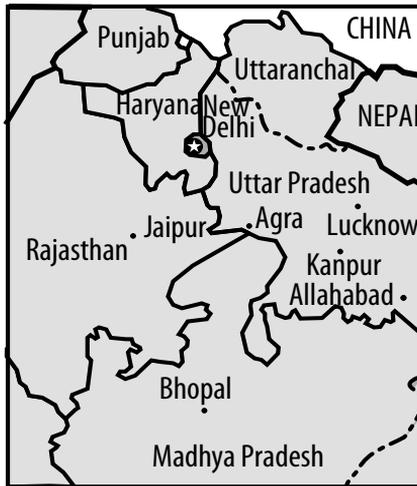
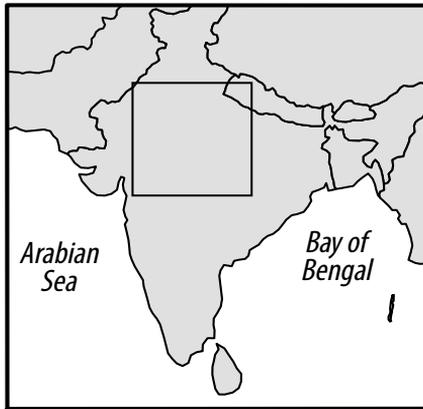


Pray for a Strong move of God amongst the Hindi speaking people of South Asia



So Numerous and Unreached!

— by CS Riggs,
of Ekballo House
of Prayer in Pasa-
dena, CA



The Hindi language is one of the top five most spoken languages in the world! It is estimated that close to half a billion people in the world can speak and understand Hindi or Urdu, the related language that we will cover next month. Although the majority of Hindi speaking people are found in northern India, there are approximately eight million Hindi speakers living in Nepal and close to 400,000 living in South Africa. Most of the Hindi speakers in northern India live in the states of Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Haryana, Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, and Delhi.

This region is also known as “the Hindi Belt,” and Hindi is the official state language of the area. Hindi is the mother tongue of many of the people living there or a secondary language for those who speak Hindi dialects in the region. The Hindi Belt has close to one-third of India’s population, even though it consists of just one quarter of India’s land mass. The cluster of people living in the Hindi Belt contains over 350 different people groups.

Hindi is a Language, Hindu is a Religion

People often confuse the Hindi language with the Hindu religion. Though most people that speak Hindi are of the Hindu faith, there is no definite connection between the two. The Hindi language developed from ancient Sanskrit which was used in writing the Hindu Vedas thousands of years ago. The Vedas are a collection of writings that the Hindus consider to be holy.

Over the centuries Sanskrit began developing different dialects. One of the more prominent dialects was eventually called Hindustani which today breaks down into the Hindi and Urdu.



The British colonialists invented the word “Hindu” as a generic term. They applied it to all the philosophies and animistic religions found east of the “Indus” River in northern India. “Stan” means land, and when put together with the word Hindu, becomes Hindustan which means, “Land of the Hindus,” a name often given to India. The Hindustani language later developed into multiple dialects. When Pakistan and India separated in 1947, the Hindi language became an official language of India. Today the word “Hindi” in itself means one of two things: a cluster of dialects, or a language that developed from one of these particular dialects.

Today Hindi is a very strategic and influential language. As was stated earlier, Hindi is spoken and recognized as one of the main official languages of the Republic of India and is used in many governmental affairs. Many Indians consider Hindi the official language of the entire nation. One can easily say that Hindi is the most influential language in India, the second most populous nation in the world.

Most of the 350 plus people groups within this Hindi Belt are unreached with the gospel. Because of the many dialects in the region, it is very difficult to communicate the gospel to all Hindi speakers. The majority of Hindi-speaking peoples in this region are devout Hindus, taking much pride in their allegiance to their many gods. Historically, there has never been a major people group movement to Christ among Hindi-speaking peoples.



