

21ST EDITION



**LOVING THE LOST  
THROUGH PRAYER**

*A Prayer Guide for 52 People Groups*

**59% OF THE WORLD  
HAS NO MEANINGFUL  
ACCESS TO THE GOSPEL.**

Let's pray together for the lost and the 52  
people groups represented in this booklet.

**GOD WORKS THROUGH YOUR  
PRAYERS TO IMPACT LOSTNESS.**



## DEAR PRAYER SUPPORTERS,

We are increasingly burdened to multiply existing prayer efforts and lead the next generation to pray for lostness around the world.

As you read and pray through *Loving the Lost*, notice the new crafts, discussion starters, and recipes from around the world – all designed to help engage a broader audience, including the next generation, in praying for the lost.

As always, this prayer guide will equip you with statistics, stories, and photos of some of the least reached people groups in the world.

Many live in extremely difficult-to-reach places, where we can't photograph them. But we can still pray. God knows the names and faces of each soul we lift before Him.

May He be glorified as He uses the prayers of His people in the advance of His kingdom.

### The IMB Prayer Office

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Share with your friends, family, Bible study class, congregation, and small group.

- PowerPoint slides featuring the people groups in this guide.
- Videos highlighting lostness in different areas around the world and ways you can pray.
- IMB Pray app, and more!



IMB.ORG/  
LOVINGTHELOST

The dots on this map show general locations for people groups in this book. Find their prayer page using the corresponding numbers.



Unreached People Groups (UPGs) - population is less than 2% evangelical

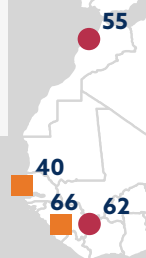


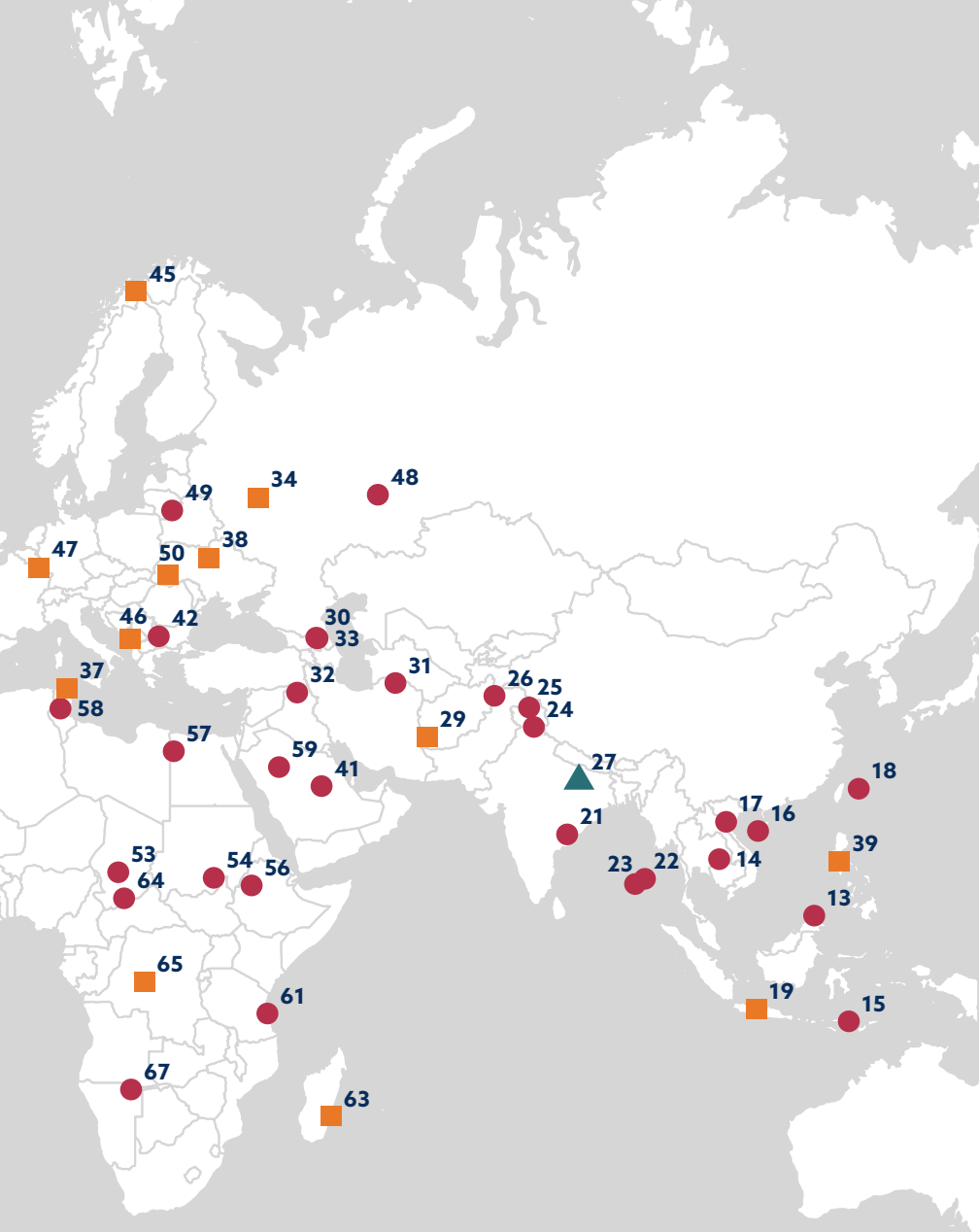
Unengaged Unreached People Groups (UUPGs)



No Longer Unreached (at least 2% evangelical)

More information available at [peoplegroups.org](http://peoplegroups.org).





In this book, you will notice photos in silhouette. Due to hostility to the gospel and missions in many areas of the world, we cannot show faces or reveal exact locations. May we remain faithful to pray.



# AMERICAN PEOPLES

*Fast Facts*

THE POPULATION  
**930 MILLION**

**1,318**  
PEOPLE GROUPS

**20,000**  
souls enter a  
Christless eternity  
every day.

**226**  
people groups are  
still unengaged  
with the gospel.

About **90** people groups are living in  
the Amazon jungle and have no contact  
with the outside world.



## Zoé of Brazil

*“Consecrate yourselves, therefore, and be holy, for I am the Lord your God. Keep my statutes and do them; I am the Lord who sanctifies you.” Leviticus 20:7-8*

Deep within the Amazon rainforest in northern Brazil live around 400 Zoé people. They are a polygamous society; both women and men are allowed multiple spouses. The Zoé are avid hunters and fishermen. They wear a long wooden plug through their pierced bottom lip, which they receive as early as age seven. Their animistic religion is deeply intertwined with their ethnic identity. Leaving their religion is seen as abandoning their tribe. **This extremely isolated people group has no believers among them, no access to the gospel, and no missionaries engaging them.**

### LET'S PRAY

Ask God to open doors for someone to take the gospel to the Zoé people. Pray that they respond in faith.

