

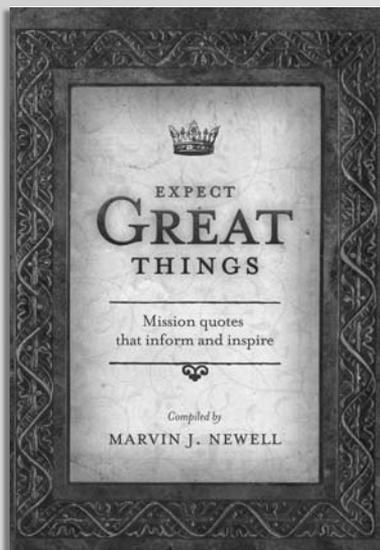
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Marvin Newell is Senior Vice President of Missio Nexus, a network that connects evangelical mission agencies, churches and training centers across North America. Previously he served as a missionary to Indonesia, a mission administrator, a professor of missions, and director of a missions association.

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Marvin Newell

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What is the Global Prayer Digest?

The *Global Prayer Digest* is a unique devotional booklet. Each day it gives a glimpse of what God is doing around the world and what still remains to be done. Daily prayer for that still-unfinished task is at the heart of the Adopt-A-People movement. Condensed missionary stories, biblical challenges, urgent reports, and exciting descriptions of unreached peoples provide a digest of rich fuel for your own times of prayer for the world.

Become a Daily World Christian

The *Global Prayer Digest* is a key tool in a movement to help fulfill Christ's commission to make disciples of all the peoples of the earth. This movement involves a daily discipline of learning, praying, and giving to help reach the world's nearly 10,000 unreached people groups. Unreached peoples are those groups which do not yet have a strong church in their own cultural and social setting.

Myanmar, Mothers and the Frontier Fellowship Movement

The Frontier Fellowship Movement is an adaptation of a custom among tribal Christians in Burma (now called Myanmar) and elsewhere. As the mother in each family prepares meals for her family, she sets aside a handful of rice in a special container, and prays for their church's missionaries to unreached people groups. Rice from families in the church is sold to support their frontier missionaries.

Loose Change Adds Up!

In adapting the Burma Plan to our culture, we have simply substituted loose change for rice and have added this educational and inspirational *Global Prayer Digest*. One person's loose change will average about \$100 per year exclusively for frontier missions! When the national goal of one million Adopt-A-People Prayer Partners is reached, that will mean \$100 million more per year for the frontiers!

Devotional Ideas

How can you make the most of this prayer digest:

- Some people use it as a supplement to their regular devotional time.
- Others enjoy reading and praying around the dinner table with the entire family.
- We encourage you to gather monthly with other Christ friends who are involved in this movement.
- Join the "Frontier Fellowship movement" (left), a version of the Burma Plan, to financially support frontier missions.

Every day at the top of the page you'll find the name of an unreached people group for which to pray. The small maps will help you locate the day's feature.



Dear Praying Friends,

I have been reading in 1st and 2nd Kings. Over and over again, we see people wasting their spiritual lives by making offerings in high places to false gods. The people of Israel, who were supposed to show the world a better way to live, joined in this spiritual harlotry.

Today is no different. There is something about the high places of the earth that often draws people to idolatry. This month you will pray for various Tibetan Buddhist peoples who approach their gods with prayer flags, Nepali Hindus who have similar practices, and many Muslim peoples who believe in a God of Creation, but have a twisted view of His character.

Few of us can trek up the Himalayan Mountains or enter the villages of Kashmir and Tibet; but we can all pray down the devil's strongholds that have been there for centuries. Will you be one of the faithful ones who will pray every day this month for those lost in the dark?

In Christ,

Keith Carey, managing editor, *GPD*

PS—Here is a new prayer guide for the people of Turkey. The contents were provided by Kingway Institute and published by Silk Wave Mission.

http://silkwavemission.com/download/EN_30_Day_Prayer_Journey_of_Turkey.zip

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Keith Carey". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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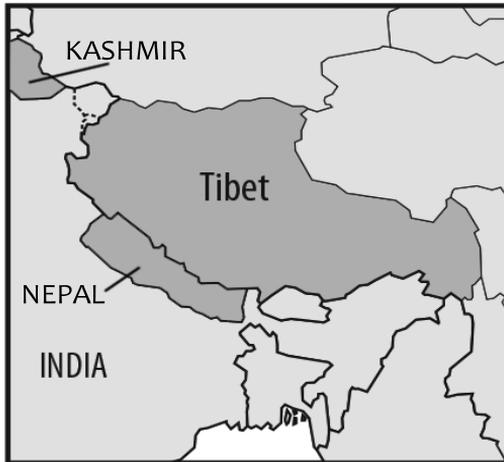
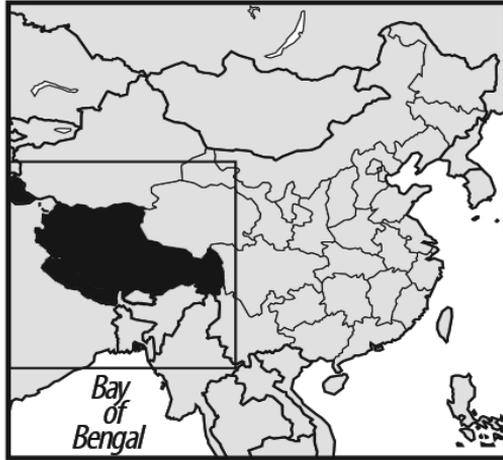
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Pray for a Christ-Centered Fellowship for Every People Group in High Places!



Hold The Rope!



Kathleen Dillard

Kathleen Dillard teaches church planting and leads teams in strategic intercession for gospel breakthroughs. Her focus area is South Asia. The Prayercentral work, which her late husband Wayne pioneered, continues providing prayer tools to aid the body of Christ in fulfilling the great commission at: www.prayercentral.net

Did you ever dream of climbing Mt. Everest and planting your flag on top of the world's highest mountain? Eighty-year-old Japanese climber Yuichiro Miura ⁽¹⁾ recently did just that, earning himself the distinction of being the oldest human being to conquer the world's highest mountain. You might say to yourself, "Well, that guy did something great, but I could never do anything like that." What if I told you that you can make history in the Himalayas? What if I explained to you how you can leave a much more lasting footprint on those mountains than any climber who ever lived?

High Places Prayer Patrol

At the beginning of 2012, the Lord gave a handful of Christian leaders a vision for reaching unreached people groups throughout the Himalayas, igniting a two-year prayer focus called, "The High Places Prayer Patrol."

These "High Places" are the mountains that connect Tibet to India's Hindu Kush region, as well as to parts of Pakistan and Afghanistan. In this wild and storm-ridden land, there are 426 scattered unreached people groups practicing Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam, or tribal spirit worship. ⁽²⁾ Although this snowcapped region has awed mankind for centuries, the stunning beauty of the land completely masks the spiritual darkness that imprisons its residents. They desperately need the hope of Christ.

Prayer Goes Up, Power Comes Down

Let me share one supernatural event that took place during our prayer surge for the High Places. A team travelled by highway across Tibet into a remote region where three of the world's religions (Buddhism, Hinduism, and Jainism) converge. As the team began to worship Jesus, the air was filled with the sound of people offering prayers to their various gods and goddesses.

One of the believers explained to the group that the Lord had shown him a blind woman who would approach the team, and when she arrived, they were to pray for her healing. Very soon a blind woman groped her way through the crowds, and the minute they prayed for her, she received her sight. The minute she was healed, the multitudes began to converge upon the Christians, asking, "In the name of what god did this lady receive her sight?" With gladness the team told them about Jesus, and on that day, all who came to inquire about the blind woman received Jesus as their lord and savior.

What Missionaries of the Past Knew

You might be saying, "That's great, but no way am I going to the Himalayas!" Just consider William Carey's famous words: "Who will go down to the heathen and take them the gospel? I will go. But you must hold the rope for me!"⁽³⁾

That's what I'm asking you to do, my friend; hold the rope. Prayer holds the rope! James Fraser, a pioneering missionary to Burma once wrote in his journal, "I believe it will only be known on the last day how much has been accomplished in missionary work by the prayers of earnest believers at home. And this, surely, is the heart of the problem... : Solid, lasting missionary work is done on our knees."⁽⁴⁾

While dollars, rupees, yen, francs, and dinar are all measures of purchasing power on the earth, only prayer has purchasing power in heaven. Prayer is heaven's only currency!

What Happens When You Pray?

After years of working in a region filled with unreached peoples, I've noticed an amazing pattern. When home-based intercessors get behind church planters with their prayers, significant breakthroughs occur. Indian mission leader, K.P. Yohannan, said, "In all our 25 years of ministry, every major breakthrough we have seen in the work has come through prayer."⁽⁵⁾

Samuel Zwemer, called the apostle to the Muslims, wrote, "The history of missions is the history of answered prayer."⁽⁶⁾ In fact, some missionary leaders believe that homeland intercessors can impact mission work equally as much as those who go in person.

Let me describe the pattern to you: When the church planters forge their way into resistant regions, they go in as a shovel, and this shovel will break the ground for the gospel. Those who are praying from abroad also go in spiritually by holding firm the shaft of that shovel.

Your passionate push in prayer will dramatically affect the impact of the church planters. The more focused the prayer, the more significant the results, much like the poem entitled, “PUSH—Pray Until Something Happens!”⁽⁷⁾ The victory is assured when the tip of the shovel (church planters on the field) and the shaft of the shovel (intercessors at home) are connected through prayer.

Your Prayer Weapons

You have an opportunity to impact the history of all mankind through your prayers! Theologian Walter Wink says, “History belongs to the intercessor.”⁽⁸⁾

As you go before God in prayer for unreached people groups and for the missionaries trying to reach them, take up these essential weapons of prayer:

Worship...release God’s power through humble worship with thanksgiving (Psalm 149:6-9).

The Bible...read God’s word to secure breakthroughs (Hebrews 4:12).

Perseverance...Ask-Seek-Knock...persevere in prayer according to His will (John 14:12-14).

Fasting...ask for guidance and seek the Lord, showing God how serious you are by denying physical needs (2 Chronicles 20:3).

Obedience...be obedient to God’s word (2 John 1:6).

Your Prayer Targets

Many of us will never meet a member of an unreached people group or even connect with a missionary who has worked among them. Therefore the question arises, how do you know what to pray for?

I asked a dear friend whose life has been dedicated to unreached peoples to give us his top five prayer targets. He said, “Here are the five things I believe need to happen for the gospel to be planted in any unreached people group.”⁽⁹⁾

1. There must be a clear presentation of the gospel (no assumptions on what the hearer knows, thinks, feels, or wants)
2. No hesitation or fear in giving out the gospel (binding the enemy, breaking the strongholds spiritually, mentally, and emotionally)
3. Spiritual transformation (progressing past the initial heartfelt needs to change)

4. True repentance from sin (A clean break with sin through true repentance and restitution)

5. Love above all (we must have love for others. Love will endure, sacrifice, embrace the cross, and reproduce itself in others)

Unreached People Groups Needing Urgent Attention

Among the 426 unreached People groups of the High Place Himalayan Prayer Focus there are 29 that need special attention in prayer. Your prayers can create a turning point for the revealing of Jesus among these precious people.

So in closing, I am getting on my knees and begging you to get on your knees and send up the prayers that are more precious than gold. Please, begin today to steady the shaft of our weapons with your intercession as we send spiritual arrows into these Himalayan High Places. I'm calling every intercessor from the hills to the valleys, from the mountains to the sea...we have developed an online-prayer-room for you filled with daily prayers, an interactive map, worship music, and regional prayer slide-shows. We've poured a foundation, and now you need to come with the hammers of intercession so that, "...the Lamb that was slain may receive the reward of His suffering."⁽¹⁰⁾

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(6) Samuel Zwemer, <http://home.snu.edu/~hculbert/slogans.htm>

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I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me (RSV).

How can we be so certain that the prayers of the GPD believers for the peoples living in high mountainous places are going to result in all of us rejoicing in Heaven together through the ages to come? As we spend time daily with the Crucified One, we stay crucified, with no shred of our old dead faith remaining as we pray with the faith of the Son Himself, that the nations will be discipled into His likeness!

Pray that the people groups we lift up in prayer this month will recognize the value of the crucifixion in their every day spiritual lives. Pray that we, and the harvesters we are praying for, will live crucified lives so that the lost will see the Son in all His crucified glory.

Missionary Biography, DeVol

Ezra DeVol and Frances Hodgkin met in 1930 at Wesleyan Methodist College in Marion, Indiana. It was the time of the Great Depression, so Ezra carried out ashes from potbellied stoves, waxed floors, and planted strawberries to help pay his expenses. He often worked Saturdays at Blumenthal's or sold shoes at Thom McAn's. Frances worked in the college kitchen, did housework, and clerked at Sears.

Ezra was born in Kuling, China, in 1909. His parents were both medical doctors and missionaries. They both died while Ezra was still a boy, and he went to live with an aunt and uncle.

Frances was very interested in missions and felt perhaps she should be a single missionary. While Ezra knew he wanted to become a doctor, he blocked out the idea of becoming a missionary. But in his new relationship with Frances, he gradually started to think he might be missing God's best for his life. At a mission conference in March 1931, Ezra found himself responding warmly to the challenging messages. Becoming uncomfortable, since he had long ago decided he would not be a missionary, he stayed at home from the last meeting. But he had no peace. Finally, just as the meeting was closing, he walked in, went forward, and knelt at the altar to consecrate his life to Christ. After completing their training, Ezra as a surgeon and Frances as a nurse, they were married in 1936.

Pray for the Lord to thrust out medical workers to the unreached peoples in mountainous areas.—AL

Missionary Biography, Continued

“**W**ould you consider going to India?” The letter from the Evangelical Friends Mission Board came as a shock. For some weeks Dr. Ezra DeVol and his family had been expecting to return to China. Now it seemed that because of the communist threat in China, all the missionaries still there were having to leave. But India? “Anywhere but India” was the first thought both Ezra and Frances had. They went into separate rooms to pray about the matter, and both received the same message from Isaiah 30:18-21, “This is the way, walk ye in it.” In obedience on February 12, 1949, they sailed for India and their new assignment.

After a year of Hindi study, they moved to Chhatarpur, assigned to work in the Christian Hospital. “We see so many pathetic cases,” Frances wrote home. “How much suffering could be spared with just soap and water!” The work was heavy as Dr. and Mrs. DeVol started a mobile public health service. They had to drive 110 miles round trip, combining medical work and evangelism, which they considered a priority. They knew that permanent change in people’s lives would never happen without a change of heart. Dr. DeVol wrote, “We want patients to see the love of God in us and not a coldly scientific health organization. So I frequently ask the Lord to help me smile at my patients!”

Pray that our Heavenly Father will make our faces alight with His love.—AL

... what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel.

Paul was in prison, but he was rejoicing because his imprisonment had resulted in the spread of the gospel. What a tremendous example for so many of us who vacillate between self-centeredness and sacrificial living! How many of us would rejoice if our personal adversity had advanced God’s purposes among the nations?

Pray that we may live so close to Him that His concerns become ours. May it not be said of us that we cared more for personal comfort than for those for whom Christ died. Pray that we will see with His eyes.

Missionary Biography, Continued

Are they (angels) not all ministering spirits sent forth to serve, for the sake of those who are to obtain salvation? (RSV)

Our Warrior God often uses the name “Lord of the Angel Armies” in the Bible. In Gethsemane Jesus told Peter that He could instantly summon more than 12 legions (probably at least 144,000 angels). I am commanded to be like Jesus as He commissions and sends me to operate under His power and authority. This enables me to pray that the harvesters He is sending to the nations will be accompanied by as many of these divine messengers (angels) as it takes to complete His harvest in the short time left. Harvests don’t wait!

Pray for the Lord to send His angels to work with limited mankind to reap a great harvest.

At a conference in 1958 Dr. DeVol heard of the tremendous need for a surgeon in Kathmandu, Nepal. Patients there often trekked over rugged mountains, sometimes traveling 10 or 15 days, in order to reach the hospital, only to find there was no surgeon there to help! He became interested in the need in Nepal, and, as always, searched the Scriptures for guidance. In Deuteronomy 2:3, he read, “Turn ye northward.” He also knew that there were two other doctors to carry on the work in Chhatarpur.

Dr. DeVol became the first surgeon in Kathmandu, Nepal, assisted by Frances as his nurse. On loan from their mission, they agreed to be subject to the laws of Nepal. But the government also accepted their clearly stated purpose: “To minister to the needs of the people in Nepal in the Name and Spirit of Christ, and make Christ known to them by word and life.” One week after arriving, Dr. DeVol began his work as the medical director of the United Mission Medical Center in Shanta Bhawan Hospital.

After serving 11 years in Nepal, in 1969 Dr. DeVol had to leave for eye surgery, eventually requiring eight distinct operations. Mrs. DeVol, who had always assisted him in the operating theater, by then had suffered several heart attacks, and the doctors ordered her not to work.

Help today’s missionary doctors to give all they can to Him through your prayers.—AL from On the Cutting Edge, by Anna E. Nixon, The Barclay Press, 1987.