Hindi Speakers Reject Christianity, Not Christ

When I personally visited the Hindi Belt, devout Hindus told me that they took much pride in the fact that there had never been a movement to Christ in their region as had occurred in many other areas of India. They believed that they must preserve their culture by staying Hindu. They felt strongly that Christianity was a Western religion that could not be a part of Indian culture. This feeling was strengthened during the rule of the British colonialists (1858-1947) whom they linked with Christianity. They associated Christianity with British colonial abuses, so many had a distorted

view of Christianity and the character of the God of the Bible. Hinduism had become their identity; it was a major part of their culture. They believed that becoming a Christian or believing in Jesus would be the same as rejecting their ethnic identity. They would no longer be Indian, but Western.

In sum, they had rejected Western style Christianity, but not Christ. There is a major difference. They had rejected the trappings of Christianity as a religion without rejecting the Christ of the Bible.

God has a great plan for these peoples. There are many qualities within the culture that could possibly be used to introduce the people to Christ. Creative art is one of these qualities. It is a God-given gift to the Hindi-speaking peoples. Their natural gifting in music, the beauty of their language, and the creativity of the people is something that can glorify God and touch other nations in Asia. But at this time the gospel is seldom being presented to Hindi speakers using their styles of music and art forms. Therefore, Jesus appears to be a “foreign” God.

With the Hindi Belt being one of the most unreached areas, not only of India, but of the entire globe, it is pivotal that we pray for these people. With the Hindi language’s vast influence in India, if there is a people movement among the Hindi-speaking peoples, we could see a mass move of God throughout this great nation of 1.2 billion people. Such a movement would reach hundreds of unreached people groups.



There are many needs among this Hindi-speaking region. When one looks at all of the unreached peoples in India and the small, but rapidly growing indigenous church, one can see the greatest need is simply for more laborers. In Matthew 9 we see Jesus looking at the multitudes as they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Jesus' answer to this was, "Pray the Lord of the Harvest to send forth laborers into his harvest field."

Pray For the Hindi Belt!

- Pray for more laborers (Matthew 9:38) for the Hindi-speaking region.
- Pray that the church in the West will see the need in the Hindi Belt, and people will begin praying for this unreached area on an ongoing basis.
- Pray that the people in this region would see that Jesus does not seek the destruction of their cultural identity, but actually the fulfillment of the destiny of their culture.
- Pray that believers will develop ways to use Hindi cultural forms to make Jesus understandable and acceptable to the people.

Day 1

1 Timothy 1:15

Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.

Why did Jesus come? Over and over again the gospel record clearly says that Jesus came into the world with one central purpose: to minister and to give His life as a ransom for all sinners who would accept Him. He did not come for the religious or the (self) righteous, but for those who were and are aware of their own spiritual needs. Our role is to take this good news to those who have had no opportunity to hear.

Pray that God will use us today, this week, and this month to share this good news.

Missionary Biography, Samuel Hebich

Samuel Hebich's father was a clergyman in the village of Nellingen, Germany. But the villagers used to say that he was "far more expert in wielding the sword of steel than the sword of the Spirit." Samuel once heard his father say, "All that is in the Bible is not to be believed. For the sake of the common people, however, it is best to continue teaching the old faith!"

When Samuel was 13, he was sent to live with an older brother in Lubeck, Germany. During the next five years Samuel struggled with the knowledge that he was a sinner and unworthy before a holy and righteous God. In 1821 he made his peace with God. Both his father and brother were highly displeased with the change that took place in Samuel's life. His father wrote, "My son, you have gone astray!"

Samuel fell in love with a woman who attended the same church. Then he noticed that his devotions were far more fervent when she was present than when she was absent. He asked God for grace to overcome this attachment to a human being, so that he might see Jesus only. His prayer was answered, and he never married.

He continued to be a faithful church worker, and joined a missionary society where he became excited about the "conversion of the heathen" through reading the mission reports. In 1829 he decided to become a foreign missionary. He entered Basel Mission College in 1831.