### DISCUSSION STARTER

If God opened the door for you to be a missionary among the Zoé people, what gifts and qualities do you have that He might use as you share the gospel with them? What might you need to learn?



## Mandahuaca of Brazil and Venezuela

*“Behold, the eye of the LORD is on those who fear him, on those who hope in his steadfast love, that he may deliver their soul from death and keep them alive in famine.” Psalm 33:18-19*

The Mandahuaca live in small villages along the Amazon River in southern Venezuela and northeastern Brazil. Most work as subsistence farmers to produce enough food for their families. Like other groups along the Amazon, they are plagued with alcoholism. Many Mandahuaca mix Catholicism with tribal beliefs, confusing the truth of the gospel with folk religion. **They believe that salvation stems from their ethnic and cultural identity, not from the one true God.** Some Mandahuaca are reported to be evangelical believers, but no one is engaging the people group as a whole with the gospel.

### LET'S PRAY

Father, help the Mandahuaca see that salvation comes not from their cultural identity but by faith in Christ.

### RECIPE

#### **Perico (Venezuelan scrambled eggs)**

Try scrambling eggs with sautéed peppers and onions, plus cream. Top them with diced tomatoes and enjoy!







## Marubo of Brazil

*“When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: ‘Death is swallowed up in victory.’ ‘O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?’” 1 Corinthians 15:54-55*

The Marubo live under the canopy of the Amazon rainforest. They lived off the land in hidden communities for centuries before missionaries made contact with them in the 1950s. Even after decades of contact with missionaries, only a few Marubo people have embraced Jesus Christ as their Savior. **The rest are still trapped in lostness and enslaved by fear, performing rituals to appease spirits.**

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### LET'S PRAY

Lord, please turn an unhealthy fear of demons into a healthy reverence for You who created the Marubo.

### ACTIVITY

Draw a person under a bare tree on paper. Cut out leaves and write fears on them. Glue leaves to the tree, overwhelming the person. Cut out a cross and glue it over the tree. God covers us and is stronger than our fears!

# Northern Conchucos Ancash Quechua of Peru

*“Your righteousness is like the mountains of God; your judgments are like the great deep; man and beast you save, O LORD.”*

*Psalm 36:6*

The Northern Conchucos Ancash Quechua are surrounded by towering white-capped mountains in the center of the Peruvian Andes. This natural barrier of majestic peaks separates the Northern Conchucos from gospel-saturated areas of Peru. Their isolation, as well as the extreme altitudes and frigid temperatures, make it difficult for missionaries to establish a long-term presence. While there are some believers among the Northern Conchucos Ancash Quechua, most are scattered among different villages with few healthy churches. **Unless something changes, this people group will remain lost, combining Catholicism and ancient animistic practices.**



## LET'S PRAY

Pray the mighty mountains will not be barriers to the gospel for the Northern Conchucos Quechua.

## ACTIVITY

Make a picture of where the Northern Conchucos Quechua people live. Ask God to use the beauty of His creation to draw them to Himself.





## Yanacona of Colombia

*“All the earth worships you and sings praises to you; they sing praises to your name.” Psalm 66:4*

The Yanacona live in the dry mountainous areas of southern Colombia. The Yanacona come together in *mingas*, communal work projects followed by shared meals. They remember and pass down their heritage through stories told in narrative poetry. Although they have lost their indigenous Quechua language and now speak Spanish, the Yanacona have kept their religious traditions. **The Yanacona worship the earth and sun and follow spiritual leaders called *paigés*.** The Yanacona have also incorporated elements of Roman Catholicism into their religious practices. No evangelical church or missionary is nearby to share the gospel with them.

### LET'S PRAY

Pray that the Yanacona hunger and thirst to know and worship the only true God.

### DISCUSSION STARTER

As you pray for the Yanacona people, think about how Christians might be able to use narrative poetry to share the gospel and stories of Jesus in a way that is familiar to the Yanacona. Then give it a try!



## A GOSPEL TRANSFORMATION STORY

# Indigenous Peoples of Northeastern Brazil

*“Those who sow in tears shall reap with shouts of joy! He who goes out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, bringing his sheaves with him.” Psalm 126:5-6*

In last year's *Loving the Lost*, we celebrated that God opened a door to minister among an Indigenous tribe in northeastern Brazil that had been closed to the gospel. After several months of researching this tribe, praying for them, and building relationships with them, missionaries identified a receptive village that allowed them to share Bible stories in a weekly study. Several families in the village attended and heard the gospel. When the missionaries invited people to turn from sin and put their faith completely in Jesus, four women and two men repented and confessed Jesus as Lord. We praise God for saving these people – the first believers in their tribe!

### LET'S PRAY

Father, may these new believers be strong in their faith and obedient in the face of persecution.

*“Jesus answered him,  
‘Truly, truly, I say to you,  
unless one is born again  
he cannot see the kingdom  
of God.’”*

JOHN 3:3

# ASIAN PACIFIC RIM PEOPLES



*Fast Facts*

THE POPULATION  
**2.3 BILLION**

**3,358**

PEOPLE GROUPS

**46,000**

souls enter a  
Christless eternity  
every day.

**473**

people groups are  
still unengaged  
with the gospel.

Most among these people are Muslim  
and Buddhist. The largest group  
follows ethnic religions.



## Bangi of Malaysia

*“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.”*

*2 Corinthians 5:17*

The Bangigi of Malaysia live in Sabah, in the northeast corner of Borneo. Historically, they were infamous slave traders, warriors, and pirates. Today, they work in business, farming, and fishing. The Bangigi were the first in Malaysia to embrace Islam, which they still follow today. **They also fear spirits of the dead who they believe are at work in the world.** One month every year, the Bangigi offer prayers to these spirits. Though gospel materials are available, there are no known believers among them.

### LET'S PRAY

Pray that the Bangigi people will be unshackled from traditions in their past. Pray they embrace the God who makes all things new.

### ACTIVITY

Write a letter to a Bangigi person. How would you share the gospel with them? Ask God to help you be brave and show you someone who needs to hear the good news!

# Kui of Thailand

*“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.” Isaiah 43:19*



The Kui of Thailand are known for raising elephants and weaving silk. A minority group in Thailand, they have been mistreated and ignored for years. They have recently experienced a revival of their culture and language, and they promote their culture online. But they need a spiritual revival. During the 1990s, a church began to thrive within the Kui community. Unfortunately, the church’s influence waned in the 2000s. **Now, the people continue in their traditional worship of spirits they believe will heal or bless them, trying to do enough good to outweigh their sins.**

## LET’S PRAY

Pray that Christians will engage the Kui creatively online.

## ACTIVITY

If you use social media, ask God for opportunities to share the gospel through this means.







## Sikka of Indonesia

*“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.” Hebrews 4:12*

The Sikka of Indonesia live on the island of Flores. They primarily follow Roman Catholicism, but people in rural areas also worship their ancestors, as generations before them have done. The Sikka farm, fish, and raise livestock. They also support themselves through weaving and braiding. **Most Sikka strive to do enough good works to get into heaven.** Most do not read the Bible or have a personal relationship with Jesus.