Northern Uzbeks in Tajikistan

In the mountains of Tajikistan, a crowd gathers on the level space in a mountain valley. Two teams of 12 men sit atop their horses. A whistle blows. The game of *buzkashi* begins. The Northern Uzbek crowd cheers for their respective favorites. An official drops the headless body of a goat to the ground in the middle of a circle. The 24 riders create a scrimmage around the goat. One rider plucks the body from the ground and races toward the scoring zone. Anything goes; his opponents employ any tactic to prevent him from reaching the goal; his teammates resort to equally creative means to protect him. Sometimes there are injuries and even death. This is, perhaps, the most violent sport in the world; it seems like a mix of rugby and polo.

This popular Central Asian sport gives us a glimpse of the Uzbek's national character. Rugged, independent and fiercely competitive, they cling to their version of Sunni Islam.

One scene sticks in the mind: two riders try to hold the goat; each is struggling for control; each wants to score for his own team. One can't help but picture the spiritual battle raging for the destiny of Northern Uzbeks living in Tajikistan.

Pray for teams who are finishing a Bible translation as they transfer their labors into electronic media. Pray for the distribution of e-versions of the Bible to the Uzbeks in their own language. Pray for evangelistic teams who are taking the JESUS Film to remote villages.—GEC

... that through death He might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong bondage (RSV).

God, the Author of Life, has the keys to death and hell. He opens and no man shuts, He shuts and no man opens. We can confidently ask Him to open the hearts of the Uzbeks so that they will listen to and understand the word of God.

Pray that He will empower His harvesters to use wisdom as they tell the Uzbek people how to become, "free from the law of sin and death" (See Romans 8:2). Pray that the hearts of the Uzbeks will be open to learning about the true and living God who loves them.

... so that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make expiation for the sins of the people. Because He Himself has suffered and been tempted, He is able to help those who are tempted (RSV).

Because this is in Scripture, we can depend on it to be true as God's Word. Also, it can affect how we live our lives and how the unreached peoples in "high places" can do the same. Jesus the High Priest paid for our sins, and He can help those who are tempted to depend on any other means of having sin forgiven. He can conquer all sin and temptation!

Let us ask the Lord of the Harvest to speak to the Southern Pashtun people in such a way that they will see that Jesus paid for the sins of all who humbly ask for forgiveness.

Southern Pashtun People of Afghanistan

In the morning Janan had an argument with his brother. In the afternoon he defended his brother against the insults of a neighbor. The next week Janan, his brother, the neighbor, and the rest of their clan scuffled with a nearby clan who had offended their leader. And so it goes: the Pashtun can argue and even fight among themselves. But when someone else threatens them, they will unite against the opponent.

The Southern Pashtun live mostly on the Afghan side of a ridge of mountains that separate them from Pakistan. Living in such a remote area, the inhabitants have developed a fierce loyalty to family, clan, tribe, and ethnic group—in that order.

Beneath this tiered loyalty, Islam forms the bedrock of their worldview. Anything or anyone who threatens their faith qualifies as an enemy. Thus Joshua Project describes the Pashtun people as "one of the strongest challenges" to the extension of God's kingdom. This scenario calls for focused intercession. Being that the Pashtuns are an oral society, bearers of the good news would do well to approach them with oral tools such as films and stories.

Join others in earnest intercession that the Lord of the Harvest would send forth story-teller laborers. Pray that the Holy Spirit would prepare the hearts of Southern Pashtun leaders. Pray that Christ followers would encounter persons of peace among the Southern Pashtuns.—GEC

Northern Pashtun People of Pakistan



Laila shuddered as she heard the pronouncement. A man her father's age demanded that she marry him to pay off a family debt. He had issued a “*ghagh*—which means “a call”—which can have various outcomes, none of them happy for the woman.” It entails a virtual legal requirement that the woman must marry the man.

In spite of Laila (whose name means “beautiful”) being professionally trained, she will spend her years cooking and cleaning in a rural environment. (see: <http://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2012/12>)

Laila is part of the Northern Pashtun people who live along Pakistan's border with Afghanistan. Only 15 percent of Pakistanis speak Pashto, but this language is dominant in the mountainous border region. Northern Pashtuns, especially those in rural areas, are known as stonily resistant to change. Living in extreme poverty, rare professionals like Laila could alleviate this need if women were allowed to reach their potential. In the tradition of *ghagh*, change is slow. Provincial governments have considered outlawing the practice, but enforcement of such a law would prove difficult.

In contrast, there is a Bridegroom, the Lord Jesus Christ, who longs to woo and win the hearts of the Northern Pashtun people and give them life to the fullest. Bibles and the JESUS Film are available.

Pray that the Lord will send forth messengers to proclaim his lovingkindness to the Northern Pashtun of Pakistan. Pray that the Holy Spirit will bring His peace to the Pashtun peoples.—GEC

Therefore, while the promise of entering His rest remains, let us fear lest any of you be judged to have failed to reach it. . . . but the message which they heard did not benefit them, because it did not meet with faith in the hearers. For we who have believed enter that rest . . . (RSV)

Those who know the Lord can enter into His rest, and that changes everything. The huge responsibility of evangelizing the last unreached peoples remains, but we can depend upon the Lord to enable us to get His will done. His yoke is, indeed, easy, and His burden is light.

Let us therefore confidently pray that the workers whom the Lord of the Harvest is sending to the Northern Pashtuns will show them the way into His rest and protect the workers and the Pashtuns from all evil. (Ephesians 2:6)

Sudhan of Pakistan

By faith Sarah herself received power to conceive, even when she was past the age, since she considered Him faithful who had promised (RSV).

The Lord's statement that she was about to bear her very first child amused her. It seemed ridiculous to Sarah that she would give birth at that age, even though God gave her this promise. But God is above all circumstances, and He wanted to teach a lesson in faith to both Abraham and Sarah. He said He would do it, and it was done! Have there been times in your life when you doubted that God would be true to His Word?

Pray for God to empower those who hear His Word to believe that He is true, even when what He says seems impossible.

Abida, which means “one who worships,” ran to her friend’s house looking forward to playing after school. As she approached the door, Umayma, which means “little mother,” stepped out with her older brother. They were both dressed with Wahhabi Muslim headbands, and Umayma’s older brother held an automatic rifle. He handed it to his little sister and stepped back to snap a picture of her. “A five-year-old future woman of Islam, willing to fight for Allah!” he exclaimed. He took the rifle back and entered the house to show the picture to the large group inside.

Abida stared at her friend. “What are you doing with that headband?” Umayma stared back, unflinching. “My brother says we are not true Muslims if we don’t follow the Wahhabi way.”

One of Islam’s most militant sectors is Wahhabism. Wahhabis are making inroads into Pakistan’s ethnic groups like the Sudhan people.

What does the future hold for young girls like this in Pakistan? How will Abida find Jesus? Will Umayma be a mother to future generations of militant Islamic warriors? God loves these girls and their families, but the ground is very hard in Pakistan. Only earnest prayer will break up this soil and allow the gospel to penetrate hearts.

Pray that the JESUS Film may pierce hearts and bring multitudes to Him through the Internet and the testimony of believers.—PE

Tanaoli of Pakistan

A bar's eyes scanned the mountains. He thought "no strangers are coming to the village today, or yesterday, or ever since anyone can remember." Lookouts guard the remote mountain villages of the 604,000 Tanaoli people. Extremely hostile toward outsiders and new ideas, they live in the lower part of the Himalayan Mountains with narrow, verdant valleys and towering peaks. Their Islamic traditions and political fury belie the beauty of their surroundings.

Younger Tanaoli grow weary of the strict edicts of their elders. The people remain untouched by the gospel. They have no savior to turn to for their eternal needs. There are no known followers of Christ among them at this time. There were no known followers of Christ there last year when we prayed for them. This cannot continue!

Pray that 2014 will be the year of their salvation! Pray that the elders will be visited by the Holy Spirit in dreams, visions, and revelations. Pray that radio programs may be beamed to them in their Hindko language. Pray that as people turn their hearts to Christ, they will be supernaturally protected, and their transformation, love, and boldness will testify to the power of the One True God. Ask the Lord to lift the veil from their eyes so that they may see their need for a Savior. Reveal to them the truth that Jesus is the One chosen by God to save them.—PE

God means what He says. What He says goes. His powerful Word is sharp as a surgeon's scalpel, cutting through everything, whether doubt or defense, laying us open to listen and obey (The Message).

Today there are many ways in which God's laser-like Word can go to the nations. There are TV, radio, the Internet, cell phone messages, solar-powered electronic Bibles, and the JESUS Film, social media, as well as dreams and visions. God's Word cuts through doubts and defenses for anyone willing to listen and open their hearts.

Thank the Lord for all the ways in which He has made His Word available in these last days. Pray that they will be widely used by all who are open to His truth. Pray that the Tanaoli people of Pakistan will soon hear His Word and respond with humble hearts.

But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come.

... He entered once for all into the holy place, taking not the blood of goats and calves but His own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption (RSV).

Jesus died for the sins of the Gujjar people. His sprinkled blood in that heavenly sanctuary is, forever, God's evidence of redemption for anyone who accepts His sacrifice. This fact can be embraced, or it can be dismissed and ignored, leaving the unsaved in their sins and cut off from the only source of redemption. What will it take to open their hearts? Will it be your prayers, perhaps?

Pray that the Gujjar people will see their Redeemer, and their hearts will be open to His messengers.

Gujjars of Pakistan



A Gujjar girl

All authority (all power of rule) in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Go then and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them into the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:18-19).

The more-than-two million Gujjars don't know these verses, for they are not privileged to have the New Testament or pastors to teach them. Throughout most of history they have been Hindus, but now the majority is Muslim. Their name means Gar—Enemy, Jar—Destroyer, “Enemy Destroyer” for their fierce fighting ways. As late as a few years ago they rioted to be listed as a special low caste (SBC) so they could be given preferences for government jobs.

They are located in both northern India and Pakistan's Himalayan region. Years ago British colonizers called them “prone to criminality in absence of a legitimate means of livelihood.” Today, they remain one of the poorest tribes, poor financially as well as spiritually.

We know of no followers of Christ among the Gujjars. When religions that don't recognize Jesus as Lord have been practiced for centuries, the ability to introduce the Messiah to them may not be an easy task. The Gujjar people have not heard of Christ's love for them. But we who know Him personally must not become weary in praying for them!

Pray for laborers, radio broadcasts, and hearts softened to the saving gospel of Jesus Christ for the Gujjars.—PE

Network of Azerbaijani Partnerships



Create International

Uighur men

The name Uighur means “unity.” The Uighur people group is made up of several Turkic groups who came together years ago to form one people. Their desire for unity has put them at odds with the Han Chinese people who now rule them in the northwestern part of modern China. In just the last four years there have been over 200 deaths blamed on clashes between Uighur Muslims and the majority Han Chinese in China. Uighurs long to obtain independence and their own nation. But the Chinese government has moved so many Chinese into their homeland that their hope of autonomy has all but faded.

The Uighurs have been Sunni Muslims for hundreds of years. However, a thousand years ago Christianity was their dominant religion. During the 14th century Christianity all but disappeared as the Uighurs became Muslim. In 1892 Swedish missionaries began outreach among the Uighur people, and they won a few to Jesus. For hundreds of years there has been a strong spiritual battle for Uighur souls that rivals the physical battles they now face.

Pray that the Church will again bring the gospel to the Uighur people, and that we will soon see a major spiritual revival among them. Pray that the Uighur people will be better respected and represented as a minority in China.—JR

By faith Enoch was taken up so that he should not see death; and he was not found, because God had taken him. Now before he was taken he was attested as having pleased God. And without faith it is impossible to please Him (RSV).

Intercessor, if Jesus Christ is living in you, His faith is living in you! He didn't check it at the door when you invited Him in. So you can pray expecting that He will prepare the hearts of Uighur people and give them faith to believe good news.

Pray that, like Enoch, the Uighur people will be ready and found pleasing to Him at His appearing. Pray for them to put their faith in Jesus Christ.

Avars in Azerbaijan

By faith Noah, being warned by God concerning events as yet unseen, took heed and constructed an ark for the saving of his household; by this he condemned the world and became an heir of the righteousness which comes by faith (RSV).

Noah's ark was only big enough for eight people, plus enough animals to restock his new world. But the kingdom of God is an "ark" big enough to hold all His people! His ambassadors go to unreached peoples in part to get them to prepare for that great event, Christ's return; then, they will not be condemned with the wicked.

Pray for God's grace, power, and agape love for the messengers of Christ who have beautiful feet climbing the remote mountains of China, India, and Nepal.

Create International



A Kyrgyz girl

"Kyrgyz." The Kyrgyz endure some of the harshest weather, natural elements, and numerous angry enemies in the world, and still they press forward as a people. Their traditional homeland is sometimes called the "roof of the world" because of its high elevation.

The earliest Kyrgyz appear in Chinese annals known as the "Records of the Grand Historian" which was compiled from 109 BC to 91 BC. Today, there are about 145,000 Kyrgyz living in China and nearly four million living in Kyrgyzstan itself. Whether in China or Kyrgyzstan, daily life continues to be difficult. China dominates what transpires within its own borders, and, even inside Kyrgyzstan's borders, Russia still holds a strong influence from the days when this group was unwillingly a part of the USSR.

Religiously the Kyrgyz have been dominated by various spiritual beliefs, including Islam, shamanism, and black magic. In a July 2007 interview the daughter of Kyrgyzstan's former president, Bermet Akayeva, stated that Islam is increasingly taking root among the Kyrgyz people. She emphasized that many mosques have been built, and that the Kyrgyz have been "increasingly devoting themselves to Islam."

Pray that freedom will come to the Kyrgyz people, both politically and spiritually. Pray that God's people will make every effort to bring the gospel to them.—JR

How would it feel to be "imperishable" or "unconquerable"? Or perhaps "inextinguishable" or "undefeatable"? These are some of the definitions of the word

Lepcha (aka, Khampa) People

Day 12

Hebrews 6:18-20



GPD writer, Lydia Reynolds with Lepcha people

The Tibetan monk, Sanup, prepared his red robe for the ceremony. He would be appeasing the demon that tortured the Lepcha people who lived in the valley below. It was not his daily routine to do this; he did normal

monk duties as well as plowing his rice fields. But the “dragon” of illness had attacked again, so people needed his services. He waved in greeting to his passing cousin, a Christian pastor who held an even stronger power to stop the “dragon,” although the monk would never admit it.

The Lepchas are scattered throughout the Himalayas. They practice Tibetan Buddhism which permeates Lepcha society and has an early history and strong loyalty among Tibet’s people. Their ancestors came to Tibet, bringing with them a Bon-influenced religion, which incorporates many elements of the pre-Buddhist Bon religion. Bon introduced powerful demonic and occult influences into the Buddhism practiced in the high mountains of the Tibetan plateau. This area is known to be a spiritual stronghold highly resistant to the gospel. Monks expect offerings for regular rituals to appease local gods and spirits. In Tibet, there are still 1,789 monasteries (Chinese forces destroyed 6,000 of them) and 46,000 Buddhist monks. A few former monks, like Sanup’s cousin, met Jesus when they discovered Jesus held greater power than the gods their families venerated.

Pray that more Tibetan monks will be drawn to God through the Holy Spirit that wants to enrich them with truth and blessings.—LR

We who have run for our very lives to God have every reason to grab the promised hope with both hands and never let go. It’s an unbreakable spiritual lifeline, reaching past all appearances right to the very presence of God where Jesus, running on ahead of us, has taken up His permanent post as High Priest for us . . .
(The Message).

In the Tibetan Buddhist world traditional Bon shamans offer the only source of hope for people being oppressed by demonic powers. Their useless rituals offer people so called relief from wicked spirits by trying to appease them, and even surrendering to their will. God has another way of dealing with demonic forces: pulverize them in the Name of Jesus!

Pray that Tibetan Buddhist peoples will soon tire of surrendering to wicked spirits and begin to seek and find the One who is victorious over the spirit world.

Day 13

II Corinthians 4:10-11

What they did to Jesus, they do to us—trial and torture, mockery and murder; what Jesus did among them, He does in us—He lives! Our lives are at constant risk for Jesus' sake, which makes Jesus' life all the more evident in us (The Message).

Intercessor, do you realize that the messengers of Christ to the Tibetan people that you are praying for are truly going into the fellowship of His sufferings? We must refrain from the temptation to teach that all will be easy if we follow Jesus. When believers take the gospel to peoples in the Himalayan Mountains, they may have an opportunity to suffer for His Name. It is the fellowship of His suffering!

Pray that all Tibetan peoples will be drawn to the joyful fellowship of His suffering.

Tibetan Nomads

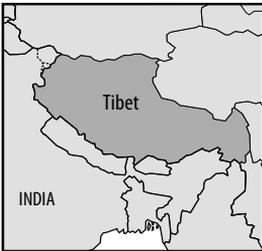


“Ho!” Tensing yelled as a warning to his family. His family stood frowning as Chinese troops emerged over a distant mountain crest. Under orders from the Chinese government, nomads were being forcibly moved to ghetto-style housing blocks in the city, supposedly as a move to regulate the economy. Resettled nomads often experience little economic opportunity and intense culture shock that results in alcoholism and suicide. Tensing's family normally moves camp throughout the year, in order to take advantage of the changing resources. They used to spend up to two months in one place; but now they are virtually on the run, so they must be ready to move anytime.