Pray for God to raise up workers for India who will sacrifice all for the sake of Christ.—AL

Missionary Biography, Continued

Day 2

I Timothy 2:4, RSV

Prince Victor of Schonburg, a wealthy man, offered to give the Basel Mission a large sum of money if they would send three men to establish a school in India. Samuel Hebich, chosen as one of the three, was ordained in 1834, and in July he sailed for India. By 1836 the first school was begun in Mangalore with four pupils. Mr. Hebich went from house to house, begging parents to send their children to the school. But rumor spread that the missionaries would force the children to eat meat and convert to Christianity. So the schoolhouse was used as a church until some of the parents put their faith in the Lord.

Mr. Hebich organized the feeding and clothing of the poor and provided for the lepers. He also felt called to reach the Englishmen in the nearby military stations who were becoming demoralized in India. He was fearless in his witness, especially to the officers of the regiment. He would often “crash” their parties, kneel to pray, then rise to witness. At another time he determined to visit and preach in every street and bazaar in the town of Cannanore. Starting early in the morning, he spent a half hour in each place. He would pray, sing, and tell the gospel story; then he would move on. By this method, every inhabitant of that city eventually heard the gospel, and many were saved.

Pray for boldness tempered by discernment for today's workers in northern India.—AL

Who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the Truth.

Intercessors, look at the size of the job our Father has entrusted to believers! The Great Commission states that we are to go into all the world and preach the gospel. Not everyone can go overseas, but everyone can obey God by praying for the lost and unreached people groups. One day when we get to Heaven, we will see thousands of people groups surrounding His throne and many individuals for whom we are praying. We will discover how prayers for the Hindi speaking unreached peoples made a difference in their eternal destiny.

Be encouraged and thank Him for His willingness to involve you in His great plan for the nations.—RR

Every time I say your name in prayer—which is practically all the time—I thank God for you, the God I worship with my whole life in the tradition of my ancestors. I miss you a lot, especially when I remember that last tearful goodbye, and I look forward to a joy-packed reunion.

See how it works? As you intercede today for the Hindi-speakers who are not yet brothers and sisters in Christ, you are doing your part in seeing them birthed into the kingdom of God! Your prayers today follow in the traditions of an unbroken chain of intercessors praying for 20 centuries: Thy kingdom come!—RR

Missionary Biography, Continue

In 1850 Samuel Hebich received a letter from the Basel Mission appointing him the first president of the Mission. He did not believe in stringent rules and regulations, but preferred to have liberty for himself and others to follow the leading of the Holy Spirit. He wrote, “I fear that too many rules will let the devil loose, and that he will steal away all divine life.” He himself could only move and work in an atmosphere of prayer. He never went forth to preach unless he prayed first that God would give him the victory. Another “secret” of Mr. Hebich’s success in ministry was his ability to surround himself with a band of enthusiastic workers. He really loved these people.

In September, 1859, after 25 years in India, Mr. Hebich said farewell to his spiritual children and sailed for England. News that Mr. Hebich had left India spread rapidly; a somber feeling covered the land as though he had died. Even the newspapers wrote of him and his work with the greatest of praise. He spent his retirement years preaching and teaching in England as he had done in India. He died in 1868.—AL from *Samuel Hebich of India, The Master Fisher of Men*, by George N. Thomssen, Cuttack, India, 1905.

Pray for the Lord to raise up more men and women of courage, stamina, and love to work in the least reached parts of northern India.

Gond (aka, Koi) People

Call them the Gonds and they will tell you they are the Koi people because that is their self-designated name. “Gond” is a term used by outsiders for the largest tribe in India, a tribe that exhibits a great deal of cultural, economic, and language diversity. Hindi is only one of three languages that they speak, and they only partially follow the Hindu religion. Although they worship Hindu deities, including one called the “Mother of the Creator,” local deities are also just as important to them.