### LET'S PRAY

Pray that God's Word will penetrate Sikka hearts and transform their lives.

### DISCUSSION STARTER

The island where the Sikka live is called Flores, which means “flowers.” It is home to the world's largest flower, called the corpse flower because of its rotting stench. Pray that, unlike this flower that smells like death, believers will be the aroma of Christ among the Sikka people.

# Ha Li of China

*“God looks down from heaven on the children of man to see if there are any who understand, who seek after God.” Psalm 53:2*

The Ha Li are the largest unreached people group on Hainan Island. They believe a god, Pa-Thung, dwells in a hidden domain and sends spirits to safeguard their villages. **Whenever they face afflictions that they believe are caused by spirits, the villagers hire priests to pray to Pa-Thung.** Most Ha Li have not heard of the omnipresent God who sees them, knows them, and loves them. Lack of deep biblical understanding leaves the few Ha Li believers vulnerable to heresy and cultic practices.



## LET'S PRAY

Pray that the Ha Li will study God's Word, discern truth, and worship Him in spirit and in truth.

## RECIPE

### *Qing Bu Liang* (cold dessert soup)

Add any of these toppings to 1 cup coconut milk: chopped fruit (watermelon, coconut meat, pineapple), corn, barley, pasta, nuts, and red beans. In the summer, you can freeze the coconut milk first until it is slushy, then add toppings.



## Tai Khang of Laos

*“Fear not, nor be afraid; have I not told you from of old and declared it? And you are my witnesses! Is there a God besides me? There is no Rock; I know not any.” Isaiah 44:8*

The Tai Khang live scattered throughout northwestern Laos. Bright red dyes decorate their traditional dress. Most Tai Khang work in agriculture and farm rice. They have no known believers among them or gospel materials in their language. They have not heard of the God who loves and blesses His children. **Instead, they follow Buddhism and ancient Chinese folk religions, seeking harmony and good luck by worshiping the spirits and false gods they fear.**

### LET'S PRAY

Pray for believers to go to the Tai Khang and share the gospel so that they may be delivered from bondage and fear.

### ACTIVITY

Wear something red. Let it remind you of the Tai Khang and the red in their traditional clothes. Pray that the color red will be especially meaningful for them as they learn about the One who shed His blood so that they might be saved.

# Yaeyama of Japan

*“Sing to the LORD a new song, his praise from the end of the earth, you who go down to the sea, and all that fills it, the coastlands and their inhabitants.” Isaiah 42:10*



The Yaeyama people live on a series of islands southwest of mainland Japan. Their unique culture and language developed over years of isolation and independence. The Yaeyama are mostly farmers, and whole families often work their fields together. Yaeyama people are seldom seen alone, whether working or enjoying free time. **They believe that unseen gods, called *kami*, control many areas of life and must be consulted before making decisions.** Most Yaeyama have not heard about the power of Jesus Christ that can set them free from sin and demons.

## LET'S PRAY

Pray for the gospel to sweep across the Yaeyama Islands, crossing all barriers to reach every village, home, and heart.

## DISCUSSION STARTER

In your neighborhood or local shopping area, how many multigenerational families do you notice out? How would things be different in your life if your whole family went everywhere you went like in the Yaeyama culture?



## A GOSPEL TRANSFORMATION STORY

### Pesisir Lor of Indonesia

*“And rend your hearts and not your garments.’ Return to the LORD your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and he relents over disaster.” Joel 2:13*

Yolanda comes from an unreached people group – the Pesisir Lor in Indonesia. She heard the gospel, embraced faith in Jesus, and regularly attended church. But after a series of tragedies, she abandoned God. One day, she heard a believer proclaiming the gospel in a park and was captivated, once again, by the message. Yolanda returned to her home village and began spreading the gospel. A house church started, and her own family came to faith. We thank God for sustaining Yolanda as she faithfully persists in bringing the gospel to the Pesisir Lor people, despite enduring persecution.

#### LET’S PRAY

Pray for the many new believers to trust and obey God and to start more groups among the Pesisir Lor of Indonesia.



# SOUTH ASIAN PEOPLES

*Fast Facts*

THE POPULATION

**2 BILLION**

**2,672**

PEOPLE GROUPS

**43,000**

souls enter a  
Christless eternity  
every day.

**1,013**

people groups are  
still unengaged  
with the gospel.

Almost **1/3** of the world's Muslim  
population lives in South Asia.



## Bondo of India

*“But whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.” John 4:14*

The Bondo people live in the hills of Odisha, in eastern India. This isolated tribe faces malnutrition, unclean water, lack of medical care, and excessive consumption of their home-brewed alcohol. Illiteracy is high among the Bondo, which limits their access to education and jobs for income. They mix animism into their Hindu rituals.

**The Bondo live in darkness, separated from God, with little to no access to the good news.**

### LET'S PRAY

Pray for the Bondo of India to hear the good news, believe, and be transformed to live in the light of the gospel.

### ACTIVITY

Add drops of food coloring to a glass of water, representing contaminants in India: industrial pollution, agricultural runoff, untreated wastewater, and garbage. Many Bondo lack clean water. Pray that the promise in John 4:14 of living water resonates with them and draws them to Jesus.





## Jarawas of India

*“I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak...” Ezekiel 34:16a*

The Jarawas live on the Andaman Islands, between mainland India and Myanmar. World news raises concerns that this group of 275 people who have inhabited the Andamans for thousands of years may become extinct. Their biggest problem is lack of access to the gospel. Jarawas are animistic, believing that spirits must be worshiped and appeased. There are no believers or missionaries among them, and they don't have any Scripture or gospel resources in their language.

### LET'S PRAY

Ask the Lord to make a way for the Jarawas to hear and receive the good news. Thank Him for the hope of the promise that people from every nation, tribe, people, and language will one day be before His throne.

### DISCUSSION STARTER

What does Matthew 18:10-14 tell us about how much Jesus cares about people as individuals? How do you think this message might bring hope to the Jarawas?



# Sentinelese of India

*“And he said to them, ‘Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation.’”*

*Mark 16:15*



The Sentinelese live on North Sentinel Island in the Indian Ocean. They are a small tribal group of hunters and gatherers living primitively in extreme isolation. Their exact population, religious beliefs, and language are unknown because they have historically been violent toward outsiders such as anthropologists and missionaries who have tried to approach them. **There are no known gospel resources in their language and no clear way to reach them as traveling to their island is illegal.**

## LET'S PRAY

Pray that, although travel to their island is prohibited, God will make a way for these isolated people to hear and respond to the good news of Jesus Christ.

## RECIPE

Share a meal of only whole, fresh foods with friends. Choose a meat, vegetable, and fruit. Add seeds and nuts. Eat on the floor out of a common dish, as many hunter-gatherers do. Think of the time, energy, and skill the Sentinelese need to prepare their meals. How might Christian outsiders have to adapt their style of living if they want to share the gospel with the Sentinelese?