Approximately 40 percent of the ethnic Tibetan population is nomadic or semi-nomadic. Currently there are about 2.25 million Tibetan nomads. They live in yurts and rely on their yak herds for butter, milk, yogurt, cheese, clothes, rope, and dung. They also flee the challenge of climate change. Rising temperatures, desertification, and plagues of rodents and insects are destroying vegetation in the Tibetan plateau.

Most nomadic Tibetans are illiterate, so they need non-printed gospel materials. They practice their traditional shamanistic religion, bonism, which teaches how to ward off various demons and spirits. They seek the aid of Tibetan Buddhist monks or shamans in times of trouble.

Pray that the Tibetan nomads will encounter the Spirit of God for their refuge in the midst of their oppression and pain
— LR



Wan took a deep breath and tried to feel relaxed before the performance. “For their spiritual freedom,” he told himself. He knew there were several people in the audience who didn’t like the message in the Tibetan Storytelling Project, which summarizes the story of salvation using traditional Tibetan art

(thangka paintings), songs, choreography, and rhythmic speech. Wan saw in the crowd

his old friend Xi, who fell back into his old ways due to fear and pressure to return to Buddhism.

Central Tibetans represent 25 percent of Tibet’s indigenous population. They are the largest of 24 people groups. The majority of the nearly 900,000 Central Tibetans live in Lhasa and surrounding villages. They consider themselves one united people, but their language has five dialects, an obvious mix of various linguistic components. Numerous tribes roamed the area as early as the second century A.D. They were united by a king, who also united traditional bonism with Buddhism when he wed princesses from Nepal and China 1,500 years ago.

Less than one in 200 Tibetans are Christian of any sort. About 8,000 are Catholics from the southeast corner of Tibet, and there are 1,300 house church followers. The Hope DVD is available in the Central Tibetan dialect as well as Scriptures, audio materials, the JESUS Film, and Christian radio programs.

Pray that more Central Tibetans will respond to gospel efforts. Pray for the strength of the growing church presence.—LR

By an act of faith, Abraham said yes to God’s call to travel to an unknown place that would become his home (The Message).

Intercessor, do you realize the “danger” in praying for the Lord of the Harvest to send laborers into Tibet? It means that the believers may go into perilous situations. It means that they will live a life of what people call uncertainty, but there will be certainty in the One who sends them. Can you think of a better deal? Do you see why Abraham went when God sent him?

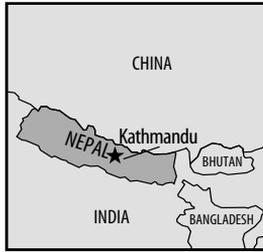
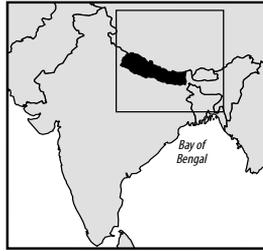
Pray that if the Lord shows you He wants to send you to one of the unreached mountain peoples of Tibet, you will be found eager and willing to say “Yes!”

By faith, Abraham, at the time of testing, offered Isaac back to God. Acting in faith, he was as ready to return the promised son, his only son, as he had been to receive him! (The Message)

Intercessor, all the Isaacs (gifts) He has ever given you, every blessing He has entrusted into your stewardship belong to God. It is way too easy to think that you need to hold onto what you have. But Abraham found out what God does for those who are willing to give Him back everything.

Pray that you will be willing to give every God-given "Isaac" and resource within your reach back to the Lord.

Chhetri People of Nepal



The sergeant studied the line of soldiers that stood before him. “Left, right, left, right...” he shouted as the young soldiers, in smart looking uniforms, marched across the parade ground in Nepal. Most of the men in the army unit were from the Chhetri people group, which has a long history of military service. “Move it!” shouted the sergeant at the men who had fallen behind. “You are related to the royal

family! Make them proud!”

Hundreds of years ago the Chhetri people group was formed by the intermarriage of several people groups that had settled in the mountains of Nepal. Not all of these people groups were Indo-Aryan. Later the Chhetri became fierce warriors and conquered most of Nepal. In 1768 one Chhetri family formed the royal family of Nepal. The Shah Dynasty ruled until 2008. Most Chhetri are Hindus, and most of them have never heard the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Pray that God would raise up faithful workers to take the message of salvation to the Chhetri people of Nepal. Ask God to break the hold that Hinduism has on this people group. May the Chhetri realize that there is only one God and one path that leads to salvation through a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.—WK

Gurung People of Nepal

Young men and young women entered the spacious room and discreetly eyed each other. They came here from different villages in Nepal. Some of them had musical instruments. Soon the room was abuzz with conversation, all in the Gurung language. “Let’s have some music. Let’s dance,” said a young man. A teenage boy began playing a stringed instrument, and the dance floor was soon full. So began a typical evening at a *rohdi*, a place where Gurung teenagers gather to socialize.

There is much confusion about the early history of the Gurung people. Their language didn’t have a written script when they migrated to the mountains of Nepal centuries ago. We know that the Gurung ruled a kingdom in Nepal until Khasa armies conquered them during the 16th century. The Gurung learned how to fight during the long period of captivity that followed. Some Gurung men became skilled fighters and hired out as mercenaries with foreign armies. Today these soldiers are called the Gurkhas. Almost all of the Gurung are Hindus, but there is also a large Buddhist minority within this people group.

Pray that a mission agency will chose the Gurung for outreach and send Holy Spirit-directed workers to them. Ask God to break the hold that Hinduism and Buddhism have on this people group. Pray for spiritual growth for the 23 known followers of Christ among the Gurung so they can be used by Him to extend His Kingdom.—WK

Keep your eyes on Jesus, who both began and finished this race we’re in. Study how He did it. Because He never lost sight of where He was headed—that exhilarating finish in and with God—He could put up with anything along the way: Cross, shame, whatever (The Message).

Intercessor, as you focus your eyes on Jesus at your finish line, make a list of every problem which will get taken care of as you cast your cares on Him. Take a good, hard look at them. Then ask yourself which of these is beyond God’s mighty arm? The answer is obvious: None of them! Isn’t it true that keeping our eyes on Jesus and God’s power is worth it?

Pray the same for each family and each leader and each member of the Gurung people as they come to Him.

By an act of faith, Isaac reached into the future as he blessed Jacob and Esau. By an act of faith, Jacob on his deathbed blessed each of Joseph's sons in turn, blessing them with God's blessing, not his own—as he bowed worshipfully upon his staff. . . . (RSV).

Intercessor, per II Corinthians 12:9, are you allowing Him to give you His power through weakness like these dying patriarchs? Ask God to give you the power to bless the generations of people yet to come to Jesus by praying for unreached people groups. Trust the Lord to prepare the hearts of the Bhotia people group to receive the good news of God's love when it is shown to them.

Pray that God will send His intercessors, senders, and workers among the Bhotia Sherpas.

Bhotia People (Sherpas) of Nepal

The middle-aged Bhotia man stopped at a dirt crossroads in a mountain valley in Nepal and wondered which way to go. The Bhotia are also known as the Sherpas. This mountain guide had climbed the highest mountains and had his picture taken with some of the world's most famous mountain climbers. He'd overcome many obstacles during his life, but there was one obstacle he couldn't overcome. His heart felt empty. He'd worshipped Buddha and many Hindu gods, but he couldn't find any sense of spiritual satisfaction. Now he stood at a crossroads wondering in which of three villages he could find spiritual truth.

The Bhotia have a long history of dealing with other people groups. Some have worked as mountain guides and porters for mountain climbing expeditions. Others have worked as merchants, trading in a variety of goods. Bhotia merchants have been known to make long journeys. The majority of Bhotia are Buddhists, but there is also a large Hindu minority within this people group.

Pray that the Bhotia will come to see Jesus Christ as the one who can satisfy their spiritual hunger. Their spiritual needs are similar to the Gurung whom we prayed for yesterday. Ask God to break the hold that Buddhism and Hinduism has on this people group. Pray that God will lead faithful workers to reach out to the Bhotia with the message of salvation.—WK

Magar People of Nepal and Tibet

Please do not confuse Magyars and the Magars for whom we pray today. Although both are an Asian people, the Magyars live in Europe, while the Magars live in Nepal and Tibet. Other than their Asian ancestry, the two peoples have nothing else in common.

The Magars of Nepal are divided into several groups: Western, Eastern, and Southern. As a people they speak both Nepali and their own language. Taken together, these groups number some seven percent of Nepal's population.

They practice many religions including a blend of Hinduism and Buddhism, worshipping Brahma, Vishnu, and Shiva. They also practice traditional animism. Less than one percent follow Jesus, and it is unclear how much of the New Testament is available to them in their language.

These hardworking, self-sufficient, honest people make a living as craftsmen, farmers, miners, smiths, doctors, educators, civil servants, lawyers, journalists, and other occupations. Some of them are illiterate. For more see www.magar.org.

These folk need Jesus. They need to worship the Truth, not Hindu deities. They need the Bible in their heart language. They also need true religious freedom so they can put their faith in Jesus without being persecuted.

Therefore, pray that Christ-centered fellowships will take root in Magar society. Pray for the Bible to be translated and courage for the few Magar believers to be true to their faith. Pray that the Nepali government would end restrictions on outreach.—TP

By faith, the Israelites marched around the walls of Jericho for seven days, and the walls fell flat (RSV).

Intercessor, God can flatten many walls. If God has given you a burden for unreached people groups and you don't know how to get the information on them, get a computer-savvy friend to show you how to get the information from JoshuaProject.net. Use Google Maps and Google Earth to find the locations of Satan's strongholds. Better yet, mobilize a team of intercessors to join you.

Pray down all the walls imprisoning the Magar people. Then keep on doing this until the kingdoms of this world have become the Kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ!

Newar (aka, Newah, Newari) People of Nepal

... to our one God, our only Savior, through Jesus Christ, our Master, be glory, majesty, strength, and rule before all time, and now, and to the end of all time. Yes! (The Message).

As a follower of Christ, you know that our master is so glorious and powerful that none other can compare. No spirit being represented by a piece of wood on a god-shelf should even be compared to the Almighty Savior, Jesus Christ!

As you pray your "amen" to this glorious benediction, pray that the Newar people will soon be adding their "amens" to the everlasting chorus of praise.

Many girls dream of becoming a princess. Among Newar group members in India and Nepal, some girls become goddesses! Every 13 years they choose a newborn girl to be the incarnation of the goddess Kumari. Once chosen, she will live in a temple where she will be worshipped by Hindus and Buddhists. When she reaches puberty, however, another newborn girl will replace her. The Newari's religion is a syncretistic blend of Hinduism and Buddhism involving multiple local gods.

Parents arrange marriages for their children through a mediator. All members of the same family worship the same deity. Therefore, whole households need to be reached for Jesus, much like what happened in the book of Acts when Peter won Cornelius and his family to Christ and Paul and Silas won the Philippian jailer and his household to the Lord. Although there are about 1,000 Newar believers in Jesus, there is much work to be done before this group can be considered adequately reached with the gospel.

Pray that the Newar will avail themselves of the Bible, that God will call and equip people and agencies to evangelize them, and that God will embolden Newar believers to witness to their neighbors. Pray also for Spirit-led prayer teams to undergird these efforts with prayer.—TP

Darjee People of Nepal and India



If you look up “Darjee” in *Wikipedia* you will learn about Darjeeling tea in West Bengal, India; but you will see nothing about the Darjee of Nepal. The same results will happen if you do a Google search. The Darjee people group is also left out of Malony’s *Peoples of South Asia*. Yet the Darjee do live in

Nepal, according to *Operation World* and number 475,000 or 1.7 percent of Nepal’s population.

The Darjee of Nepal are truly a hidden people, unnoticed by anthropologists, sociologists, and cultural geographers. However, they are not unknown to the God who loves them. They are only 30 to 40 percent literate, are low-caste Hindu and Nepali-speaking. Given their low literacy, they use oral methods of communicating rather than the printed word.

Praise God that there are Nepali-language resources about Jesus, including oral lessons. The Nepali church is growing and is strong. Therefore one should pray that God will direct the churches in Nepal to send believers to find this unreached people and tell them of the God who loves them.

Pray that the Darjee will have visions of Jesus. Pray that believers will find persons of peace among them who can open the Darjee community to the message of Jesus. Pray that whole households will believe in Jesus.—TP

For if they did not escape when they refused Him who warned them on earth, much less shall we escape if we reject Him who warns from heaven. His voice then shook the earth; but now He has promised, “Yet once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heaven” (RSV).

This verse tells us that in the future the things on earth will be shaken, so that only eternal things will be left. 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.

Pray that the Darjee people will respond to the Word of God when believers tell them about Jesus!

But you have come to Mount Zion, to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem. You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly, to the church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven (RSV).

Try to imagine what this will look like. It is a picture of the heavenly abode enjoyed by the God of creation, and shared by all of His angels and adopted children. When God sends out His ambassadors to the Thakuri people, they will be living invitations to all who are willing to join this wonderful gathering.

Pray for harvesters in the Himalayan Mountains to be reminded that they are inviting the nations to join in such an unimaginable gathering. Pray for encouragement and joy for His workers.

Thakuri People of Nepal

The children sat in a circle at the feet of their grandfather as he told them the story of Gunakama Deva, the most famous Thakuri in Nepal who ruled the kingdom from 949-994 A.D. It was he who built the famous big wooden house from one tree that was called Kasthamandapa. The name of the capital, Kathmandu, was derived from this tree. The Thakuri Dynasty began its reign in Nepal in 869 A.D. and continued for hundreds of years.

Though the centuries have flown by, the Thakuri people still hold high status both in Nepal and in India. Many are landlords who control the agricultural means of production. However, others who live at lower elevations make a subsistence living in the jungles.

The Thakuris are over 99 percent Hindu, and the Joshua Project reports that they know of no followers of Christ among them. But we know that Nepal has experienced thrilling growth of the church. Persecution has served to actually stimulate the church's growth, though it has not yet reached the Thakuri people. The secret is credited to prayer, willingness to suffer for Jesus, dynamic initiatives in evangelism and church planting. But most importantly, we can credit this growth to God's miracle-working power.

Pray for Nepali believers to be energized in their efforts to reach all the people groups of Nepal with the gospel of Jesus Christ. Pray for the Thakuri people to be ready and responsive when they hear the gospel.—JS

Sarki People in Nepal

Day 22

Hebrews 12:1

The September, 2012 Nepal24Hours.com news story read, “Kathmandu: Police rescued three girls who were going to India ... Thursday night and brought them back to Nepal. ... The rescued girls are of 18-20 years of age.... Police handed the girls to the KI Nepal, working against women trafficking. ... they will be handed over to their families. Of late, cases of women trafficking through western entry point, Gaddachauki, are on the rise.” (See: <http://www.nepal24hours.com/en/?p=12267>) Trafficking of Nepali girls for the Indian and Middle East sex industry is an evil plaguing Nepal. Nepali believers are seeking to reach and rescue many of them who will otherwise end up in Mumbai brothels.

The rescued girls were from the Sarki people group, a low-caste sub-culture living in Nepal. Traditionally the Sarki were shoemakers and leather workers, but their occupations are now more diversified. In modern times family ties have grown looser, and the importance of clan and village has declined. Women are coming out of seclusion, under the influence of the urban Westernized way of doing things.

Traditionally the Sarki people have worshiped many Hindu gods, but prayer can change that! Pray for the few Christian Sarki to become more than cultural Christians. Pray that they will become zealous disciples of Christ. Pray that the Sarki community will be dissatisfied with worshipping the gods of their ancestors and will hunger for the creator God and His Son who came to give them everlasting life.—JS

Do you see what this means—all these pioneers who blazed the way, all these veterans cheering us on? It means we'd better get on with it. ... start running—and never quit! No extra spiritual fat, no parasitic sins (The Message).

Do you know who else is watching you race? Ephesians 3:10 explains a great mystery: “that through the Church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places.” This obviously includes the wicked spiritual forces described in Ephesians 6:12. This is like what happened in chapters one and two of Job where Job's sufferings are explained in terms of two cosmic bets God made with Satan on His world-class overcomer, Job.

Pray for the Sarki people and for their intercessors, senders, and messengers to become overcomers to the glory of Jesus Christ!

Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies ... (KJV)

We have the luxury of many good English Bible translations. Some of these are accurate word-by-word study Bibles, like the King James Version from which the above passage was taken. Others offer paraphrases of ideas and concepts. But what's a translator to do when faced with a culture and language devoid of agape love, no idea of a creator God, no trace of Hebrew culture or Greek mindset, where revenge is a virtue, there is no understanding of forgiveness, and no words for many biblical concepts?

Pray for God's wisdom for all His translators.