Indeed, they seek to distinguish themselves from other Hindus. They eat beef which is taboo in Hindu diets. Unlike the more orthodox Hindus, the Gonds don’t consider the people in the Brahmin caste to be their superiors. Gonds sometimes practice polygamy, a custom usually associated with Islam; but they started practicing polygamy in India long before Mohammed was born.

Gond marriages may be initiated by women. Most families are nuclear, that is, they are composed of one husband and wife, although some live in extended families including grandparents. While many Gonds do not receive an adequate education, some become teachers, physicians, administrators, or politicians.

The Hindi Bible is available to the Gond. So, too, are the JESUS Film, gospel recordings, and gospel radio broadcasts. Yet few Gonds follow Jesus.

Pray for a spiritual awakening among the Hindi-speaking Gonds who need to learn about the true Creator who loves them. Pray that their tribal councils will not oppose the gospel. Pray for believers to evangelize the Gonds.—TP

Let us therefore make every effort to enter that rest, so that no one will fall. . . .

What a beautiful paradox: make every effort to enter that rest. This verse simply summarizes the biblical balance between resting in God’s work and striving to accomplish God’s purposes. Any effort which is not based on a reliance on God’s work is in vain and futile. Yet at the same time we must not sit back complacently because of what God has already accomplished by creation and redemption. We must diligently labor while placing our confidence in God’s power working in and through us to accomplish the task before us.

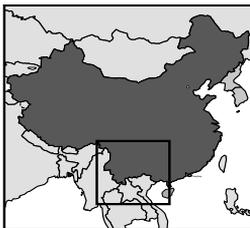
Pray that you will work faithfully in prayer for the unreached, and that He will be your guide so that you can complete the work He has for you to do.

And He said to her, “Your sins are forgiven. . . . Your faith has saved you; go in peace.”

Notice that the woman was forgiven, and her forgiveness was not based on her works (the action of weeping and washing His feet with her tears); rather, her forgiveness came from the fact that her heart was repentant, and she had faith in Jesus Christ.

Pray that the Hindi-speaking Badhik people will understand this truth: forgiveness from God comes from a repentant heart and faith in Jesus Christ. Pray that many will receive this wonderful news and become so overjoyed that they will tell others of His great love for mankind and His merciful forgiveness.

Badhik People



The Badhik people have a population of only about 14,500, and they are among India’s least known people groups. Of three web sites dedicated to them, only two have anything of consequence to say about them. Some people think that the Badhiks may be little known because they are members of the Dalit community. The Dalit are the lowest caste in India, and they are sometimes called “untouchables.” The Badhik

people are a scheduled caste which means that the Indian government gives them special opportunities and privileges due to their low status in society.

Fewer than two percent of the Badhik follow Christ, even though the Bible, the JESUS Film, gospel recordings, and radio broadcasts are available in Hindi (although, perhaps, not available in their special dialect).

The Badhiks marry within their own community with their own caste council to handle marriage issues. They work mainly in animal husbandry, poultry, and leather production. A few are agricultural laborers. Their religion is uncertain; one site says that they are Hindus, while another says they practice an ethnic religion which is so deeply entrenched in their identity that conversion to another faith is the same as joining another ethnic group.

Pray that churches or missionaries will present Jesus to them in such a way that the Badhik people can preserve their ethnic identity, while still following Jesus to the exclusion of other deities.—TP

Kaparia People

India Gospel Outreach



“The more things change, the more they stay the same.” This statement is definitely true of life in India. Nowhere else will you encounter emaciated cattle taking highway space from drivers of Audis, or Hindu temples down the street from Muslim mosques and Sikh gurdwaras. Though India is

becoming increasingly prosperous, there are entire communities that suffer from poverty just as they have for hundreds of years.