## Malaneese of India

*“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.’” Isaiah 52:7*

The Malaneese are a Hindu people group living in the hills of northern India. The Bible is not available in their language, Kanashi. Instead of the Creator God, the Malaneese worship idols that they carve from stone, wood, clay, or even dung. **They seek help and hope from man-made items that cannot hear, love, or save them.** The Malaneese are accessible, but we know of no one who is actively sharing the gospel with them.

### LET'S PRAY

Lord, thank you that the Malaneese people of India are accessible. Please raise up people to go and share the good news among them!

### ACTIVITY

Worshiping an idol may seem hard to understand. If we are honest, many of us have placed our faith in things other than God, such as money or relationships. Ask God to reveal any idols in your life and give those things to Him. Pray that He will also deliver the Malaneese people from their idols.

# Dokhpa of India

*“Yet we know that a person is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, so we also have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the law, because by works of the law no one will be justified.” Galatians 2:16*



The Dokhpa practice Tibetan Buddhism, following the teachings of Buddha and revering the Dalai Lama. Living in the mountains of northern India, **the Dokhpa are surrounded by natural beauty but still live in darkness, hoping their works will one day release them from the cycle of reincarnation.**

Scripture resources are available in their language, and believers from similar backgrounds live near them. But no one that we know of is actively sharing the gospel among the Dokhpa.

## LET'S PRAY

Thank the Lord for the natural beauty surrounding the Dokhpa of India. Thank Him that there are believers nearby and Scripture resources available to them. Pray that God will use these things to draw them to Himself.



## ACTIVITY

Take a walk in nature and meditate on the beautiful things God made to draw us closer to our Creator. Pray that the Dokhpa will be restored to the Father.



## Yidgha of Pakistan

*“Brothers, my heart’s desire and prayer to God for them is that they may be saved.” Romans 10:1*

The Yidgha people live in northern Pakistan, close to the Indian border. They live remotely with a lifestyle focused on agriculture and livestock. The Yidgha practice a form of Islam called Shia Imami Ismaili. They speak Yidgha, and only a very small percentage of the people are literate. Gospel recordings, but not the whole Bible, are available in their language. There are no known consistent efforts to reach them with the good news.

**They perform their daily religious rituals, hoping that their works might be enough to let them into heaven.**

### LET’S PRAY

We know that no amount of good works will ever justify us before God.

Thank Him for sending His Son so that the law can be fulfilled. Ask God to raise up believers who will go to the Yidgha and share the gospel with them.

### ACTIVITY

Add food coloring (sin) to a half-glass of water (your heart). Add more water (good deeds). Does more water make the color disappear? Good deeds cannot erase our sins. We need Jesus to give us new hearts. Pray that the Yidgha will receive the gospel so that their hearts will be made new.



## A GOSPEL TRANSFORMATION STORY

### Bhojpuri-speaking Yadava of India

*“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.” John 1:12-13*

God has raised up laborers to pray strategically for the Bhojpuri-speaking Yadava of India. This group of over 8 million people practice Hinduism. They bow to idols made by human hands and live in hopelessness and fear. Over the last few years, God sent believers to share the good news with them. Now, 300,000 Bhojpuri-speaking Yadava are believers, and over 6,000 churches have been planted among them. With over 2% of their population now evangelical, they are no longer unreached. We praise God for His work among the Bhojpuri-speaking Yadava!

#### **LET'S PRAY**

Ask God to call more Bhojpuri-speaking Yadava to Himself through the witness of those who have left idolatry and follow Him.



# CENTRAL ASIAN PEOPLES

*Fast Facts*

THE POPULATION  
**383 MILLION**

**387**

PEOPLE GROUPS

**9,000**

souls enter a  
Christless  
eternity every day.

**157**

people groups are  
still unengaged  
with the gospel.

Most believers in Central Asia are first-generation believers, with a small number having known Jesus for more than 30 years.

# Baloch of Afghanistan

*“The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple; [...] the fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; the rules of the LORD are true, and righteous altogether.”*  
*Psalm 19:7,9*



Afghan Baloch live in four southern provinces and are part of the worldwide Baloch population. Baloch tribes were most powerful in the late 1700s under Naseer Khan the Great. They lived in a region that includes parts of modern-day Afghanistan, Iran, and Pakistan until British rulers redrew the boundaries in 1893. All Baloch tribes adhere to an honor code, “Baluchmayar,” that emphasizes principles like hospitality and revenge. This code is preserved and passed through songs and poetry. **Baloch follow Islam. Most have never heard about salvation through Christ.**

## LET’S PRAY

Pray that God will raise up Baloch believers from other countries to share the gospel with the Baloch in Afghanistan.

## RECIPE

### Afghan tea

Bring black tea (2 Tbsp.) and cardamom (1 tsp.) in water (3 cups) to boil. Add milk (1 cup) and return it to boil. Add peppercorns, ginger, almonds, and sugar to taste.





## Chamalal of Russia

*“Come now, let us reason together, says the LORD: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool.” Isaiah 1:18*

The Chamalal live in 22 mountain villages across western Dagestan and southeastern Chechnya, both republics of Russia. **They identify as Muslim and follow a blend of traditional Sunni Islam and ancient animistic practices.** The Lord’s Prayer from the Gospel of Matthew is the only Scripture available in their distinct language. There are no known Chamalal believers.

### LET’S PRAY

Ask God to use the Lord’s Prayer to give them a hunger for Him. Pray that He will give them more Scripture in their language so they can have an opportunity to know Him.

### ACTIVITY

Staple together 10 sheets of plain paper and write the Lord’s Prayer on one page. Imagine what it would be like if this were the only Bible you had. What would you miss the most if your access to Scripture were so limited?



# Northern Kurds of Iran

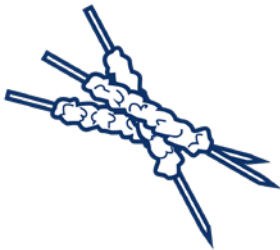
*“Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.” Isaiah 60:1*

The Northern Kurds are a Kurmanji-speaking minority group, living in a rugged part of northeast Iran. **They want to keep their Kurdish culture but are pressured to assimilate into Persian culture.** Among the majority Iranian population, there are quite a few Christians and even churches. But in the northern region of the Kurds, there is little gospel witness. Northern Kurds need to hear that they can receive forgiveness of sin and reconciliation to God through the blood of Jesus.



## LET'S PRAY

Ask God to make a way for Northern Kurds to hear the gospel, repent, and believe in Christ.



## RECIPE

### Iranian kabob koobideh

Mix 2 pounds of ground beef, 1 small onion (minced), 2 Tbsp. minced garlic, 1 egg, 1 tsp. salt, ½ tsp. turmeric, ½ tsp. black pepper. Press meat onto 12 skewers (like sausage links) and grill. Baste with butter.