RUN Ministries

Bhutan and Beyond—that phrase is not only catchy, but it also describes the vision and work of Bhutanese Friends, a sub group of the Evangelical Friends Mission serving in Bhutan. Eight years ago a young man by the name of Rupak Tamang proposed a plan to Evangelical Friends Mission (EFM) for planting churches throughout the kingdom of Bhutan. Rupak's vision, as expressed in the following quote, was not limited just to Bhutan:

“God shall expand this ministry even to extend to Tibet, Burma, and Bangladesh, including many Nepali-speaking areas in India.”

What has happened since then? Rupak reports there are now more than 37 organized Evangelical Friends churches in Bhutan. His goal is more than 100 churches by 2020, and the Lord is directing the churches that exist to send missionaries to neighboring countries like India, Nepal, Myanmar, and Bangladesh! Bhutan, once considered one of the world's least evangelized nations, is actually becoming a sending base for missionaries to reach others!

Pray for the Bhutan and Beyond vision to become reality, and for it to speed Christ's soon return for “the gospel must first be preached to all the nations” (Mark 13:10). Pray for believers in other parts of South Asia to emulate their work and spread Christ's Name in the entire region.—JS

Lately we have not reported to you about our work in a nation high in the mountains. A civil war has made it a place that is very unsafe for ministry. But the work flourishes despite the physical danger, and the Lord is victorious!

This past year it is estimated that around 250,000 people had an opportunity to hear the message of salvation in their own heart language. In one Tibetan Buddhist village most of the people have come to know the Lord, and there is now a Christian fellowship. In one far eastern region two small Hindu people groups have embraced the Lord, and the church has been planted there also. In the central region there is a village known as “the village of thieves.” In this village 58 children’s clubs have been started using the gospel recordings series, “Look, Listen and Live.” This has resulted in many family members showing interest in the gospel with many reports of people coming to Christ. Two lady evangelists who go village to village reported that four sisters from a tribal background accepted the Lord, and they now regularly walk for two hours to come to fellowship. In the far northwest region we provided gospel messages in the local language, and two different radio stations have broadcast those messages during a certain time of day for 10 days. They have about two million listeners.

Pray for lasting fruit and spiritual transformation to come to this entire country.—Global Recordings Network

For they disciplined us for a short time at their pleasure, but He disciplines us for our good, that we may share His holiness. For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant; later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it (RSV).

Lift up your hands, strengthen yourself, and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be put out of joint, but rather be healed. Be thankful for His discipline and for the holiness that it brings. Recognize that the pain will lead to the peaceful fruit of righteousness!

Pray that the unreached peoples of Nepal will soon recognize that when they receive Christ, they will ultimately reap peace and righteousness.

Meitei People

Remember those who are in prison, as though in prison with them; and those who are ill-treated, since you also are in the body (RSV).

Intercessor, as you are praying the Meitei people into the fellowship of His sufferings, you are included as a member of that same body! These unreached peoples have been enemy captives for centuries. He has no intention of letting the first of them escape without inflicting all the suffering he can arrange. Are you willing to be so used by God in interceding for the Meitei people that you can actually share their suffering?

Pray for the Meitei with the power and assurance that comes from you sharing their battlefield suffering!



Prest

A scene from beautiful Manipur

and he was filled with a longing for his home among other Meitei people. He grew up amidst the simple, yet splendid environs of rural Manipur—fields, farms, friends, and family.

It was only a year ago that he went to a university in southern India to pursue a degree in mathematics. It was a whole different world there! The change of scene was as stark as night is from day. Green pastures gave way to concrete buildings, and his small village life was sacrificed for that of a large city. Going from a village that is almost entirely Hindu, he encountered Sikhs, Christians, Muslims, and Zoroastrians. He was particularly drawn to the kindness that a Christian student had shown him. He wanted to share all the exciting things he had learned from this fellow student about the love and compassion of God, but he wondered if his staunchly religious Hindu Meitei family would welcome such news.

Pray that the hearts of both Hindu and Muslim Meitei people will be softened to the gospel.—EJD

An old song lulled the many passengers on the bus to sleep. Passengers swayed in their seats as the bus meandered over the uneven road. Many on the bus were headed for Imphal, the capital city of Manipur State in northeastern India. Some, like Kongsai, would travel further to small towns and hamlets.

Kongsai woke up and looked out the window at the verdant fields,

Shilpakar People of India

Day 26

Hebrews 13:8

Basanti, a Shilpakar woman, sat on the tiny earthen veranda at the entrance of her hut. Her hands nimbly wove the dried reeds, and a beautiful basket began to take shape. Her work was interrupted by a neighbor calling her name.

“Basanti, may I borrow a cup of wheat flour?” The request came from Ranjia, a Shilpakar woman with lower status. Her neighbor added, “I will return it once I buy some from the market.” Basanti rose from her perch on the veranda and began to enter the house while Ranjia waited outside. She abruptly pivoted, smiled, and urge Ranjia to come in. Alarmed, Ranjia replied, “Oh, no! What would your family say if they found out you have had someone like me in your house?” “I don’t believe in such distinctions,” said Basanti politely. Ranjia said, “I know you don’t or I would not be asking you for wheat.” She laughed sheepishly and entered the home.

The Shilpakar people of Uttar Pradesh, India, occupy one of the lowest strata of India’s caste system. In spite of their low status, even among themselves there is a hierarchy of division that keeps some among them lower than others.

Pray that God will break down these barriers and divisions that keep the Shilpakar separate from their neighbors. Pray that they will embrace the One who made Himself nothing to save many.—EJD

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever (RSV).

So as surely as He lives in you (Colossians 1:27), your intercessor intercedes for you (Romans 8:26-27). Your forgiver uses your lips and pen to proclaim the good news of His forgiveness. The Healer uses His children as His ambassadors. He who is your life floods His life through you. Christ pours as much agape through you as you will allow. If you are blessed by being poor in spirit (Matthew 5:3), you can be a part of the Kingdom of Heaven and have the authority to intercede through prayer for all the peoples of the world.

Pray that as He draws the Shilpakar people to Himself, that He, living in them, will use them to reach other unreached people groups.

Now may the God of Peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do His will, working in you that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ...(RSV)

Has He equipped “you with everything good that you may do his will”? Then ask Him to show you what His will is and to help you to accomplish His will for your life. What a blessing that He also made available to believers all His power and authority in Heaven and on earth. This is enough to get the job done!

Pray, applying all the resources of Heaven, that the Ghirath people will be won to Jesus and His Kingdom!

Ghirath People of India

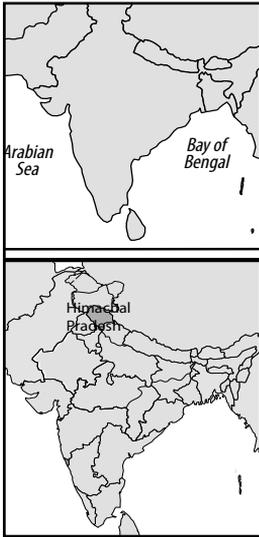
A cool breeze briefly punctuated the unrelenting heat as the Ghirath farmer ploughed the field. Beads of sweat formed on his brow. Before he could wipe the sweat with the back of his hand, the drops of sweat fell to the ground in the sweltering tropical sun. He wanted to take a break and drink some water, but he knew that he must finish plowing the field before sundown. Otherwise, he was in danger of not finishing this essential job, and his family could go hungry.

Originally the Ghiraths belonged to a high caste Rajput clan, famous for their skills as warriors. At one point they were separated from other Rajputs because they allowed widows to remarry and participated in agriculture. Thus they traded their high status for a low one. The Ghirath people of Uttar Pradesh have a population of 841,000. Even though their primary language is Hindi, they also speak other languages and dialects, as is common with many people groups in India.

Most of this group practice Hinduism. Even though there have been vigorous church planting efforts among the Ghirath, the percentage of followers of Christ among them is less than two percent.

Pray that the Ghirath people will hear and accept the message of the gospel of Christ. Pray for the Lord to remove any obstacles that keep the Ghirath people away from their loving Savior.—EJD

Hindu Rathia People



“Jagriti, we have tried and tried for years. Still, we have no child,” Margri explained to his wife. With a shrill voice Jagriti replied, “We will keep trying! We will go to the temple and seek a blessing from the Devas.” Margri shook his head. “We have been to the temple. We have sought blessings.” Desperately, Jagriti said, “I promise I will give you a child.” Margri said, “I want a son. You cannot give me one. So...” She interrupted him.

“So you will find a second wife?” She burst into tears. “I do not want to share you with another woman!” He took a deep breath and said flatly, “You will learn to accept this. We will be a family.”

The Rathia people live in extended families. However, they also allow polygamy if a wife is unable to bear a child. Most of them live in India’s state of Himachal Pradesh. The Rathia are almost all Hindu. Although the Bible is available in their dialect of Hindi, very few of them are followers of Christ.

Pray for mission organizations to focus on this people group. Pray for the hearts of the Rathia people to be open to the gospel message. Ask God to reveal Himself to the Rathia and set them free from idol worship and bondage to false gods. Pray for many Rathia to put their faith in Christ alone.—CL

When all kinds of trials and temptations crowd into your lives, my brothers, don’t resent them as intruders, but welcome them as friends! Realize that they come to test your faith and to produce in you the quality of endurance. But let the process go on until that endurance is fully developed. . . (Phillips).

In Revelation 2 and 3, Jesus promises His overcomers fruit from the tree of life, hidden manna, a white stone with the overcomer’s secret new name, ruling and reigning with Jesus, and much more. Intercessor, “trials and temptations” make you 10 times tougher for the next round. Welcome this fiery purifying of your faith for His glory! Recognize that it will strengthen you to fight on for His glorious kingdom!

Pray that God’s servants among the unreached peoples will recognize and welcome trials as a means towards spiritual endurance.

Gaddi People

If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives to all men generously and without reproaching, and it will be given to him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting . . . (RSV).

You are one of thousands praying today with faith for the Gaddi people. To each of you God has given a measure of faith and wisdom which, when combined, comes before Him as a sweet-smelling sacrifice of praise, thanksgiving, and intercession for all He intends to accomplish in bringing the Gaddi to Himself. In Revelation 7:9 John reports seeing the results of your prayers, so keep on interceding with the end in mind. You are part of His victorious team!

Pray that the Gaddi people will soon be thanking God for those who diligently prayed for the nations in faith that they would receive the Lord.

Create International



The Gaddi teen girl was whining at her father. “Father... I have never even seen this boy. Can’t I at least meet him?” Her father stood over her and replied, “You will meet him on your wedding day.” “But what if

I don’t like him? What if he is a bad husband?” Waving his hand, he replied, “That is not important. I have talked with his father. Everything has been agreed upon.” She looked down at the ground and said, “This is not what I want.”

Raising his voice a little, he hissed, “What you want is not what matters. What matters is that I have arranged a very good match for you. Soon you will be a wife, and you will have a husband and children. I will teach the boys how to be shepherds like me... like my father... like my father’s father.”

The Gaddi people are mostly shepherds who live in the mountains of Uttar Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh. They often arrange marriages for their children. Most of them speak Urdu, but their religious practices vary. Two thirds are followers of Islam, while the remainder follows Hinduism. Many also mix animism with their religion.

Pray for the Gaddi people to have the opportunity to hear and accept the gospel message. Pray for harvest workers to be sent into this waiting field. Pray for a Christ-centered fellowship to be planted among the Gaddi.—CL

Kashmiri People of India and Pakistan

Create International



Kashmiris are also great artists!

Have you ever placed your cheek against the softness of a warm cashmere scarf? Cashmere is fine soft wool that comes from sheep, goats, and yaks raised in the high mountains of

Kashmir, India's northernmost state.

Sadly, this beautiful land, noted for her high, snow-laden mountains, has been under siege since the partition of India and Pakistan in 1947. Some Muslim Kashmiris want to be part of Pakistan, but most would prefer to be an independent nation. Many Kashmiri Hindus have abandoned their homes and fled for safety to India. Today, some parts of Kashmir are controlled by Pakistan, some by India, and some even by China! Border skirmishes are frequent, and civilians in the line of fire are sometimes killed or wounded.

Most of the Kashmiris who live in the lower altitudes are farmers who grow grain, fruit, and vegetables. There is very little industry or economic development. Their once strong tourist industry has all but died out due to frequent armed clashes between Islamic militants and India's military.

Pray for peace and spiritual freedom to reign in Kashmir. Pray the Prince of Peace would be victorious in the spiritual battle for the hearts and minds of both Muslims and Hindus in Kashmir. Pray for prayer warriors to regularly plead with the Lord to soften the hearts and open the spiritual eyes of Muslim and Hindu Kashmiris to the truth of the gospel.—JWS

He Himself bore our sins in His body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By His wounds you have been healed (RSV).

This verse is telling us in simple words that Jesus, by His atonement, accomplished both our redemption and our spiritual healing. It is through His atoning sacrifice on the cross that we are forgiven for our sins, and healed of our spiritual ailments. But most Islamic teachers have a different way to be forgiven. It involves obedience to the laws as spelled out in the Qur'an. But believers know that the law cannot save!

Pray that despite their Islamic background, Kashmiri Muslims will embrace Jesus' atoning death on the cross and forsake their dependence on the law for their salvation.

Is There Incense at the Altar?

Is there incense at the altar where the blood of Christ was shed? The fragrance of thanksgiving, for the thorns that crowned His head.

Worship and devotion for the scars of Calvary, tear stained intercession, for the harvest yet to be.

Is there incense at the altar where the perfect Lamb was slain? The perfume of petition, offered in His Holy Name.

A bearing of His burden, to proclaim His sacrifice supreme and all sufficient for He paid the sacred price.

Is there incense at the altar, where Christ intercedes right now? Grief, and praise, and pleading, for the souls that knit His brow.

A heart-felt holy effort God's mighty power brings—gather for the Lamb, 'the reward of His sufferings'.

—*Kathleen Dillard*

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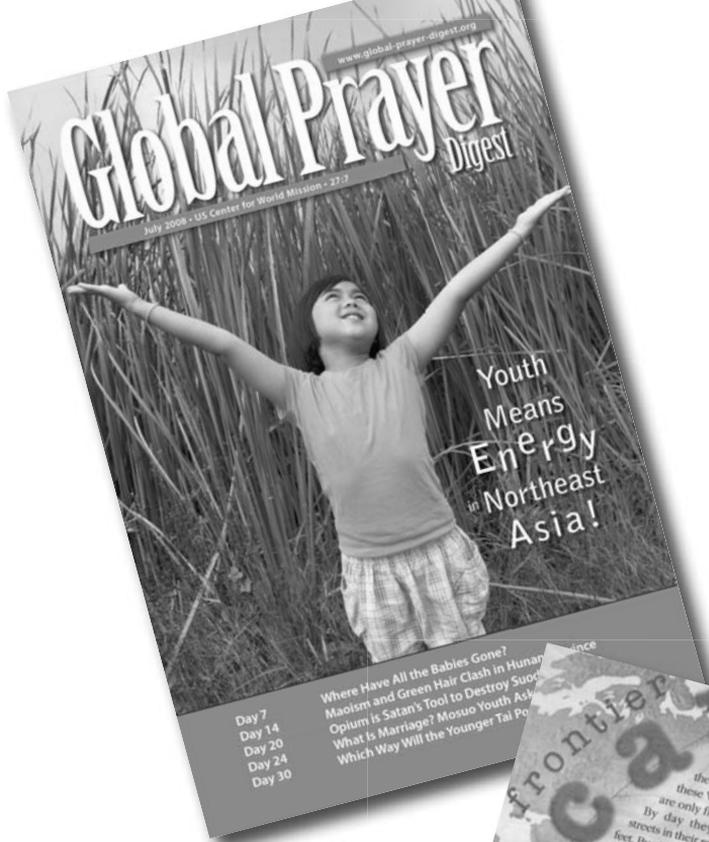
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Day 7
Day 14
Day 20
Day 24
Day 30

Where Have All the Babies Gone?
Maoism and Green Hair Clash in Hunan
Opium is Satan's Tool to Destroy Suo
What is Marriage? Mosuo Youth Ask
Which Way Will the Younger Tai Po



The boys

are terrified of the whip. Some of these Wolof children are only five years old. By day they work the streets in their rags and bare feet. By night they sleep packed tightly together on the ground without mattresses. They are sent to the cities by their parents to learn the Koran, but more time is spent begging for money to bring back to their greedy religious teachers. There are over 100,000 child beggars in the Muslim country of Senegal.

"Operation World" describes the Wolof-dominated Islamic Sufi brotherhoods of Senegal as "wealthy," and says that Senegal trade. It is peculiar to have children begging in this rich African country.

The Wolof are a large ethnic group with a population of over four million. Most live in Senegal and Gambia, and around 15,000 live in New York. They have Christian resources available to them, and Senegal has a higher degree of religious freedom than most Muslim countries.