The name “Kaparia” comes from the Hindi word “kapra,” which means “cloth.” This people group is known for selling old clothes, and today they are also known for begging. Their lifestyle does not include educating their children, which ultimately leads to a low standard of living. Their girls are rarely sent to school, and their sons often drop out of school at an early age; this keeps their high poverty level firmly in place. The Kaparia keep making the same bad choices generation after generation. They have little interest in saving money, but they are not, as a rule, susceptible to moneylenders. Some of the Kaparia are now cultivating the land or raising cattle.

The gospel is available to the Kaparia in ways that could be meaningful to them. There are Hindi language Bibles, recordings, films, and so forth. But there has been no active church planting done among them.

Pray that the Kaparia people will have dreams and visions that will draw them to Jesus. Pray that church planters will be burdened to work among the Kaparia. Pray that God will open their hearts to receive the good news that there is a wonderful God who loves them.—JR

The Lord’s message rang out from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia—your faith in God has become known everywhere.

Imagine what joy we would have if this were true of the Kaparia people! Imagine if they put their old ways aside, and embraced Christ in such a way that their faith was known throughout India. This is a people group that is noted for their self-imposed poverty. Just think how much their lives would be improved if they turned to Him.

Pray that by the end of this decade the faith of the Kaparia people would be known throughout India. Pray that their new faith will help them achieve a better life, both monetarily and spiritually.

Day 7

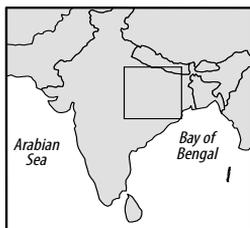
Matthew 7:11, ESV

If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!

It is very easy to understand that people who make their living by robbery are evil. But notice that Jesus was speaking to Jewish people who were interested in His teachings. He told them that they were evil! That label has been applied to all of mankind since the fall of man in Genesis 3. For the Barwar and all other people there is only one remedy for the problem of evil.

Pray that the Barwar people will understand that, like the rest of humanity, they have a problem with evil. Pray that they will put their faith in the One who gives good gifts to His children, including deliverance from evil.

Barwar People



When you travel in India one thing you should prepare for and avoid is crime. There are always opportunists and career criminals who will take advantage of circumstances to better themselves at someone else's expense.

In India, one of the criminal communities is known as the Barwar caste. They have earned a reputation for making other people's lives difficult. It is understood that they originated in the Saran

District of the state of Bihar. They were expelled from Saran, and went to the Awadh Region from which they were again expelled.

They are known for gangs that make their living by violence. They have received what is called scheduled caste status, which means they are given special opportunities by the Indian government to better their lives via education and job opportunities. This government help at least gives them a certain visibility that is intended to bring them out of the grip of the past. There are no known outreaches or church planting efforts being done among the Barwar people.

Pray that the Lord would speak to the hearts of influential Barwar. Pray for open hearts among this community. Pray that God's people would make intentional efforts to connect with the Barwar, even when the situation is dangerous.—JR

Agrawal People

Day 8

1 Timothy 6:10, NIV

The Agrawal community boasts among its prominent members Mr. Lakshmi Mittal, the steel magnate, and one of the world's wealthiest men. They also boast about Mr. O.P. Jindal, the late steel magnate, who ranked further down the list, but still controlled immense assets. They boast that many other business people and famous persons are from their community.

Nevertheless, with all these boasts, they still complain. Their website (agarwall.com) opens by pointing to the discrimination their group has faced in the past. Even to this day they complain, "Since we have no large concentration of our people in any particular Indian state or locality, we are not able to send a representative of the Agrawal community to any State Assembly and Parliament. There is not a single MP who speaks for the Agrawal Community."

Generally not very religious, the Agrawal, as Indians, maintain a nominal allegiance to Hinduism. Scattered across India and around the world, their heart language may be Hindi or any number of other languages. As a community, they live more comfortably than most Indians, leaving little motivation to seek the living God.