## Shabak of Iraq

*“And I will have mercy on No Mercy, and I will say to Not My People, ‘You are my people’; and he shall say, ‘You are my God.’” Hosea 2:23b*

The Shabak people are a Kurdish minority group who have experienced discrimination ever since they migrated from modern-day Iran to Mosul, Iraq, in the 1600s. Ten years ago, in 2014, while ISIS was kidnapping, killing, and kicking minorities out of Mosul, they targeted the Shabak. Today, there are no known Shabak communities in the world outside of Iraq. Many of them live rural, farming lives in the Nineveh Plains, northeast of Mosul. In Arabic, their name, *Shabak*, means “intertwine.” **The Shabak blend traditional Shia beliefs with Sufism, seeking to please Allah without any understanding of salvation through Jesus.**

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### LET’S PRAY

Ask God to bring the gospel to the Shabak people and untangle them from lies.

### DISCUSSION STARTER

Read the story of Jonah in the Bible and meditate on the steadfast love God showed to the people of Nineveh in that day. How do you think this part of Iraq’s history could be used to tell people about the forgiveness God offers to those who repent?



## Tindi of Russia

*“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 Tindi hail from the high mountains of northwest Dagestan, a republic of Russia. Their central town is famous for its winding streets, mosques, and dynamic views of snow-capped mountains. **The Tindi have followed Sunni Islam for centuries, along with worship of the sun, moon, and other created things.** The Tindi people are far from God and put their hope in following Islam or trying to appease animistic spirits.

### LET'S PRAY

Ask God to reveal Jesus as Savior to many Tindi, even through dreams.

### DISCUSSION STARTER

The Tindi people who worship nature are doing what we read about in Romans 1. They worship and serve created things rather than the Creator. As you observe the beauty of nature around you, pray that God will use the Tindi people's love of nature to draw them to Himself.



## A GOSPEL TRANSFORMATION STORY

### People of a Muslim Region in Russia

*“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.” Isaiah 55:11*

God pursues the lost. Timur is from a Muslim region in Russia. A Christian friend shared the gospel with him, but Timur rejected the message and refused to read Scripture. Then Russia invaded Ukraine in 2022, and Timur fled the country. As he traveled, he continued to encounter Christians until one day he realized that God was pursuing him. Timur finally opened the Bible that his friend had given him. He read the Gospel of John, believed, and was baptized. “God was going to find me wherever I was,” Timur said. We praise God for saving Timur!

#### LET’S PRAY

Thank the Lord for saving Timur. Ask God to establish him as a man of God and that he would glorify the Lord in his life.

*“Let the nations  
be glad and sing for joy,  
for you judge the peoples  
with equity and guide the  
nations upon earth.”*

PSALM 67:4



# DEAF PEOPLES

*Fast Facts*

THE POPULATION

**74 MILLION**

**234**

PEOPLE GROUPS

**1,700**

souls enter a  
Christless eternity  
every day.

**147**

people groups are  
still unengaged  
with the gospel.

There are around **300** distinct sign languages in the world, and IMB missionaries use sign roots as they translate Bible stories into the different languages.



## Deaf of Tunisia

*“How shall we sing the LORD’s song in a foreign land?” Psalm 137:4*

**Fewer than 2% of the Deaf of Tunisia know Christ. They are taught to follow Islam, and they do not have access to God’s Word in their language.** Recently, a visiting believer met some Deaf Tunisians. By learning Tunisian Sign Language, drinking a lot of tea and coffee, and settling in for conversations, this visitor took the opportunity to share Christ with Deaf Tunisians. This was the first time they had a chance to see the gospel lived and shared in their own sign language. Most are still unaware of the good news of salvation and eternal life in Jesus Christ.

### LET’S PRAY

Thank God for the foundation that was laid. Ask Him to send believers to the more than 12,000 Deaf in Tunisia.

### DISCUSSION STARTER

Imagine yourself in Tunisia, a Muslim country. A visitor comes to your home and keeps pointing to a book in a language you don’t know. Your family is clearly excited, but you can’t understand the visitor’s message. Why is it important for believers to learn sign language in a place like Tunisia?

## Deaf of Ukraine

*“For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.” 1 Corinthians 1:18*



Deaf Ukrainians have access to only parts of the Bible in their sign language. **They are not often encouraged to lead in local churches, and efforts to plant Deaf churches are met with suspicion by locals.** Displaced by war, Oliver and Marianna see God’s providence in allowing them a new place to lead in ministry among the Deaf. They teach the Bible to Deaf refugees and work to translate more passages into Ukrainian Sign Language.

### LET’S PRAY

Pray for this couple as they work on the translation project and start new groups among Deaf Ukrainian refugees in Europe. Pray for Deaf people who are coming to faith because of the witness among Deaf Ukrainians.

### ACTIVITY

Consider the people who have profoundly impacted your Christian life. Did specific qualities or shared life experiences foster a deeper connection as you learned from them? Why might it be important for Deaf believers to have Deaf leaders as they grow in their faith? Write a prayer for these believers to have more access to the Bible and more acceptance in local churches.





## Deaf of the Philippines

*“So it is not the will of my Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish.” Matthew 18:14*

**The Philippines is home to over 1 million Deaf people, scattered across thousands of islands with little or no access to the gospel.** Local partners there are gathering to begin a new Scripture translation project among the Deaf of the Philippines. As Bible passages and stories are translated, local Deaf will have a chance to see the message of Christ, come to faith, and begin new Deaf-led churches. This new project for workers in Southeast Asia engages the Deaf of the Philippines for the first time.

### LET’S PRAY

Ask God to bless the new Scripture translation project among the Deaf in the Philippines. Thank Him for this opportunity.

### ACTIVITY

In Deaf culture, looking away while someone is talking to you is considered rude, like walking out of a room while a hearing person is talking to you. The next time you have a conversation with someone, be careful to maintain eye contact.

# Deaf of Senegal

*“And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day.” John 6:39*

**The Deaf of Senegal primarily practice Sunni Islam. Scripture is not available in their sign language.**

Local Deaf believers have formed a church and are even working with Deaf from other African nations on planting churches and translating Scripture into local sign languages. This is not without a cost. Some have suffered persecution from Muslim family members and have even had their lives threatened. The Deaf of Senegal need prayer for more opportunities to see the gospel signed to them and for boldness to share it once they receive it.



## LET'S PRAY

As newly baptized believers share Christ among other Deaf people, persecution increases and intensifies. Pray for them as they reach out to the 170,000 Deaf in Senegal and the millions of Deaf of Africa.

## DISCUSSION STARTER

How can you pray for these Deaf believers from different backgrounds, as they work together on the profound responsibility of translating God's Word?





## Deaf of Saudi Arabia

*“All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord, and all the families of the nations shall worship before you.” Psalm 22:27*

Though Saudi Arabia has worked to improve the lives of the Deaf in their country by increasing schooling and sign language interpretation for the Deaf, these efforts do not change the reality that most Deaf people in Saudi Arabia are never given the chance to hear or respond to the gospel. **Saudi Arabia still has very few Christ-followers, and there are still no Scripture translations available to the Deaf there.** Unless something changes, they have little to no chance of seeing the gospel signed to them in their lifetime.