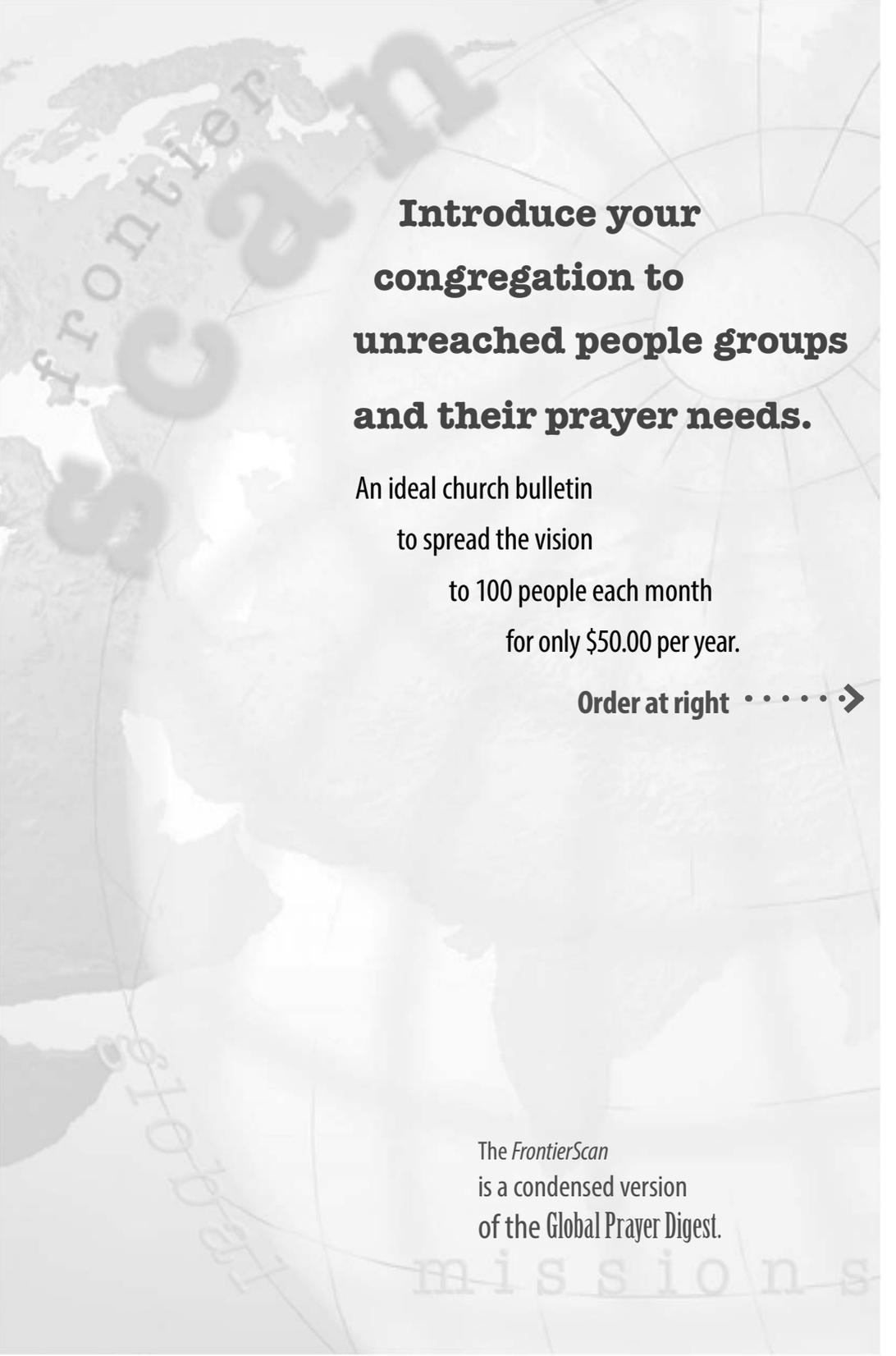
Pray that laborers who are sensitive to the Wolof culture would go and work among the Wolof.

"Operation World" describes the Wolof-dominated Islamic Sufi brotherhoods of Senegal as "wealthy."

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Dear Praying Friends,

It was two years ago that we had a similar edition of the *GPD* featuring the Arab Spring. But the strife that engulfed much of North Africa continues today in Egypt, and it has put Syria into the unenviable position of being a country that is not only bleeding internally, but is the center of foreign power intervention. This *GPD* is being written in August, 2013, and the civil war is still raging. If you would like to do some thorough prayer for Syria, please order *Shout for Joy, Syria!* by going to: <http://www.alibris.com/search/books/invid/10718283082>

The headlines look grim and so do many of this month's prayer entries. You will be praying about hostilities between various unreached people groups: Alawites against Sunni Muslims, Shi'ite Muslims against Sunni Muslims, etc. But please pray and continue read until the end of this edition when we will learn about some encouraging reports from Israel. In one case, a seriously ill Syrian girl was given medical attention in Israel. You will pray for two situations where Messianic Jews and Christian Arabs are working together for the cause of Christ. These true stories give the world a wonderful testimony about what can happen if people put Christ before their own selfish ambitions! Pray that the many unreached peoples of the Middle East will find the reconciler, Jesus Christ, to be the only One who can save them from themselves.

Merry Christmas!

Keith Carey

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Pray for a Fellowship for Every Unreached People Group in the Middle East



The Start of the Syrian Civil War

by Patricia Depew

Shout For Joy, Syria!



It was February, 2011. Fifteen-year-old Mohammed and his young friends were walking down a street in their home town of Daraa, Syria. The day was beautiful, and the sun blazed down on Daraa's ancient and modern landmarks. Close by the boys heard the voices and music of people enjoying afternoon tea in an open bazaar. Their attention, however, was not on the beauty of Daraa.

They were talking about how great it would be if Syria could be free from government oppression. Their excitement had been aroused by the discussions in their families about the revolutions in other Arab nations, namely Tunisia, Libya, and Egypt. Many Syrian people were tired of the corruption, economic hardship, rising cost of living, and the lack of Sunni Islamic influence on their government. On a street in Daraa Syria, Mohammed and his friends decided they wanted to write about their antigovernment feelings someplace where it could be seen by many people. They chose to write their thoughts on a large wall of an old building. With shouts of, "Allah Akbar" they wrote, "The people want the regime to fall," and, "It's your turn, Doctor (President Bashar Assad)!"

Mohammed and his companions were arrested and taken to the local branch of Syria's infamous political security forces where they were beaten—not to extract information, but as punishment for what they had written on the wall. As word spread of their detention, family members and neighbors began clamoring for their release. Assad at first attempted to appease the town and ordered the boys released; but he failed to stop the growing anger. Demonstrations continued and soon spread throughout the entire country. The protests were repressed by the ruthless action of Assad's military, and it was only a matter

of time before peaceful dissent turned into armed resistance. Once that happened, the Syrian revolt exploded, and the outgunned rebels looked for help from other Sunni Islamic groups beyond their borders. Some of the Sunni Arab countries that were sympathetic to the rebels included Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, and Qatar. (For more background, see: <http://www.cnn.com/2012/03/01/world/meast/syria-crisis-beginnings>)

This explosive situation had been in the making for many years. Since 1963 the Socialist Baath Party has dominated Syria. The Assad family who are Alawites took over in 1971, and Syria became a dictatorship. Thousands of people were placed in prisons and tortured for political reasons. Of Syria's population of over 22 million people, only about two million are Alawites. The Sunni Muslims make up 74 percent of the population, and they have long wanted more political power. The Christian community consists of about 10 percent of the people, and they are represented mainly by Eastern Orthodox ethnic groups. The Assad regime has allowed the Christians to have their own courts and some privileges as long as they do not proselytize Muslims. The current civil war has increased the power of the Sunnis who have made life more difficult for the Syrian Christians. Other religious groups in Syria include the Druze and some Jewish communities which exist in Aleppo and Damascus.

Almost all Islamic countries develop dictatorial governments. In some Islamic countries such as Iran and Saudi Arabia, the government imposes strict Islamic Shari'a law on the people. Compare this kind of leadership with the love and grace that is seen in Jesus, the servant-king. Saint Paul clearly wrote about this in Philippians 2:3-5,7: "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus ... rather, He made Himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness."

The Effects of the Syrian Civil Conflict

It was estimated in June 2013 that the death toll from the Syrian civil war was over 100,000. Over 28,000 people are missing, including civilians forcibly abducted by government troops or security forces. Tens of thousands of protesters have been imprisoned, and there are reports of widespread torture in prisons. International organizations have accused both government and rebel forces of serious human rights violations.

To Help You Pray Better

by Patricia Depew

Investigations have found that the Syrian government's abuses are some of the worst in the world with regard to gravity, frequency, and scale. According to the United Nations, about four million Syrians have been displaced within the country, and 1.5 million have fled to other countries. With more than three million buildings destroyed, Syrians are running out of places to find shelter. Some are forced to sleep in caves, parks, or barns. Those slightly more fortunate are packed into overcrowded apartments or homes with other families. With the front lines of war shifting daily, no dwelling is spared from the bombings. The "Save The Children (STC)" organization has reported the horrible consequences this war has had on more than two million Syrian children. They have been afflicted by trauma, malnutrition, and disease. Almost two-thirds of the children in northern Syria are without protection against preventable diseases because they are not receiving vaccinations. One STC worker stated, "Children are increasingly being put directly in harm's way as they are being recruited by armed groups. Boys as young as 12 years of age are going to war. It seems like every child has been hurt by this war." One study indicated that one out of every four Syrian children interviewed had lost a loved one.

Currently, most Syrian refugees have taken shelter in neighboring Lebanon, Jordan, and Turkey, with thousands more continuing to flee. Christians are among the tens of thousands of Syrians refugees fleeing to Turkey. It is especially hard for them because they are reluctant to seek help at government-run relief camps where Muslim extremists make life more difficult for them. The war has also caused severe damage to some of the world's most precious ancient civilization sites. Many are related to biblical settings in the Old and New Testament.

The Spillover

In reflecting on the continuing war and destruction in Syria, we need to consider the prophecy from Isaiah 17:1, "Behold, Damascus will cease from being a city and it will be a ruinous heap..." Today the old city of Damascus contains remnants of ancient history, diversity, and an old cobblestone street known

as the Straight Street. It is the street mentioned in Acts 9 where Ananias came, prayed, and restored Saul's sight. Paul went on to become one of the greatest witnesses for Christ, and through him the early church grew. He suffered many afflictions and trials, but he always stood firm in the faith and attributed his strength to God. He wrote in Philippians 4:13, "I can do everything through Him who gives me strength."

The people of Syria today are going through great afflictions and trials. Their suffering has touched the people of many nations. Some have made efforts to help, while others do not know what to do about Syria's political and religious conflicts. The cry of the people is heard everywhere. One woman who lives in Damascus said, "I'm tired of crying and fear! We have nothing to bring us joy. All is sad!" One Syrian Christian asks us to, "Please pray that the problems will come to an end and those causing the problems will stop."

Let's Pray for Syria!

- Pray for the Lord to stay the hand of those causing death and destruction in Syria.
- Pray that the Syrian people who do not know the Lord will turn to Him.

May the afflictions of Syria cause Muslims everywhere to know that true strength, hope, and righteousness can only be found in Jesus Christ.

- Pray for Christians to have new opportunities to proclaim the gospel as they face times of persecution.

We can see from Isaiah 17:1 that Damascus will play an important role in the final events before Christ's return. May Syria's struggle encourage many people to read Revelation 21:24-27 which tells about the New Jerusalem, "The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their splendor into it. On no day will its gates ever be shut, for there will be no night there. The glory and honor of the nations will be brought into it. Nothing impure will ever enter it, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life."

“I am the Alpha and Omega,” says the Lord, “who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty.”

Regardless of what happens in our world, it is helpful to be reminded that the same God who created the universe, who conquered death and ascended into heaven, is with us now in great power and authority. Our risen Savior is seated on the throne, He is sovereign, and He reigns over all. His purposes will be accomplished, and His mission fulfilled. We are going to win because God is going to win, and He is with us. Though we may go through the darkest hour of human history, true followers of Jesus can be at peace, for they know without a doubt that His Kingdom will prevail.

Thank God that He will prevail, and the kingdoms of this earth will become the kingdom of the Lord!

Missionary Biography, Cornelia Dalenberg

Nurse Cornelia Dalenberg read that a missionary nurse would be coming to speak at a church in Chicago. She also noticed the name of Samuel Zwemer, famous missionary to Arabia and son of her pastor. With great anticipation Cornelia decided to attend. During the meeting Cornelia felt the Lord’s call to service in Arabia, and later she spoke of this to her denomination’s Board of Missions. At the Board’s suggestion, Cornelia immediately enrolled for further training at the Hartford Seminary School of Missions. Then in 1921 the day arrived when Cornelia set sail for the Near East. There were 87 missionaries on board, some grizzled old veterans and some starry-eyed novices.

After reaching her assigned post in Muscat, Oman in 1921, Cornelia visited a little cemetery nestled in a cove between two ridges of dark shoreline rocks. As she gazed upon the graves of missionaries, she remembered Dr. Zwemer’s words: “The evangelization of the Muslim world is no light phrase. It is a deep life purpose, a work of faith, a labor of love, and a patience of hope.” Standing there she prayed, “Equip me, Lord!”

Miss Dalenberg’s first assignment in the Arab World was to learn the language. But, because the Muslims did not allow a male doctor to assist in childbirth, it wasn’t long before Cornelia was delivering babies, both in the hospital and in the surrounding areas.

Pray for the Holy Spirit to grant His ambassadors faith, love, and patient hope.—AL

Missionary Biography, Continued

In 1930 Cornelia was transferred to Amarah, Iraq, where missionaries had been working for many years. The mission had received a large gift that they used to buy a motor launch. Until then they could reach villages back in the marshes only by renting painfully slow boats. The missionaries regularly spent time in this boat “touring,” as they called it, evangelizing, and doing medical work.

Amarah was a difficult place to live, for the people were very suspicious of outsiders. Cornelia lived there by herself for 11 years in an apartment which had formerly been used as a jail. She might have been lonely, but instead she felt a deep gratitude that the Lord could use her there.

“Looks to me like an advanced case of leprosy,” Dalenberg muttered. Once again she glanced with concern at the woman who had been thrown out of her home by her husband. Cornelia’s leprosy patients had to find lodging near the clinic so they could come in regularly for their injections. But this woman had no place to stay, no money, no food — and her young son was with her. Cornelia remembered the land behind the hospital; could she stay there? A few days later she had rented the land, built a mud wall around it, and had erected several huts. Within a few months there were 41 residents in the new leprosy compound.

Pray for the Holy Spirit to direct His children who live in the Middle East in ways that they can glorify Christ.—AL

Yet I hold this against you, you have forsaken your first love.

The believers to whom this was written were working hard for God, and they were commended for it. But in the midst of all their busyness for God, they were neglecting the most important thing: their relationship with the one who called them into His mission. How important it is to just rest in God and work with Him rather than for Him! No less work is done, but something very important is preserved: the joy and peace of abiding with Christ. Jesus said if we abide in Him we will bear much fruit, fruit that will last. The fruitfulness that comes out of resting in God will always surpass and outlast the results of fretful busyness in working on his behalf.

Pray that we will remember to put our first love first.

“If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place.”

As the representatives of God in this world, we are called to take His word just as seriously as He does. As the Church, we are charged to be the light of the world. What we do with that responsibility has huge implications for God’s purposes among the nations. If we are unfaithful with his reputation, God might withdraw His presence and His blessings. It is easy to forget that God judges groups just as much or more than He judges individuals. The concept of corporate sin is one that many modern Western cultures have difficulty understanding. He calls entire families, churches, and nations into account for what they have done with the blessing He has given them.

Pray that we will be faithful to represent Him well among the nations.

Missionary Biography, Continued

It was just a little black bag, but when Cornelia Dalenberg found it, she was excited. It had belonged to Dr. Samuel Zwemer, the famous evangelist to the Muslim world. She discovered that the bag contained not Bibles and tracts, but dental forceps, medical instruments, and a good supply of aspirin. Following Jesus’ example, Dr. Zwemer had visited villages preaching and healing.

Cornelia Dalenberg tried to do the same. As a nurse she carried not only a supply of medicines, but also a quantity of Bibles and gospel tracts. Many times her patients asked her to read from the gospels, and she gladly shared God’s words of hope so deeply implanted in her own heart.

Today, Christ’s ambassadors can do the same in places like Syria and Egypt where there is conflict and hatred. They can provide healing to those who have been wounded by violence, and spiritual wholeness to those deceived by spiritual counterfeits.

In retirement Miss Dalenberg wrote: “I hope that missions would attract many good men and women—but I know that a few is all it would take. A life set on fire by the Lord is an awesome thing. It sends out sparks. The sparks light other fires. The fires can sweep through entire nations!” From *Cornelia Dalenberg: Sharifa*, by Tom Watson, Jr., Eerdmans Publishing Co.

Pray that the Lord will light spiritual fires in the war-weary parts of the Middle East!—AL

Alawites of Syria

Shout For Joy, Syria!



You have heard of the Twelve Apostles; but how many of you have heard of the Twelve Imams? Shi'ite Muslims see the original twelve imams as the legitimate heirs of Mohammed, beginning with Ali, Mohammed's son-in-law. As the years passed, the Alawite sect split off from

the Shi'ites. Alawites commemorate Christmas and Palm Sunday. They believe in the divinity of Ali and in reincarnation. Alawites also see the *hajj* pilgrimage to Mecca as a personal journey for greater spiritual understanding rather than just a pilgrimage. And like the Sufis, they engage in a mystical strain of Islam. Because of these beliefs and practices, they are viewed with suspicion by the more orthodox Muslims.

