | *In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight.*

Italians *of Italy*

POPULATION
53 million



Walking through the streets of Italy, you can find a Roman Catholic church in every city and village. Evidence of Catholicism is everywhere. Numerous Madonna statues are around town, and every school classroom has a crucifix of Jesus hanging on the wall. Even though 80% of Italians identify as Roman Catholic, most only attend church for holidays and special occasions like christenings, weddings, and funerals.

Despite deep church history and Christian traditions, less than 1% of Italians of Italy know Jesus Christ as their Savior.

Let's pray Hosea 6:6 | *For I desire steadfast love and not sacrifice, the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings.*

Jews of Australia

POPULATION
117,000



Most Jewish people living in Australia practice Judaism and work to preserve Jewish identity in a society shaped by secularism. They maintain a working relationship with the government and seek protection from anti-Semitism and terrorism. **They desperately need Jesus but are suspicious of outsiders, so it's difficult for believers to reach them with the gospel.**

Let's pray **Isaiah 55:6** | *Seek the LORD while he may be found; call upon him while he is near.*

Sutradhar *of India*

POPULATION
859,000



The Sutradhar are a Bengali-speaking people group who live primarily in the Indian state of West Bengal. Many of them are involved in the woodworking trade. Like most people in India, the Sutradhar practice Hinduism and worship idols made by human hands. **The Bible and evangelistic materials are available in the heart language of the Sutradhar, yet there are few known believers among them.**

Let's pray Matthew 9:37-38 | *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."*

Cañamomo *of Colombia*

POPULATION
25,500



The Cañamomo [cah-nyah-MOH-moh] are an Indigenous group who work seasonally in Eje Cafetero, the coffee-growing region of central Colombia. The main cities in this popular tourist region are Pereira, Manizales, and Armenia. Although the Cañamomo have lost their native language, they retain their indigenous lifestyle and animistic beliefs. Because they now speak Spanish as their main language, they have access to the Bible and recordings of Scripture. **But they are unchurched and have no missionary presence among them.**

Let's pray John 4:23 | *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.*

Andic of Russia

POPULATION
47,000



The Andic peoples represent several people groups who speak different dialects. They live in Dagestan, a republic of Russia. They raise livestock, barter goods, and farm using the terraced method. Andic communities follow Sunni Islam and the traditional leadership of the village elders. Students speak Russian in school but speak their native Andic dialect at home. They also often speak a version of Avar to communicate with other villages in their larger ethnic group. **Bible translation projects have started with the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13), which is available in some Andic dialects.**

Let's pray 1 Timothy 2:5 | *For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.*

Upper Ta-Oy *of Vietnam*

POPULATION
24,000



The Upper Ta-Oy, also known as the Kantua, are a minority group in the mountain regions of central Vietnam. Most Ta-Oy are farmers. They are also skilled at hunting and taming elephants, making them wealthier than other people groups in the mountains. Ta-Oy villages usually have a few houses that are built on stilts. Several families live in each house. Most villagers love to sing, and music plays a big part of their daily lives. Many Ta-Oy have been affected by war and need healing. They seek help from spirits that cannot offer them the healing they need.

Let's pray Jeremiah 17:14 | *Heal me, O LORD, and I shall be healed; save me, and I shall be saved, for you are my praise.*

Hindi-speaking Jain *of India*

POPULATION
1 million



Jain comes from the Sanskrit word meaning "to conquer." To achieve divine consciousness and freedom, they work to conquer all human passion and live a life of radical non-violence towards all living things. Many Jain monks and nuns wear cloth masks on their faces and sweep the ground in front of them to avoid ingesting or stepping on any creatures. **Jains are some of the most literate people in India, and the Bible is available in their language, but there is no known church or missionary among them trying to teach and disciple them from God's Word.**

Let's pray **Ephesians 2:8-9** | *For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.*

Lebanese Sunni Arabs

POPULATION
1.5 million



Lebanese Sunni Arab Muslims live mostly in the north of Lebanon and along the coastal cities of Beirut, Sidon, and Tripoli. Daily life is hard for them because there is much poverty. Due to a massive explosion in Beirut's port, many Lebanese Sunni Arabs were injured, some died, and homes were destroyed. They have rebuilt their homes near the explosion site, and some still live in the ruins of the blast. Out of desperation many have resorted to crime. **They follow Islam and struggle to rebuild their lives to find a peace that can only be found through faith in Jesus.**

Let's pray John 16:33 | *I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.*

Chimila *of Colombia*

POPULATION
1,600



The Chimila [chee-MEE-lah] live among several other people groups in the Sierra Nevada area of northern Colombia. They believe themselves to be caretakers of the environment and big brothers to many in the world around them. Community leaders are called mamo, who are effectively shamans. The Chimila persecute believers and anyone who doesn't follow the mamo. **While there are scattered believers, there is not a strong church among this people group.**

Let's pray **2 Corinthians 12:10** | *For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.*

Yezidi Kurds *of Iraq*

POPULATION
200,000



*Gospel
Transformation
Story*

God hears our prayers. In last year's Loving the Lost prayer guide, we highlighted the Yezidi Kurds of Iraq. This minority people group has suffered much throughout their history including genocide. Most recently, Yezidi Kurds experienced atrocities under ISIS. Christians learned about this people group and started praying for the Yezidi Kurds. The Lord used fervent prayers to send a gospel presence to multiple Yezidi locations. **Now, a group of Yezidi believers gathers as a new church in a town that suffered under ISIS. We thank God for these believers.**

Let's pray Psalm 113:7 | *He raises the poor from the dust and lifts the needy from the ash heap.*

Deaf of Cuba

POPULATION
109,000



Some hearing churches in Cuba have Deaf ministries, but workers and partners aim to begin a church-planting model for self-sustaining Deaf churches led by Deaf pastors. Partners recently began translating Scripture into Cuban Sign Language, and they anticipate new opportunities with this Scripture translation project. **They pray it will provide an opportunity to partner with local Baptists to plant Deaf churches in Cuba.**

Let's pray Revelation 14:6 | *Then I saw another angel flying directly overhead, with an eternal gospel to proclaim to those who dwell on earth, to every nation and tribe and language and people.*

Bambara of Senegal

POPULATION
91,000



Originally from Mali, the Bambara of Senegal live across the country in villages where they maintain their Malian language and culture. In the cities, many of the beggars are Bambara people. **Reaching out to many of the Bambara of Senegal, especially the women, is challenging because many of them prefer to surround themselves with others from their people group.**

Let's pray Matthew 5:6 | *Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.*

Join thousands in praying for the lost around the world and for the missionaries among them.



A Voice for the Nations

59% of the world
has no meaningful
access to the gospel.

Together, we can change this, and it starts with prayer. People like Rosita, Ali, and Minna need your prayers. We created an online prayer course that can help you and your church deepen your practice of prayer and learn how to pray effectively for the lost. It's called A Voice for the Nations.

What will it take to reach the world's remaining people groups who have little to no access to the gospel? It will take all of us, every Southern Baptist working together to cover every people group in prayer.



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for the least reached.**

Download the IMB Pray app.

Images and names are representative of people around the world.



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REVELATION 7:9

“After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb...”

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