### LET'S PRAY

God cares for the Deaf of Saudi Arabia. Pray that He will make a way for the Bible to be made available in a way that they can understand, and that He will bring many into His family.

### ACTIVITY

Write down some of the ways you learn and grow in your country (school, extracurricular activities, educational television, etc.). If the Deaf of Saudi Arabia had all of these things and still no opportunity to hear the gospel in their own language, could they know the hope that Jesus came to offer?



## A GOSPEL TRANSFORMATION STORY

### Deaf of the Balkans

*“But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.” Ephesians 2:13*

In the 2021 edition of *Loving the Lost*, we prayed for the Deaf in Balkan countries. There were very few Deaf believers and no Deaf churches among them or Scriptures available in Balkan sign languages. God answered our prayers! He provided missionaries to translate Bible passages into Serbian Sign Language. Several Serbian Deaf who helped in the translation process came to faith and started a church. In Slovenia, workers gathered Deaf Slovenians for a retreat, where they saw the gospel in their language for the very first time. Several followed Jesus, joined in translating Scripture into Slovenian Sign Language, and formed as a church – the first evangelical church among the Deaf in Slovenia.

#### LET’S PRAY

Praise God for the new believers, church, and Scripture projects! Pray for efforts to reach the lost in the Balkans. Pray that new believers will boldly share their faith.

*“For God did not send  
his Son into the world to  
condemn the world, but in  
order that the world might  
be saved through him.”*

JOHN 3:17



# EUROPEAN PEOPLES

*Fast Facts*

THE POPULATION

**780 MILLION**

**677**

PEOPLE GROUPS

**18,000**

souls enter a  
Christless eternity  
every day.

**233**

people groups are  
still unengaged  
with the gospel.

Only about **1%** of the  
people living in Europe are  
evangelical Christian.



## Saami of Scandinavia

*“For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.” Luke 19:10*

For thousands of years, the Saami have lived as nomads and reindeer herders, following shamanism and animism. Today, many Saami still herd reindeer, but they live in more modern housing. Sparse populations of Saami live across Scandinavia’s arctic regions, and they don’t speak the national languages. This makes it difficult to reach them and share the gospel. Believers are working to share the gospel with the Saami in Norway and part of Sweden, but the **Northern and Southern Saami of Sweden remain without a gospel witness.**

### LET’S PRAY

Ask the Lord to call believers to share the gospel with the Saami of Scandinavia and prepare their hearts to understand and accept it.

### RECIPE

#### *Laipi* (Saami bread)

Heat 1 cup milk, 1 cup water, and 2 ½ Tbsp. butter. Cool. Add 2 ½ Tbsp. honey and ¼ oz. instant yeast. Mix in ½ tsp. salt and 6 cups flour. Let rise for 1 hour. Divide dough in two. Roll each piece until ½ inch thick. Let rise on greased surface for 15 minutes. Poke with a fork. Bake for 15 minutes at 425 degrees.



## Montenegrins of Montenegro

*“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.” Acts 26:18*

Montenegro is between the Adriatic Sea and the Dinaric Alps, one of Europe’s most rugged mountain regions. Ethnic Montenegrins are 50% of the country’s population. **Steeped in Orthodox tradition, their practical belief system is a mix of superstition and celebrating religious holidays, such as the Slava, a family’s annual tradition of venerating their patron saint.** Very few ethnic Montenegrins are evangelical Christian, with only 150 known out of the population of 620,000, and there is no church-planting effort among them.

### LET’S PRAY

Pray that Jesus will open the eyes of the Montenegrins to Him, that they may seek His forgiveness and mercy.

### DISCUSSION STARTER

A Montenegrin phrase, “Sve može,” means “Everything is possible.” According to Matthew 19:26, “with God all things are possible.” How could you use this phrase as a bridge to a gospel conversation with lost people in Montenegro?





## Luxembourgers of Luxembourg

*“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 4:3-4*

Luxembourg is a beautiful country with a highly developed economy. On average, people there earn the most money per person in the world. **They look for happiness in the comfort that wealth can bring.** Many Luxembourgers don't grasp their need for God. Statistics reveal that only 24% consider religion important, compared to 48% in 2008. There are very few evangelical believers among them who can share with others the hope of eternal life through Jesus Christ.

### LET'S PRAY

Ask the Spirit to make Luxembourgers aware of their need for salvation and reveal truth to them.

### ACTIVITY

Paint boiled eggs like Luxembourgers often do to celebrate the end of Lent. Use designs that remind you of the resurrection of Jesus!



## Meadow Mari of Russia

*“Because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.” Romans 1:25*



The Meadow Mari live predominantly along the Volga River. In the 16<sup>th</sup> century, the Russian Empire imposed Christianity on them, resulting in syncretism, a blend of religions. Today, most Mari are baptized into the Russian Orthodox Church, but some also practice the Mari traditional shamanistic religion. **They believe in many deities but with one god, Jumo, being more important and powerful than others. They hold prayer gatherings and sacrificial ceremonies in sacred forest groves.** Very few believers live among them, and no one is engaging them with the gospel.

### LET'S PRAY

Ask the Father to reveal Himself to the Meadow Mari as the one and only true God.

### DISCUSSION STARTER

The Apostle Paul dealt with polytheism and syncretism when he preached at the Areopagus in Acts 17:16-33. How did he talk about Jesus with people who worshiped other gods? What can we and Christians living among the Meadow Mari learn from this story?



## Poles of Lithuania

*“God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.”*

*John 4:24*

At 6% of Lithuania’s population, Poles are the largest ethnic minority in the country. Polish is their first language, and some feel discriminated against because of the “Lithuanization” of names by law, including street names. Though their ancestry in Lithuania dates to the 1300s, their ties to Polish culture and Roman Catholicism are strong. Polish festivals and the Catholic religion remain integral to their cultural identity, which they have kept even while being ruled by other countries or scattered across the world. **Only 0.3% of Poles in Lithuania identify as evangelical, and no one is engaging them with the gospel.**

### LET’S PRAY

Pray for Poles of Lithuania to come to know Jesus as the true reason to rejoice and celebrate.

### RECIPE

#### **Mizeria (Polish cucumber salad)**

Thinly slice 1 pound of cucumbers. Toss with ½ tsp. salt. Let sit for 5 minutes. Squeeze out water and pat dry with paper towel. Mix 3 Tbsp. sour cream, 4 Tbsp. chopped fresh dill, ¼ tsp. sugar, 1 tsp. lemon juice, 2 Tbsp. finely chopped red onion, and pepper to taste. Pour mixture over cucumbers and let sit for 30 minutes.