When the Alawite Assad family came to power in Syria in 1971, they integrated Shi'ite and Alawite political factions. Although the Alawites make up only 12 percent of Syria's population, the Assad family managed to use the Ba'ath Party and the military as a base for power. During the recent "Arab Spring" the majority Sunni Muslims rose up against what they saw as an overly powerful minority, and they initiated the civil war. The result has been the death and displacement of thousands of Syrians.

Pray for a return to peace and stability in Syria. Pray that the Alawites will understand that the only way to know God is through Jesus Christ. May their commemoration of Christmas this month become a bridge for God to open them to faith in Christ as their Savior.—TP

"Wake up! Strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have not found your deeds complete in the sight of my God."

The church in Sardis was known as the "live" church. They had enthusiasm, but there was something missing: the fruit of all their zeal for God. It is easy to get these two out of balance. To the church in Ephesus God warned them that their work for Him was getting in the way of their love for Him. The church in Sardis also had a passion for work, but little to show for it. Ultimately, the Master is going to measure our faithfulness by this two-fold standard: Our zeal and love for him and our work for Him.

Pray for the Holy Spirit to give you and your church balance between zeal and obedience.

Sunni Muslim Arabs in Syria

“I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were one or the other!”

It is possible to be a believer in Christ who has access to God, and yet be far away from Him in terms of pursuing the goals He has for us. Because of God’s love for us, He wants the very best for us. He desires that each of us live productive lives through following Him. That journey will take us to the cross and to the hardest and darkest places of this world that need the gospel. The benefits of this sacrifice are a greater identification with Christ and that community which chooses to truly follow Him.

Pray for your church members to pursue God with all their hearts.

Shout for Joy, Syria!



In Christianity Roman Catholics, Greek Orthodox adherents and Protestants all disagree on certain points of doctrine. But surprisingly Muslims are even more divided doctrinally than Christians! Islam has no ecumenical councils or popes to define its orthodoxy. Its scripture is the Qur’an written in

seventh century Arabic which few can read and understand.

The Sunnis make up 90 percent of the world’s Muslims, so they usually define what is orthodox for the majority of Muslims in the world. In Syria they constitute 70 percent of the population, including a large percentage of the Arab inhabitants. Unlike the Alawites we prayed for yesterday, the Sunnis acknowledge only the first four “rightly guided” men as successors of Mohammed. They reject Ali, the son-in-law of Mohammed, and his followers as Mohammed’s successors. The Syrian Islamic movement draws support by depicting itself as a Sunni protest movement against an unorthodox, doctrinally incorrect Alawite minority regime. Although many leaders who have rebelled against the Assad regime want the country to be controlled by laws favored by this majority sect, Sunni Arabs themselves are becoming increasingly secular. It is unclear whether the civil war will increase or dampen the secular spirit of today’s Sunni Arabs.

Pray that Sunni Muslim Arabs in Syria will question what they have been taught and open their hearts to Christ. Pray that in this time of civil strife and sorrow they will seek and find the Servant King.—TP

Iraqi Arabs in Syria

“**W**hat do you do when this happens to you?” Marisqua, a Syrian Arab, gestured with her hand at the ruins of her home. Her friend, Fatima, an Iraqi Arab, started to cry, and the two women embraced. When Fatima gained her composure she said, “This looks just like my home in Iraq did before I came here. Different militias with guns and rocket grenades made it impossible to live there. So we came here to Syria and started a business. Now you Syrians are facing the same fate.” She began to cry again, and ironically, the Syrian woman whose home was recently destroyed was now trying to comfort her Iraqi friend.

Sectarian violence in Iraq had made life unbearable. A couple of years ago, it seemed that Syria provided a stable alternative for Iraqis. However, today Iraq’s violence seems tame compared with the regular bombings in Syria.

Most of the 62,000 Iraqi Arabs who now live in neighboring countries like Syria are from the middle class. They have a better education than most people, which gives them an advantage in the job market. The vast majority of the Iraqi Arabs in Syria are either Sunni or Shi’ite Muslims which makes them vulnerable to getting involved in Syria’s sectarian war whether they want to or not. Iraqi Arabs have suffered a great deal since the two gulf wars started in 1991.

Pray that these suffering people will give their lives to Jesus, the One who can comfort the afflicted.—KC

Hold on to what you have until I come. To him who overcomes and does my will to the end, I will give authority over the nations.

In times of war, military units are often asked to hold a position until relieved. In a similar way, it may seem that in some areas of expanding the Kingdom of God, we are merely standing our ground and holding on to past advances. In such cases we have to remember that by maintaining a presence for the Kingdom in difficult areas of the world, we are still being faithful. Soon our Leader will come with all the reinforcements we need to establish His kingdom in all vits fullness.

Pray for us to hold our ground as we see the Lord win the remaining unreached people groups.

Jordanian Arabs in Jordan

Each one had a harp and they were holding golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.

In this incredible passage in Revelation we are given a glimpse of the throne-room of God. It is depicted as a temple with worship and offerings being lifted up to the throne. At the center of this picture is a description of the prayers of the saints rising as incense before God. Imagine that! The aroma of heaven is your prayers! God desires to surround Himself with the fragrance of your prayers day and night. As we intercede for the nations, let us remember that these prayers are coming before God as an offering which He alone is worthy to receive. The entire court of heaven joins with us in this supreme act of worship.

Pray for us to be faithful to the end in filling the bowls of incense.

Have you ever played with dominoes? You just line them up, push one against the next one, and watch them all go down!

International politics can be a little bit like dominoes. Violence and unrest in one country can drag others down with them. According to a May 9, 2013, article by Dominic Evans, the current unrest in Syria is likely to de-stabilize neighboring Lebanon and Jordan. Syrian refugees are coming into Jordan in droves looking for safety and any kind of work. When there are too many people who are hungry, need housing and work, and too few jobs, wages go down. Even before the Syrian civil war began, Jordan was already suffering from high unemployment.

According to the World Bank, Jordanian Arabs have a very high literacy rate, and many are attending college. But instead of coming together on campus to make the best of the regional crisis, Jordanian college students are fighting violently among themselves. Often students from one tribe or ethnic group are attacking members of other groups. According to an April 24, 2013, article in the *New York Times*, the number of serious violent fights on college campuses in Jordan have increased each year since 2010. Though Jordan has had a Christian presence for centuries, the church is small, weak, and mainly Orthodox.

Pray that Christian TV and radio broadcasts will have a major impact on the Jordanian Muslims and the Syrian refugees. Pray for a strong desire to know God personally that will affect lives among Jordan's Muslim Arabs. Pray that the Church in Jordan will be strengthened by the Holy Spirit so that it can be a healing balm in this troubled region.—KC

Palestinian Arabs

Create International



Imagine yourself as a refugee being welcomed by one country when others have rejected you. Decades later you are still welcome. Unlike other nations in the region, this country allows you to work and gain citizenship. Wouldn't you be loyal to the existing government?

One 40-year-old Palestinian refugee in Syria told a *New York Times* reporter, "If [Syrian President] Assad is gone, no Arab or foreign state will host us."

Other Palestinian Arabs, especially younger ones who don't remember the Assad family's welcome when they left Israel in 1948, are not as loyal to Syria's Assad regime. One 23-year-old Palestinian told the *New York Times*, "Day by day, Palestinians began to see and hear by their eyes and ears what the Assad regime does, and this pushed us slowly to want change."

Palestinians are involved in the fighting, and many have died, mostly for the Assad government. About one-tenth of the 500,000 Palestinians in Syria have fled to neighboring countries. With three percent of the population Christian, the Palestinians are only marginally unreached. However, their churches are mainly traditional, though there are some Evangelicals among them. In Syria, 97 percent of the Palestinians are Muslim, according to the Joshua Project web site.

Pray that the traditional Muslim culture of the Palestinians will soften, creating open doors for the gospel. Pray for strong Bible-believing churches among Palestinian Arabs in Syria that will be salt and light to the Muslim majority.—KC

With Your blood you purchased men for God from every tribe and language, people and nation.

"Bringing Christ the rewards of His suffering." This was the motto of the mission-minded Moravian church in the 18th and 19th centuries. When we take up the cross to follow Jesus, we are taking up its mandate which calls for sacrifice in order to reach every remaining unreached people group. When Jesus took up His cross, this was the joy set before Him. He knew that one day the redeemed from the ends of the earth would be gathered into the Kingdom of God for eternity. This passion should be our passion, and it should bring us to our knees in intercession and to our feet for action. One day soon our savior will receive the rewards of His suffering from every nation under heaven.

Pray for that day to come soon!

You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God and they will reign on the earth.

The imagery of a royal priesthood is captured here in this passage that describes the multitude from every nation. What a privilege it is to be called by God to represent His power and authority in this world and to reign with Christ. We exercise that authority through prayer and intercession. That is why the intercessor comes to understand the ministry of our high priest in such a deep way. Revelation reminds us that it is the high calling of every believer from every nation, tribe, people, and language. No one is exempt. Prayer is God's chosen method to teach us how to reign with Christ, how to use authority, and how to govern with diligence.

Pray that you will learn to pray diligently for His kingdom!

Circassians (aka, Adyghe) in Syria

The Circassian woman's voice rose with excitement when she read the headline. "The Turkish government is considering taking our people in as refugees. It would be closer to our home in Damascus." Her husband gave her a relieved smile.

Sufian's family has been suffering ever since the Arab Spring reached Syria. The Circassians, who call themselves Adyghe, number 50,000 in Damascus, Syria. Although some support the cause of the rebels, most of them are on the side of the government, as many have government jobs. Many Circassians refuse to take sides. They are caught in the middle of Syria's civil war, and things are very dangerous for them.

Formerly Christian, they were converted to Islam in the 16th century. However, many customs and practices of both Christianity and ancient folk traditions intertwine with their Islamic practice. This leads other Muslims to call them "liberal."

Although there are many Christian resources available to them, they still have no Christian radio broadcasts in their language. Some believe there is a tiny Evangelical community of Circassians in Syria, but there has not been any church planting among them for over two years.

Pray that this generation of Adyghe people will return to faith in Jesus Christ. Pray that they will be able to hear the gospel on Christian broadcasts and respond to it. Pray that as chaos envelops them, they will cry out to God and receive the Savior into their hearts.—PE

Nadji Bedouins in Syria

Shout For Joy, Syria



A Bedouin in Syria

the driver to fill. The driver sang an old Bedouin tune in a minor key as he worked.

Ali is a nomadic Bedouin who lives in a large tent. He moves his camels as the sparse grazing land requires. Other Bedouins live in block-houses and no longer trek the northern Syrian desert where Ali's half-million fellow Nadji Bedouins reside.

Ali's world consists of red checked headdresses, long loose clothing, tent ropes hung with multicolored laundry, children tearing pieces of warm flatbread for breakfast, and thick glass cups on a tray, ready for the pouring of sweet tea. He has said his morning prayers to Allah, and will talk of plans for the day with the men. The women milk the sheep, make cheese, and work hard throughout the day.

Some 80,000 Nadji Bedouins have fled to Jordan to escape the war in Syria, while others do their best to scratch a living in urban areas.

Cry out to God to raise up believers to take the gospel to the Nadji, and pray for indigenous Bedouin fellowships to emerge.—PE

Ali piled sticks to make a small fire in the cool desert morning air. He placed a small black kettle on the fire to brew tea and sat back to watch the water truck toss dust into the air as it made its way to his camp. His oldest son ran to bring the plastic buckets and metal canisters for

I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God and the testimony they had maintained.

Reaching the most difficult places is going to require sacrifice and may even result in martyrdom. But we don't shrink back from those places just because it's dangerous. Quite the opposite; we join with a long line of our brethren who have willingly laid down their lives for Christ throughout the centuries. Just as it was illegal and dangerous to preach the gospel in the Roman Empire, so it is difficult to take the gospel into much of the 10/40 Window today. What a high honor to be called to join the company of those saints who bore testimony of Jesus and took up their crosses and never looked back!

Pray for those who today may be called to martyrdom to get the gospel message to all the tribes on the earth.

Domari Zott Gypsy in Syria

After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people, and language, standing before the throne and in front of the lamb.

Almost four thousand years ago God promised Abraham that all nations on earth would be blessed through him. One day this vision will be a reality. Very likely it will happen in our generation. In that sense, we are living in the most exciting moment in history. It is also a reminder of the faithfulness of God. When he gives a promise, he keeps it. Regardless of our faithfulness, no matter how difficult or how long it may take, God never gives up. He's relentless!

Pray that this reality will give us hope and drive us forward to complete the task before us of engaging the last remaining unreached peoples.

Ameya danced her most provocative dance before the nightclub manager in central Damascus. Later when she sat with him for an interview he asked, "What nationality are you?" "Arabic" she lied. Ameya understood that she had no chance of landing a job if anyone knew she was a Domari Gypsy. They are one of the most despised people groups in the Middle East, as well as in Europe.

The Domari have had more than their share of suffering. Their income is usually small, and the women dance, beg, or tell fortunes to help their families survive. With a civil war raging, some have now been reduced to searching through garbage dumps for food. While the official number of Domari in Syria is 37,000, this number may be much higher because they often claim to be other ethnicities.

Their language sounds like a mixture of Japanese and Russian with a bit of a Portuguese "swishing" sound sprinkled about. They love music and dancing girls who are accompanied by guitar-like instruments and skin-covered kettledrums. This provides entertainment and expression for the family, the clan, and (for a fee) outsiders.

Pray that these despised people will find new life and salvation through Jesus Christ. Pray that the Holy Spirit would send His fire to cleanse and renew. Pray that their dire conditions will soon lead the Domari to seek the One True God who yearns to give them the peace and joy of the Lord. —PE

Kurdish refugees from Syria in Iraq

Many of us, upon returning to our home country after a foreign trip, let out strong, loud cheers! We love coming home. No Kurdish individual is able to do this because they do not have a country of their own.

Now many Kurds who adopted Syria as their home have been forced out of this land by the civil war that rages. On top of not having a recognized home country, they also have no place to live because many towns in Syria have been bombed out.

An Iraqi Kurdish journalist, Sherzad Shekhani, said in a 2011 interview, “It seems that the Kurdish people’s destiny, as many of them confirm, is to suffer. They are still suffering under the rule of repressive regimes. Kurds are either repressed and persecuted in their homeland or displaced and exiled.”

Kurdistan was once an established country in the region where Iraq, Turkey, and Syria intersect. Now, the only area that bears the name Kurdistan is a small segment of Iraq, which is co-ruled by Iraqis and Kurds. In recent years, due to the conflict in Syria, more and more refugees have poured into this (Iraqi) area.

Pray that the Kurdish refugees from Syria will have their physical and spiritual needs met. Pray that the conflict in Syria will end soon, and that those responsible for harming the innocent will be brought to justice. Pray that Kurds from Syria will find their spiritual home in Jesus.—JR

These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the lamb.

Scripture makes it clear that those who stand before the throne from every nation, tribe, people, and language will be a special group of people. They will understand what it means to identify with the sufferings of Christ. They will have participated in the greatest harvest for God’s kingdom the world has ever seen. They are those who truly have something to celebrate at our Lord’s second coming.

Pray that soon the church will experience the privilege of being a part of such a special company.

For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd; He will lead them to springs of living water.

Heaven is a wonderful place because Jesus is there. Eternity is guaranteed to be one incredible adventure after another with the all knowing God to guide us! When Jesus came to this earth He brought heaven with Him, and when He comes into our lives we enter into an eternal covenant of love, protection, and righteousness. This reality should impress upon us the great urgency of proclaiming Jesus to all nations, especially those who have not yet heard His great name.

Thank the Lord for His promises for eternity, for us and for the nations.

Yezidis Adherents in Syria

Few of us know what it is like to be a refugee—without a home, source of income, or even a proper legal identity. Over the last four years this writer has had conversations with several displaced refugees from across Southeast Asia, and the stories are quite horrific.

For some people in Syria, on top of being forced out of a safe, regular life by civil war, there is also the isolation of belonging to a minority religion that has been an object of abuse for many years. Yezidis most recently came to Western awareness in 2007 because of the stoning death of one of their young women. She was accused of running off with a Muslim man. Eight men from her village carried out the stoning, while 1,000 others stood by and cheered.

Yezidis have traditionally followed a religious system that blends Zoroastrianism and Sufism. It is seen as very syncretic, and it is therefore not acceptable to most of their Muslim neighbors. Many Muslims consider the Yezidi belief system to be devil worship, but the Yezidis themselves have always denied this. Living in an area where Islam is the only accepted religion has been very difficult for the Yezidis, so in recent years, many have been fleeing.