## A GOSPEL TRANSFORMATION STORY

### Internally Displaced People of Ukraine

*“O Lord, be gracious to us; we wait for you. Be our arm every morning, our salvation in the time of trouble.” Isaiah 33:2*

God is sovereign. Edward planted a church in southwestern Ukraine in 2018. After the war began, many fled the country, reducing the church to about 60 people. The war brought many Ukrainians with great needs into Edward’s town. He started ministering to these internally displaced people by feeding, housing, and caring for them, all while sharing the gospel. People were coming to faith, and the church was growing so much that they expanded to multiple services each Sunday. Last summer, the church of 350 people moved to a new location. Then, God gave them a new vision – starting a new church at their former location. We praise the Lord for building His church!

#### LET’S PRAY

Praise the Lord for His faithfulness amid horrific circumstances. Ask Him to continue to protect and embolden believers to share about Him while suffering hardship.

*“But he said, ‘What is impossible with man is possible with God.’”*

LUKE 18:27



# NORTHERN AFRICAN AND MIDDLE EASTERN PEOPLES

*Fast Facts*

THE POPULATION  
**610 MILLION**

**801**  
PEOPLE GROUPS

**14,000**  
souls enter a  
Christless eternity  
every day.

**465**  
people groups are  
still unengaged  
with the gospel.

All **THREE** of the world's major monotheistic religions (Christianity, Judaism, and Islam) have significant populations among these peoples.

## Bilala of Chad

*“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*

The Bilala are resilient and make their living from farming, fishing, and herding animals. They have lived in the Batha region of central Chad for over 500 years. They speak the Naba language. **Their roots in the tribal religion of their ancestors mixed with Islam make them terrified of evil spirits and a judgmental god.** A few Bilala have become disheartened with Islam and are responding to the gospel and embracing God’s love, but most still need to hear the good news.



### LET’S PRAY

Intercede for many Bilala to hear that Almighty God loves them and has a wonderful plan for their salvation.

### ACTIVITY

Draw Chad’s tricolor flag: navy blue (hope), gold (desert), and red (blood shed in their fight for independence). Pray that the Bilala of Chad will have hope, be brought out of a spiritual desert, and recognize the power of Jesus’ blood shed for them.



## Tagale of Sudan

*“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.” John 10:10*

Near Sudan’s southern border sit the Nuba Mountains. The rugged hills are dotted with thatched huts that are home to over 100 people groups, each with a distinct language. The Tagale people live on one of these remote hills. They speak the Tegali language. Since the Islamic conquest of their land, they have followed Sunni Islam. **They have no assurance of abundant, eternal life in God’s presence. There are no Scripture resources in Tegali and no known believers among the Tagale people.**

### LET’S PRAY

Ask for many Scripture stories to be crafted into Tegali and shared with those who desperately need to hear them.

### ACTIVITY

If you had a Tagale friend from Sudan and you had a chance to share the gospel with them, what Bible story would you want them to hear? Take a few minutes and write out the story. As you do this, pray for believers who come in contact with the Tagale of Sudan, and ask God to help them share the hope of salvation.



# Moroccan Jews of Morocco

*“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.” John 4:23*

A Hebrew University demographer estimated that 2,100 Jews were in Morocco in 2015, a remnant of the community of over a quarter of a million who lived there in 1956. Today, the largest Jewish community, numbering 1,000, is in Casablanca, while smaller communities remain in Rabat, Marrakesh, Meknes, Fez, and Tangier. The night after Passover, Jews of Moroccan descent celebrate being able to eat leavened food again at Mimouna festivals. **Crowds of Moroccan Jews from around the world also make annual pilgrimages to the tombs of 13 holy sages in Morocco.**



## LET'S PRAY

Pray that Moroccan Jews will pray to the One who can save them instead of the sages they now revere.

## RECIPE

### Matbucha

Broil 1 bell and 5 chili peppers (halved, skin side up) until tender. Peel and dice. Add peppers and 1 lb. peeled, diced tomatoes to a pot. Simmer 30 mins. Add 3 Tbsp. minced garlic, ¼ tsp. salt, ½ Tbsp. tomato paste, ½ tsp. paprika, ½ tsp. sugar, and 2 Tbsp. olive oil. Cook 20 mins. Add a dash vinegar. Eat with bread.





## Awi of Ethiopia

*“How much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God.” Hebrews 9:14*

There are almost one million Awi people spread across the northern highlands of Ethiopia. They are primarily farmers and ranchers. Horses are a huge part of their culture and are used to plow the fields and in celebrations of all kinds. Most Awi are Ethiopian Orthodox. **Once a year, when replicas of the Ark of the Covenant are brought out of the churches, Awi horsemen escort the ark to the nearest place of holy water, where mass baptisms take place to provide forgiveness for the sins of the past year.**

### LET'S PRAY

Pray that the Awi will trust in Jesus alone for salvation, not the rituals and requirements of the Orthodox church.

### DISCUSSION STARTER

Read Exodus 25:10-22 about how the Ark of the Covenant represented the presence of God. What does the presence of God look like for those who trust in Jesus? How do you think the lives of the Awi of Ethiopia might be different if they trusted in Jesus?

# Siwa Berbers of Egypt

*“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*



The Siwa Berbers of Egypt live in the Siwa Oasis, a splash of green in a vast sea of sand in northwest Egypt. They speak the language Siwa. Most are **entrenched in Islam**. Tourists visit ancient ruins in the oasis or participate in extreme desert sports. They may buy Siwi baskets, pottery, or traditional silver jewelry, talking only with shopkeepers. **Few Siwa Berbers have ever met a believer in Jesus or heard the gospel.**

## LET'S PRAY

Ask God to lead families to faith and use them to spread the good news.



## ACTIVITY

Due to local salt mines, the extremely high salt content in the Siwa Oasis lakes makes it impossible to sink! Fill a glass with water, 8 Tbsp. of salt, and an egg. Imagine what it must feel like to float in water that salty!



## Tmagourt of Tunisia

*“If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, ‘Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.’”*

*John 7:37b-38*

The Tmagourt of Tunisia live in the Sahara Desert in southern Tunisia. They are Berbers, one of the Indigenous peoples of northern Africa. All 6,100 Tmagourt call Tunisia home and speak Nafusi. While they have access to Scripture, there are no other Christian resources available in Nafusi. **The Tmagourt are Sunni Muslims and view the Quran as holy. As Muslims, they believe Jesus is only a prophet, not the Savior who redeems the nations.**

### LET’S PRAY

Pray that these Sahara-dwelling Berbers, the Tmagourt of Tunisia, will thirst for Jesus the Savior, believe in Him, and receive Living Water.

### ACTIVITY

Tunisians say “thank you” by placing their right hand on their chest, near the heart. For the rest of the day, practice this gesture when you want to say “thank you,” and pray for the Tmagourt people of Tunisia to hear about and follow Jesus.





## A GOSPEL TRANSFORMATION STORY

### On the Arabian Peninsula

*“The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.” 2 Peter 3:9*

God is answering the prayers of His people to break Satan’s powerful bondage over a people group living on the Arabian Peninsula. Spiritual darkness and oppression run deep in the dry and weary lands of Arabia where Islam permeates every aspect of life. Last year, **after 15 years of little to no spiritual fruit among this group, 15 people came to faith in Jesus and were baptized.** God is raising up leaders among them who are passionate about reaching out to their neighbors with the gospel. Living in a land with no religious freedom, they need courage, wisdom, and discernment. We thank God for patiently working there.