Pray that as Yezidis leave their traditional homeland, they will be contacted by the people of God who will bring the truth of the gospel into their lives. Pray that Yezidis will give their hearts to their Maker and Redeemer.—JR

Druze Adherents

They might seem to be Muslims, but they aren't! The Druze are a religious sect that began in the 9th century as an offshoot of Islam. The majority of Druze live in Syria, Lebanon, and Israel. Usually loyal, they do not engage in protests or revolts against the government of the countries in which they live. However, conditions in war-torn Syria have caused some Druze living there to take up arms, according to the *Washington Post* (February 8, 2013). Some of them have joined the rebel forces fighting against the government of President Bashar al-Assad. The Druze are considered to be some of the best warriors in the world because they are not afraid to die! They believe in the transmigration of the soul, and at the moment of death, the person is reincarnated into another life. They believe that heaven and hell are only spiritual in nature, not physical places. They believe Jesus was merely the son of Joseph, but they consider Him a “major prophet” along with Adam, Abraham, and others.

Pray that the eyes of the Druze will be opened so that they will recognize that Jesus is not the son of Joseph, but the Son of the living God. Pray that they will turn from darkness to light and realize that heaven and hell are real, that we have just one life to live on earth, and eternal life with God is only given through faith in Jesus Christ.—JWS

The rest of mankind that were not killed by these plagues still did not repent of the work of their hands; they did not stop worshipping demons, and idols of gold, silver, bronze, stone, and wood.

The Bible makes it very clear that the vast majority of humanity will reject the gospel. Jesus said, “Narrow is the way, and few there are that find it” (Matthew 7:14). We are given no grand illusions that the world will be transformed before Christ’s coming. Evil, brokenness, and suffering will remain with us up until the very end because the root of all this is sin. What this means is that our priority must be to evangelize those people groups who have yet to hear the gospel.

Pray that we will rise to the occasion and “hasten His coming” (2 Peter 3:12) by taking Christ to the nations.

Then I was told, “You must prophesy again about many peoples, nations, languages and kings.”

The message we have been given to deliver to the world is a prophetic one. It is more about the future than it is about the past. In that sense the message is very unique. Like Noah we have been called to warn the world that God’s judgment is coming. Every nation, tribe, people, and language will be affected. There is a sense of urgency to the assignment. This was the message of the early apostles, and that message has not changed. The only thing that has changed, you might say, is the urgency. With every passing day we step closer to the judgment seat of Christ.

Pray that we will sense the urgency of preaching the gospel to every nation.

Turks in Turkey and Syria

Abdul holds his head as he waits for the truckload of goods. He is a “good Muslim,” not one prone to breaking the law. He thought smuggling was the right action at first, but now he has had his doubts.

Many Turks like Abdul have turned to smuggling goods from neighboring Syria where they can find the same products at a much cheaper price than in Turkey. Relatives living across the border assist in the process. With the conflict in Syria getting worse, smuggling goods is an easy business and a reliable way to make money for struggling Turks in Syria. But the overall impact drives prices up in Syria, making life even more difficult for the Syrians.

More than 53 million Turks in Turkey and 3500 in Syria face the cultural pressures of encroaching Western value systems that allow for materialism, drug abuse, prostitution, etc. Their own value system of protecting their families during economic and political crisis can also lead to ethically compromising behavior. Even well-educated Turks find themselves doing what they never would have considered before Syria’s civil war brought instability to their border.

Though a secular republic, 97 percent of Turks in Turkey are Sunni Muslim; only one in 1,000 is a follower of Christ. Scriptures and visual media tools are available in Turkish.

Pray that Christ will reveal Himself to the Turks in Syria and Turkey. Pray for Turks to give their allegiance to the Lord no matter how much it costs.—LR

Turkmen in Syria

The Turkmen are related to the large umbrella group of Turkic peoples, but they are a distinct people group with a language quite different from the Turks which we learned about yesterday. “The Turkmen are characterized by their hospitality, sincerity, and trustworthiness; however, they are also known as being hot-headed and revengeful.” This is the description of the Turkmen given by the Joshua Project web site. Nothing can turn a people group into being your enemy like bombing their community. And this is just what the Assad regime did to them in August of 2012. The result: people who once were trying to stay out of Syria’s civil war joined the rebellion against Assad’s Syrian government.

The Syrian government discovered a tunnel linking a Turkmen community in Syria with Qnaisis, described by the publication *Al Akhbar* as a “hotbed of protests and arms.” The Syrian government suspected that the Turkmen would be sympathetic to the Sunni-based rebels like their cousins, the Turks in Turkey.

There were about 135,000 Turkmen living in Syria before the war, but it is very possible that many of these have now fled to Turkey. No matter where they live, the Turkmen are almost 100 percent Sunni Muslim. There are many resources like the JESUS Film in the Turkmen language, but it is very difficult to get these materials to people in a war zone.

Pray for peace in Syria. Pray that the JESUS Film and other resources will reach the Turkmen in Syria and beyond.—KC

The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and He will reign forever and ever.

All history is progressing towards the moment when Christ will come to take back what is rightfully His. Though Satan is described as “the ruler of this world,” we can be certain that his days are numbered. The victory was won on the cross, and we have now been charged to take the authority, which proceeds from this victory, and apply it to reaching every nation. We come representing the Victor. We go to bring Him the rewards of His suffering. Someday soon we will have the honor of rejoicing with Him as He returns to possess what He conquered on the cross.

Pray that the Father will send forth the laborers to bring this message to every nation. The Victor is coming, and with Him the everlasting Kingdom!

The time has come for judging the dead and for rewarding your servants the prophets and your saints and those who reverence Your Name....

All of history is headed for the day when we will all stand before the Throne of Thrones. Scripture says that each of us must give an account before God. What did we do with our time, talents, and treasure when we were alive on earth? Most importantly what did we do with the Name of Jesus? Did we live to see His Name revered among all nations, or did we neglect to follow His orders during our time in this world? For those who are true followers of Christ, these questions are settled. There is only one purpose and mission in life: to see Jesus worshiped and exalted. It's all His followers are living for.

Pray that soon the Levantine Bedouins in Jordan will hear the good news that Christ loves them, died for their sins and made a way for them to go to Heaven.

Levantine Bedouins in Jordan

Zayed turned his back and covered his eyes with an arm as the wind lifted another wave of dust from the desert floor. When the gust had passed, he continued walking, certain now that he was lost. Zayed's father had sent him into the hills to search for sheep that were missing from the flock. His family had only come to this area a few days earlier, and he was still unfamiliar with the terrain. He was beginning to wonder more about which direction would lead him home than where the missing sheep might be.

Then he came to the top of a small hill and spotted several *beit al-sha'ar*— black goat-hair tents. He could tell by the pickup truck sitting next to the tents that they did not belong to his *qawm* (clan). He had no idea who might live in the tents, but he did know they were Bedouins. And like all Bedouins throughout Jordan, they would not turn him away.

Although many Bedouins have settled down to farm, some continue to herd their animals across the desert in search of food and water. They are known for their hospitality, as well as devotion to Islam. Few if any follow Christ.

Pray for the Levantine Bedouins to have the opportunity to hear the good news of Jesus Christ. Ask the Lord to send workers who can share the gospel with them in ways that they can respond to and understand.—CL

Shi'ite Muslim Arabs in Lebanon

“Father, I don’t understand. Why did you kidnap those people?” “It is very simple, my son. They are rebels who are attempting to overthrow our brothers in Syria,” answered the father. “Our brothers? But we have always lived in Lebanon.” “We are Shi’ite. That goes far beyond national borders. It is our identity, our blood. The rebels who are fighting the Shi’ites in Syria are fighting against Shi’ites everywhere. And we must come to the aid of our brothers.” “The rebels are Muslims,” the young man pointed out. “The rebels are Sunnis,” his father said with disgust. “They are our enemy.”

The outbreak of civil war in Syria has begun to erase the border between Lebanon and Syria when it comes to sectarian violence. Lebanese Shi’ites are coming to the aid of Shi’ites in Syria. Kidnappings are on the rise, and Hezbollah, a Shi’ite terrorist group located in Lebanon, has joined the war defending Shi’ites in Syria.

Pray that Shi’ite Muslims in Lebanon will seek and find spiritual answers that lead them away from using religion as a pretext for grabbing political power at the expense of others. Pray for Shi’ites and Sunnis to be set free from sectarian hatred. Pray for the Lord to use this time of violence and insecurity to draw Lebanese Muslims into a relationship with Christ, the only One with answers for the mess mankind has created. Pray for His love and forgiveness to penetrate the fear and hatred that is ruining lives in this region.—CL

The great dragon was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray.

The Bible tells us that the whole world is under the control of the evil one (1 John 5:19). His control reaches every place on earth. For this reason, the apostolic mandate is to rescue people from, “darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God” (Acts 26:18). The Great Commission is primarily and fundamentally a spiritual conflict. That is why the ministry of intercession is so vital in finishing the task before us. The remaining unreached people groups are the final spiritual strongholds of the enemy. Satan will not give them up without a fight. Yet we hold on to this sure promise: the victory is already secured.

Pray that the Holy Spirit will stir the Church to faithfully intercede for the least-reached and hate-filled people groups.

Come out of her my people so that you will not share in her sins.

Perhaps the greatest paradox in Scripture is the command to be in the world but not of it. We are told to, “come out from among them and be separate” (2 Corinthians 6:17). We are also told to “go into all the world.” So how do we do this? Being “light” and “salt” requires us to engage with the world. But if we allow the world to influence us instead of the reverse, the salt loses its saltiness and the light begins to dim. There is no easy answer. Without God’s leading, we either drift into legalism or compromise.

Pray that the Church will be tuned into the will of God so it can be salt and light to a dying world.

Alawites in Lebanon



Shout For Joy, Syria!

“What did we do to deserve that?” grumbled a teenaged Alawite boy to his father while a jeepload of Sunni Muslims drove away shouting, “Allah Akbar!” His mother was already sweeping

up the broken glass after the attack.

We know that there are some major conflicts between the Alawite and Sunni Muslim sects in Syria, but this happened in neighboring Lebanon, according to a May 14, 2013 article in *Fox News*. This news source quoted a prominent member of Lebanon’s Alawite based Arab Democratic Party as saying, “The Alawites are being subjected to an organized campaign that aims to eliminate them on all levels.” There are only 125,000 Alawites in Lebanon.

There is no doubt that the conflict in Syria is exacerbating the situation in Lebanon, but this situation is not new. According to the Joshua Project web site, “The Alawites have survived as a distinct group in Lebanon in spite of repeated persecution and the threats of extinction by the Sunni majority and rulers who consider them to be pagans and heretics....”

As the two religious factions collide, there is plenty of blame to go around, and atrocities are committed against the innocent on both sides. Without a completely different way of looking at spirituality, the situation will not change.

Pray that Alawites and Sunnis in Lebanon will have a spiritual revelation of the crucified Christ who was born among men to take away the sins of the world.—KC

Did you know that there were about a million refugees from the civil war in Syria by April 2013? A good percentage of them arrived in neighboring Lebanon with only a little money and the clothes they were wearing. Many were fleeing for their lives after losing loved ones in the conflict. They have ended up in dirty mud-filled refugee camps where the homes are merely rectangular frames stapled over with thin plastic and burlap.

One strange phenomenon is that many of these Syrian refugees arrive with satellite dishes! This is their only link with the outside world. Fortunately, SAT-7 has excellent programs to heal the hearts of these hurting people. Many SAT-7 programs focus on the need for freedom from sin and despair. Some of the SAT-7 hosts know what despair was like before they embraced the only Savior. One of them was a drug dealer, and another one was an abused wife who came to Christ and eventually led her husband to the only way of hope.

Meanwhile, Lebanese believers with Heart for Lebanon (H4L) go into these refugee camps with much needed food, clean water, and hygiene items. They spend time with the refugees, crying with those who are grieving and sharing the hope that only Jesus Christ can offer.

Pray that these efforts will result in thousands of Syrians putting their hope in the One who can save them from sin and spiritual death.—KC

But woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has gone down to you! He is filled with fury, because he knows that his time is short.

This verse is the only place in the Bible where we are told Satan gets angry. Like a desperate criminal on the run, Satan is seeking to delay the inevitable. He is doing everything possible to keep the terms God has set for his demise from coming into reality. Satan knows that God has connected his destruction to the fulfillment of the Great Commission. For 2,000 years he has kept the Church from advancing to the remaining unreached peoples. But the tide is turning! In the last century more people groups heard and responded to the gospel than in all previous centuries combined.

Pray for an anointing of the Church to fight the good fight against the adversary.

Then the dragon was enraged at the woman and went off to make war against the rest of her offspring.

One of the most important realities a believer can come to understand is that we have an enemy who seeks nothing else but to, “kill, steal and destroy” everything and everyone who belongs to God. We are in a battle—the last battle of a great war that is coming to an end. The final hours will be fierce and intense. Only those who stay close to Jesus, who are prayerful, watchful, and disciplined, are going to survive it. We have only one mission and that is to see the gospel fully proclaimed in every nation, tribe, people, and language.

Pray that our heavenly Father will keep us mindful of what this war is all about. May we stay alert and focused until the coming of Christ.

Fur People in Egypt



Fur Men

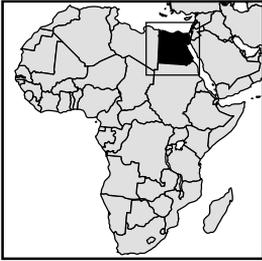
Cattle swung their tails back and forth and lowed quietly, unaware of the danger they were in on the sparse Egyptian plains. A young Fur man stood guard with a rifle, determined to stop any attempts to steal his valuable livestock. Baggara raiders would get no more of his cattle! He thought about praying to Allah, but he was too discouraged to do so. His Baggara enemies were also Muslims, but their common religion didn't stop them from stealing cattle owned by other Muslim groups like the Fur.

The Fur people group lives in Egypt and Sudan. They come from Darfur, which literally means, “Land of the Fur.” In recent years this people group has fled from the terrible fighting in the Darfur Region of western Sudan.

The Fur peoples have adopted Islam, but they have rejected Arab customs. In Sudan they have been at war with various neighboring people groups such as the Baggara. The enemies of the Fur tend to be more Arabized than the Black African Fur peoples.

Ask God to restore peace to the Fur homeland. Pray that God will lead more faithful workers to reach out to this people group with the message of salvation. Right now there is an open door for Christian relief and development workers to reach out to the Fur, but it is a dangerous assignment. Pray for boldness and protection for workers in Darfur.—WK

Sudanese in Egypt



The Sudanese man gazed at the empty office in Cairo and wondered what he would tell his family. The United Nations relief workers still haven't returned, despite the rumors he'd heard on the street. The man jumped back when the office window cracked. Someone had thrown a rock, and he sensed another riot was about to begin. He ran out the door of the deserted office. If he moved quickly he just might get out of this part of Cairo

before the riot grew out of control.

In recent years many Sudanese Arabs had fled to Egypt to escape the civil war in South Sudan. In 2011 a referendum created the new country of South Sudan, but it didn't end the civil war. Then the Arab Spring revolts hit Egypt around the same time South Sudan gained independence. Many of the demonstrators who toppled Egypt's Hosni Mubarak government also targeted Sudanese refugees. Riots broke out in many cities. The violence got so bad that the United Nations relief workers fled from Egypt, leaving the people they had protected unprotected.

Pray for the end of the violence in Egypt. Ask God to restore political stability to that country. Pray that God would break the hold that Islam has on the Sudanese refugees in Egypt. May this people group come to see Jesus Christ as their protector and Savior.—WK

This calls for patient endurance on the part of the saints who obey God's commandments and remain faithful to Jesus.

These instructions are given to the Church in the end times who will endure the final onslaught of the enemy. The Scriptures make it clear that persecution will be with us until the very end, and will intensify as we get closer to Christ's coming. The early Church was birthed in the midst of intense opposition; yet in spite of this, it rapidly expanded. True faith thrives under fire like gold in a furnace; Its impurities are removed, and its worth is revealed. In the same way we can be sure that whatever persecution may come, God has allowed it to accelerate the fulfillment of the Lord's Great Commission.

Pray that the Church will be emboldened to fear nothing in this world but the One who reigns forever.

Who will not fear you, O Lord, and bring glory to Your Name? For you alone are holy. All nations will come and worship before You.

What if the only thing we feared was God? How might our lives be different? The fear of the Lord should trump all other fears. It should also build our faith. For when we fear nothing but God, we are in a position to obey His every word. When we honor Him, He draws near. When we worship Him and stand in awe of His majesty, everything else comes into perspective. Nothing can shake us. We have complete confidence to tackle anything life may throw at us.

Pray that the Holy Spirit will drive out the fears and distractions that keep us from His perfect will. Pray for faith to go into the most difficult places with His love, compassion, authority, and justice.

Libyans in Egypt

The Libyan man and his family stood on the hot desert sand in no man's land. Behind them was Libya, where they were unwanted. Ahead of them was Egypt, a country that didn't want any more Libyan refugees. There were many families trapped in no man's land since the 2011 revolution in Libya. A community was starting to form in the land that separated the two countries. Only the lucky ones had tents.

Some of these Libyan refugees had really supported Muammar Kadaffi, the ousted Libyan dictator. Others were believed to have supported Kadaffi, but really hadn't. Many of these people had been neutral during the civil war, but if they lived in towns that had supported Kadaffi, other Libyans suspected that they were Kadaffi sympathizers. Such people couldn't prove they were loyal to the new government. After the fighting had ended in Libya, anyone could denounce a person for being disloyal, and if you were accused, you were in danger of going to jail or even being killed by the police.

Pray for reconciliation in Libya. Ask God to open doors for Christian relief and development workers to reach out to the people trapped in the no man's land that separates Egypt from Libya with the message of salvation. May this people group come to see Jesus Christ as the Prince of Peace and the one who could save their souls.—WK

Eastern Sinai Bedouins in Egypt



Bedouin

“**A**rgh!” Right after Eritrean refugee Philemon Semere was handed a phone to call his relatives to beg for \$33,000 ransom money, his Eastern Sinai Bedouin torturers again started to shock and burn him to intensify his screams. These criminals would gladly kill him if ransom money failed to show up by the deadline.

Merciless criminal gangs take advantage of the Egyptian government’s negligence. Decades of neglect, decay, and lawlessness have left Egypt’s Sinai Peninsula a hotbed of tribal conflicts compounded by numerous well-financed armed groups trying to achieve their respective political objectives by combating the current government and each other.

Sheikh Ibrahim El-Manae, head of the Sinai Tribes Union, asserts, “There is no development.... No wonder they have taken to arms and drug trafficking, jihadism or crimes.” It is a vicious circle; when the criminals take over, the Egyptians are less willing to hire Sinai Bedouins for the few jobs available.

Pray for intercessors to soften the hard soil in the Sinai Peninsula so that the gospel will transform hearts and lives. Pray that the day will come soon when, as Isaiah prophesied in 19:24-25, Israel will be the third with Egypt and Assyria, a blessing in the midst of the earth, whom the Lord of hosts has blessed, saying, “Blessed be Egypt my people, and Assyria the work of my hands, and Israel my heritage.”—RR

Behold, I come like a thief! Blessed is he who stays awake and keeps his clothes with him, so that he may not go naked and be shamefully exposed.

In the book of Revelation, clothes represent the righteous deeds of believers (Revelation 19:8). Righteousness requires us to be proactive, to be awake and vigilant. Jesus made it clear that the righteousness He is looking for upon His return relates to stewardship with what He has given us. This is a high standard of righteousness before God. It is not just about abstaining from things that are wrong. It is about being obedient to what God has asked us to do that makes us righteous.

Pray that the Father will fill His Church with a spirit of obedience to His Great Commission. May this assignment be carried out with diligence, love, and faithfulness.

The dragon stood in front of the woman who was about to give birth so that he might devour it the moment it was born.

The book of Revelation gives us a dramatic look at the Christmas story. Though we often think of the birth of Christ in peaceful, joyful terms, there is another side to the story. The birth of Christ was an invasion of earth by the kingdom of God. It was the inauguration of the last battle over the kingdom of darkness that eternal history will ever know. Clearly Satan understood that with the coming of Christ into this world, his days were numbered. For as the gospel of the Kingdom advances throughout the whole world, the closer the Day of Judgment approaches.

Pray that the Church will rise up in power to declare Christ's authority and victory over all the powers of darkness throughout the world.

Ahmadiyyas in the Middle East

They have been expelled from Saudi Arabia and branded as heretics and non-Muslims in other parts of the Muslim world. They have been killed in places like Pakistan and Egypt. With Egypt's future in question, it is very possible that members of the Ahmadiyya sect of Islam will face more persecution and even killings.

Ahmadiyyas are very evangelistic, both with Christians and with Muslims. Muslims love the Ahmadiyyas' efforts to refute Christian doctrine, but they violently oppose Ahmadiyyas' efforts to evangelize mainline Muslims. They are persecuted and often attacked by militant factions of Islam because Ahmadiyyas follow a later prophet than Mohammed, whom Muslims consider the final prophet. Ahmadiyyas consider their founder, Mirza Ghulam Ahmad to be a prophet and a savior. They are as far from mainline Islam as Mormons are from biblical Christianity.

Jesus Christ came to bring us God, not a religion, and He routinely tangled with the religious authorities (eg, Matthew 23). Religion can be defined as man's attempts to reach or please God. The religions of the world are proved not valid by God's act of reaching down from heaven to us and personally walking among us. He has shown Himself to us through Jesus Christ (John 14:8-11). Ahmadiyyas rely on the law of the Qur'an to please God instead of throwing themselves at the merciful feet of Jesus.

Pray that the Lord of the Harvest will send blessed believers to bring His peace to the Ahmadiyyas in the Middle East. Pray for the Lord to protect and guide them.—RR

Bahraini Arabs

Formula One race cars roar around Bahrain's Grand Prix track. The prestigious race came to this island nation in 2004. Each spring since then, the world of auto racing looks to this oil-rich Arab kingdom.

But the roar of racecars could not drown out the protests of Bahraini Arabs in 2011. Demonstrations that year led to the cancellation of the popular event. When the winds of the so-called "Arab Spring" swept through the Middle East, many Shi'ite Bahrainis hoped that the time had also arrived for them to obtain some power in Bahrain.

The rulers of the oil-rich island country belong to the Sunni branch of Islam. Only a small minority of Bahrainis follow Sunni teachings. Meanwhile, most of the inhabitants of this country are Shi'ite Muslims. They have felt the sting of discrimination for two centuries, ever since the Al-Khalifa family conquered the island chain. With the discovery of oil, the gulf between the powerful wealthy and the weak commoners has grown. In recent decades, periods of improved treatment were followed by brutal crackdowns. The 2011 "Arab Spring" stirred the Shi'ite hopes of overthrowing the rule of their religious oppressors. Instead, military intervention crushed these dreams. Formula One racing has returned since that 2011 cancellation. The king destroyed the site of the protests. But unrest continues to rumble just beneath the surface.

Pray that increasing contacts with outsiders will include a sincere witness from followers of Jesus. Pray that the Holy Spirit will raise up Bahraini persons of peace to seek the truth in Jesus.—GEC

They will make war against the Lamb, but the Lamb will overcome them because He is Lord of lords and King of kings—and with Him will be His called chosen and faithful followers.

Jesus said, "Many are called but few are chosen" (Matthew 22:14). Revelation adds a third qualifier: the faithful. Many are called, few are chosen, and fewer still are faithful. Why might that be? Why do so many believers, including many leaders, not finish well? There is just one reason. We are in a war with a desperate enemy who is doing everything he can to survive. The only way to defeat him is to stay close to Jesus. Those who overcome are those who learn to put on the full armor of God and keep it on at all times.

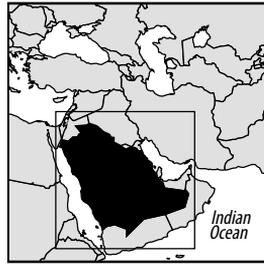
Pray that we will draw closer to Him as we press on to take His Word to all nations.

Let us rejoice and be glad and give Him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and His bride has made herself ready.

All of history is headed towards one event: that moment when we will all stand before the Judge. For some people this day will be festive like a wedding. For others that day will be like being convicted in court. Both will stand before the same judge, but with a different result. As believers, our task is to get ready for this awesome day, not only by perfecting holiness in our lives as Scripture exhorts, but by telling others about Christ so that they can receive the righteousness of God.

Pray that the Lord will use us to prepare His bride from every nation for the Day of Days when we will all meet Him face to face.

Saudi Arabs



Saudi Arabia, Riyadh

A vegetable seller set himself on fire and died after being humiliated by representatives of the government. This Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, event was similar to a protest in Tunisia two years before. Muted whispers of protests have begun to leak out of Saudi Arabia's tight security.

In a reversal of yesterday's scene, the minority Shi'ite Muslims suffer under the majority hand of Sunni rulers. This restive group lives primarily in the eastern region of the Arabian Peninsula,

near Bahrain. The unrest among the Shi'ites in the two neighboring nations explains why the Saudi kingdom sent military forces to assist in crushing the Shi'ite protests in Bahrain. At the same time the Saudis are assisting Sunni rebels in Syria.

Word of the vegetable seller's protest spread among Shi'ites through Twitter messages—Tweets—which raced from one phone to another. Government officials scorned this practice, saying that anyone who used such modern devices, “has lost this world and his afterlife.” (<http://www.bbc.co.uk>) The imam of the Grand Mosque of Mecca used an entire sermon to demonize Twitter users, and another leader called Twitter users fools.

Pray that Christian podcasts will reach Saudi Arabs who connect to the Internet. Pray that followers of Christ will create a following among Twitter users and other Internet social media. Pray for both Sunni and Shi'ite Muslims to turn their backs on oppressive religion and find spiritual answers in Christ.—GEC

Orthodox Jews (Haredim) in Israel

Day 28

Revelation 20:10



“If a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand” (Mark 3:25). This scripture could well be a prophecy for Israel if the ultra-Orthodox Jews and the government

cannot find some agreement and compromise. Many Israelis are tired of the ultra-Orthodox (Haredim) not serving in the military, often not working, and taking tremendous amounts of welfare due to unemployment and high birthrates. In their communities, the women work far more than men, who often receive government subsidies to study in Yeshiva (religious Talmud study) all day.

Military draft exemption began in 1948 when the state of Israel was created, and 400 students were pardoned from military service. That number has now grown to over 60,000. In July the cabinet approved a draft law to abolish wholesale exemption from military service granted to Jewish seminary students. Most Israeli men and women, beginning at age 18, serve for three years in the military. In addition, the treasury plans to halve the budgets of public schools that do not administer Israeli state tests—that is, don’t teach math, science, literature or history—as is the case with Haredim public schools. The result has been that the Haredim are ill-prepared for the work force.

Pray that the Haredim community will have an awareness of their need to put into practice the religious principles they diligently study. Pray that they will find their spirituality wanting, so they can seek and find their Messiah.—JS

And the devil who deceived them, was thrown in the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown.

The primary tool of Satan is deception. Satan can’t make anyone do what they don’t want to do. The battle he engages in is a battle of the mind. There is only one antidote for this weapon, and that is the truth found in the person of Jesus Christ. All truth proceeds from this one source and builds on this one foundation, for God alone is the only infinite, omnipotent being in the universe. Without Him there can be no standard for truth. That is why He alone is our salvation. He is the only person who can rescue us from enslaving lies.

Pray that the Holy Spirit will empower the Church to take His truth to every nation, tribe, people, and language.

On each side of the river stood the tree of life . . . and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.

The nations are often mentioned throughout the book of Revelation. Like the first 11 chapters of Genesis, the last chapters of the Bible are very universal in scope, speaking of the entire world, including every nation. This tells us how valuable our diversity is to God. Throughout eternity we will continue to be as diverse as we are today, and perhaps more so. The one difference will be our unity in the midst of that diversity. Because of Christ, we are linked together in a powerful bond that has made us all brothers and sisters for eternity.

Thank the Lord that He allows for our diversity. Thank Him for healing the nations.

Sabras (Native Born) Israelis

The world hears daily of conflicts between Israelis and Palestinians. In border areas such as the West Bank Israeli settlers, heavily armed to defend themselves, clash with Palestinian Arabs who resent their presence. We begin to form stereotypes of the life and attitudes of the Israelis. Unfortunately the good stories rarely make the headlines.

Here are examples of good news. A Syrian mother, afraid she would be seen as a traitor, escaped to the “enemy state,” Israel, with her three-year-old girl. The child’s heart condition was so bad that she could not play or walk or talk. Unable to get medical help in war-ravaged Syria, she found the help she needed in Israel. An organization called “Save a Child’s Heart,” a non-profit organization that provides heart surgery to children wherever they are, saved her life.

Music has the power to unite and bond so-called enemies. Micah Hendler, a recent graduate of Yale University, started a chorus for Jews and Arabs in Jerusalem, and they practice in Jerusalem’s YMCA! The 14 Arab and 14 Jewish students have proved his theory that music can overcome deep-seated prejudices as the students spontaneously mingle. Dancing works too! “Dancing in Jaffa” is a new documentary about a mission to bring children together in the mixed Jewish and Arab city of Jaffa through ballroom dancing.

Pray that these acts of friendship and compassion will begin to change the hearts and minds of Israelis and non-Israelis alike.—JS

Jewish and Arab Preachers

There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ (Galatians 3:28). This is still true today, especially in Israel where Jews and Arabs coexist and find that their differences fade as both embrace Christ. Jews are hearing the message that their Messiah came and died for them, and Arabs (Gentiles) are finding that Jesus died for them as well.

Amid all the arguments over how and if Jewish and Arab believers must “reconcile” to one another, some Jewish and Arab believers are simply getting down to business and joining forces to preach Yeshua. Recently Tel Aviv–based messianic leader Jacob Damkani took to the streets of his hometown to share his faith with fellow Israelis, but this time he did so with some special partners—Arab Christians from Nazareth. When interviewed on television, Petros, an Arab Christian, said he has embraced Yeshua as his savior. Petros’ passion for Yeshua matches Jacob’s. The two men are eager to share this truth with those they meet. “But in your heart revere Christ as Lord, always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope which you have” (1 Peter 3:15).

Pray that Jewish and Arab believers will be emboldened to share Christ with their fellow countrymen and show their communities that they “are all one in Christ.”—JS

They will see His face, and His Name will be on his forehead.

The final chapter in Revelation is very rich in meaning! In verse four we are taken back to the scene in Exodus where Moses asks God to show him His glory. God tells Moses that no one can see His face and live. Reflecting on this, John reminds his readers in his first epistle that no one has ever seen God (1 John 4:12). But here in the final chapter of the Bible we are told that we will “see His face.” What an amazing reality to ponder! All the goodness, power, and glory of God will wash over us and saturate our souls in His presence for all eternity.

Pray for some from every unreached people group today to yearn to see His face and be transformed by His glory.

Behold, I am coming soon! My reward is with me and I will give to everyone according to what he has done.

The final chapter of Revelation and, indeed, the final chapter of the Bible remind believers that there is but one priority for the church in this age: the return of the King of kings to rule this world. Paul writes that Christ is coming for all those who “long for his appearing” (2 Timothy 4:8). Peter reminds us to “look forward and hasten his coming” (2 Peter 3:12). How different our lives might be if this were actually the way we lived? What if we lived every day with this one priority determining all our decisions? If every believer lived this way, we would do all we could to evangelize every nation.

Pray that we will have an eternal perspective so we may align our will with His.

Musalaha

Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another (Colossians 3:13). Musalaha means forgiveness and reconciliation, and it is the name of a Jerusalem-based grass-roots ministry that began in 1990. It provides the opportunity for Palestinians and Jews to dialogue and learn from one another through seminars and experiences, resulting in sincere exchanges of reconciliation. Through the Messiah there is hope for a lasting reconciliation of Jewish and Palestinian believers.

Musalaha’s vision is to create a neutral space for Messianic Israelis and Palestinian Christians to meet each other and receive training in reconciliation, which they believe is a four-step process. First there is confession, stating the truth and acknowledging unjust or hurtful actions carried out by both parties. Then there is repentance, turning from unloving to loving action. Third, there is reconciliation, expressing and receiving forgiveness and pursuing intimate fellowship with previous enemies. Finally there is restitution, attempting to restore that which has been damaged and seeking justice.

Musalaha has held many camps for Jewish and Palestinian youths in a neutral desert environment. The desert camp environment has been equally effective with young community leaders. They are currently focusing on fostering Christian unity among leaders in the Bethlehem community, especially women’s groups.

Pray that true forgiveness and reconciliation between Jewish Christians and Palestinian Christians will have far-reaching effects in demonstrating the power of Christ to reconcile sinners to God.—JS

(See: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NWuOFX_XXmM and [Musalaha.org](http://www.musalaha.org))

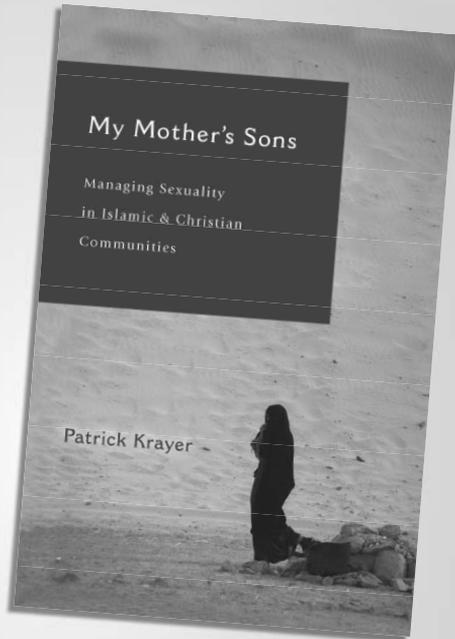
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My Mother's Sons provides a thoughtful model for how Western Christian workers can respectfully negotiate sexual boundaries and norms in Muslim contexts. Westerners are inclined to impose their own culturally shaped notions of gender equality and justice on non-egalitarian communities, alienating the very people they are seeking to serve. The author draws on his own research among Pakistani Pashtuns, intercultural theory, and exegesis of Christian and Islamic sacred texts to show that it is possible to work for transformational change without offending those who live within a patriarchal system.



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