#### LET’S PRAY

Ask God to help believers grow in knowledge of the Word and form into groups as their numbers increase.



# SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN PEOPLES

*Fast Facts*

THE POPULATION

**990 MILLION**

**2,572**

PEOPLE GROUPS

**22,000**

souls enter a  
Christless eternity  
every day.

**466**

people groups are  
still unengaged  
with the gospel.

They live in sprawling cities, barren deserts,  
rain forests, and on tropical islands.



## Ndengereko of Tanzania

*“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, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands.” Revelation 7:9*

The Ndengereko are found only in Tanzania. **They practice Sunni Islam, but they often mix their beliefs and practices with animism.** They work hard as subsistence farmers, small business owners, and in the tourism industry. Less than 2% of the Ndengereko are evangelical. Over the past 20 years, missionaries have diligently tried to share the gospel with them. Despite their efforts, circumstances have hindered them from establishing a missionary presence. A Tanzanian family of believers is seeking to engage the Ndengereko with the gospel.

### LET'S PRAY

Ask the Lord to raise laborers to preach the gospel and extend His kingdom among the Ndengereko.

### RECIPE

#### Tanzanian cassava (yuca) fritters

Boil 2 cups peeled, chopped cassava in water until tender. Drain and mash. Mix in ½ cup chopped onions, salt, and 2 eggs. Form into balls and fry.



## Konyanke of Cote d'Ivoire

*“And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us.” Acts 17:26-27*

The Konyanke are a friendly and influential group, part of the larger Malinke people. Half live in Cote d'Ivoire, with the other half in Guinea. They have held onto animism, while also mixing Islam into their religion. **The Konyanke proudly observe the five pillars of Islam while also practicing divination and casting spells through their traditional seers and witch doctors.**

---

### LET'S PRAY

Ask God to open the hearts of the Konyanke to receive the gospel, believe in Jesus, and become children of God.

### DISCUSSION STARTER

In Konyanke society, all children born within the same three to four year period (“age set”) stay together in school and at work until they marry. What might be some challenges and benefits in a setting like this?





## Antefasy of Madagascar

*“See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him.” 1 John 3:1*

Antefasy means “those who live in the sands.” They dwell along the southeastern coastal area of Madagascar. Their primary religion is African traditional religion. **Many Antefasy claim to be Christians, but they do not show a clear understanding of the gospel, and they have not claimed freedom from animism.** They are receptive to Scripture when they are engaged with the truth.

### LET'S PRAY

Pray for evangelical churches to be planted and thrive among the Antefasy.

### DISCUSSION STARTER

Remember the fishermen that Jesus spent so much time with and read how He used fishing and fish to bring people to faith in Him (Matthew 4:18-22, 14:13-21; Luke 5:1-11). If you were a missionary among the Antefasy, how could you use their life on the coast as a bridge to gospel conversations?



## Banda of Chad

*“While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, ‘Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.’” Acts 13:2*

The Banda of Chad practice ethnic religion, meaning that their beliefs are closely tied to their unique culture and traditions. **Less than 2% of them are evangelical Christian, and we know of no one who is proclaiming the gospel among them. No part of the Bible is translated into their language, West Central Banda.** They also lack evangelistic tools like gospel recordings, gospel radio broadcasts, or the “JESUS” film. Unless something changes, the Banda have little to no chance of hearing the gospel in their lifetimes.

### LET’S PRAY

Ask the Father to call and set apart people who will take the gospel of Christ to the Banda people.

### ACTIVITY

Make a list of all the ways you have heard about Jesus (the Bible, media, people). Now, cross out each one of them. How different might your life be if you had not ever heard about Him? That’s the reality for the Banda. Pray that God will raise up people to share the good news with them.



## Ngongo of the Democratic Republic of the Congo

*“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. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.” Ephesians 2:8-10*

The Ngongo live in the fertile center of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Many Ngongo are nominal Roman Catholics, but a wide variety of African traditional beliefs influence their blended religion. **They place a high importance on respecting the dead and observing traditions to earn favor in their lives. They also emphasize following spirits and witches rather than having a personal relationship with God.** The written Bible is not available in their language, but some oral Bible stories have been translated.

### LET'S PRAY

Pray that true believers will persevere in their trust in Him alone for salvation and leave their animistic beliefs and practices behind.

### RECIPE

#### Mikate

Mix 3 ½ cups flour, 3 ½ tsp. dry active yeast, ¾ cups brown sugar, ½ tsp. salt, and 1 ½ cups water. Fry 1 tsp.-sized balls in oil. Dip in peanut butter.

# Maninka of Sierra Leone

*“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.”*

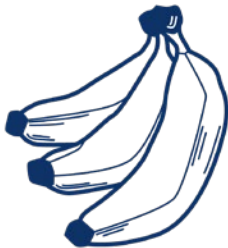
*1 John 4:1*

The Maninka own and run many of the hardware shops scattered throughout towns in Sierra Leone. They are also subsistence farmers and herders. For the Maninka, it is very important to be involved in the community, follow their customs, and make meaningful contributions to society. **Most Maninka are Muslim, but they also offer sacrifices to spirits and ancestors to seek prosperity and protection and even to curse other people.** Less than 2% are evangelical Christian.



## LET'S PRAY

Pray that the Maninka will realize that Jesus is the one they need for salvation.



## RECIPE

### Akara

Mix 2 ripe mashed bananas, 3 oz. rice flour, ½ tsp. baking powder, ½ tsp. nutmeg, pinch of salt, 1 ½ Tbsp. sugar, 1-2 Tbsp. water. Deep fry small balls.



## A GOSPEL TRANSFORMATION STORY

### Kwangali of Namibia

*“The LORD appeared to him from far away. I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you.” Jeremiah 31:3*

God hears our prayers. In last year’s *Loving the Lost*, we highlighted the Kwangali of Namibia. They live under the strongholds of witchcraft, ancestor worship, and animism. And they struggle to understand why Jehovah God alone deserves their worship. The Lord provided a group of believers from another unreached people group in northern Namibia to go out regularly and share the gospel with their Kwangali neighbors. Recently, a group of Namibians, Botswanans, Americans, and IMB missionaries joined them on an evangelism trip. Over 80 Kwangali people placed their lives into Jesus’ hands. We thank God for providing laborers for this harvest!

#### LET’S PRAY

Thank God for drawing the Kwangali to Himself and ask God to protect believers who faithfully share Jesus with them.

# LOSTNESS IS GROWING EVERY DAY

WE WILL NOT IGNORE IT.  
WE WON'T BE SILENT.  
WE WON'T STAND STILL.

WE WILL REACH THE NATIONS,  
NO MATTER THE COST.

We're committed to find and know every  
people group on earth in pursuit of the  
Revelation 7:9 vision.

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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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