Pray that the Holy Spirit would stir in their hearts a hunger and thirst for the inner peace that only Jesus can offer. Pray that God will soon call forth laborers into the worldwide harvest of Agrawal people.—GEC

For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

Jesus clearly said in Matthew 6:24 that, "No man can serve two masters. . . you cannot serve God and mammon" (which means gain or advantage). God created us with a need to love Him. When we turn from loving God as a central focus in life, we try to fill that void by devoting our love to something far less worthy than the Lord. And whatever we love that is less than God soon becomes a god to us. If we substitute the love of money for the love of God, we open ourselves to a myriad of sorrows and disappointments.

Pray that the Agrawal people will understand that money can become a harsh god and a harsher task-master.

Day 9

1 Thessalonians 1:9b-10

They tell how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.

Everywhere today entire people groups live in bondage, serving their idols in fear and uncertainty. They are ignorant of their Creator, the God who loved them to the point of sending His only Son to die for their sins, that they might be delivered from this bondage. Whoever will call upon the Lord will be saved. But how can they call on Him... of whom they have never heard, and how can they hear without a preacher. . . ?

Pray that God will raise up workers from our midst to proclaim the risen Christ to Hindu peoples who now worship worthless idols.

Sonar People



Create International

The goddess Devi wanted to destroy a giant demon made of pure gold. The first Sonar approached the demon and said, “You would look even more magnificent if you were polished gold!” The

demon agreed, even though this meant he had to be melted down. In reward, Devi gave the demon’s body to the first Sonar. This man became the father of the Sonar people of northern India.

This is the myth that depicts the beginning of the Sonar tribe. The Sonar people still work with gold. Many of them have expanded into other business enterprises from the profits of the gold-crafting business. Money-lenders serve the poor, but charge a higher rate than the banks. Others operate in the tailoring business, as car repairmen, in retail stores, and more. Still other Sonars have earned high degrees in education and entered the professional fields.

In many Indian states the Sonars speak Hindi. But in other states they may employ the dominant language of the area where they reside. For the Hindi-speaking Sonars, the full range of Christian materials is readily available; but they remain “unreached” because they generally do not see the need to change religious allegiances. The vast majority of Sonars have not yet discovered the true gold, the true gem from God.

Pray that the Lord of the Harvest will call laborers who will sow the seed of the gospel among this prosperous group. Pray that the Holy Spirit will stir a spiritual unease in the hearts of leading Sonar people so that they will seek the true and living God.—GEC

Bhatiara People

Day 10

1 Timothy 6:6, NIV

Condit



Narendra stretched his sore muscles before going to sleep. He had spent another day as a day laborer. Now he prepared to sleep on a rented cot outside of an inn. As sleep approached he thought, “Centuries ago, that building would have been my ancestor’s inn. I am of the Bhatiara people. For ages we controlled the inn keeping business of India. What has happened that we are now day laborers?”

Narendra has a point. His Bhatiara people operated inns for travelers across India and beyond. They enjoyed a comfortable lifestyle and prestige. They even exerted influence in the political sphere. But the shifting sands of politics removed them from inn keeping. Succeeding generations have witnessed their social decline to day laborers and sharecroppers.

Whereas the large majority of Indians follow Hinduism, the Bhatiara are more likely to follow Islam. Concentrating their population across the northern part of the country, they may go by different names. But from Rajasthan in the west to Bihar and Kolkata in the east, they live within a sheltered community where they adhere to Islam’s principles.

Pray that the Holy Spirit, who has been moving throughout India, will soon wash over the Bhatiara people. Pray that some of the thousands of Indian evangelists will cross the cultural bridge to bring the message of Jesus to them.—GEC

But godliness with contentment is great gain.

Like many people groups, the Bhatiara measure gain in financial or material terms. Paul here reveals God’s counter-cultural value system that could save people a lot of heartache. Gain is not measured by material wealth, but by a godly contentment with what we have. Many find material riches and discover that they are empty; few find spiritual riches that last for eternity.

Pray that God will give the Bhatiara People His perspective on things. Pray that they will seek and find the spiritual riches that only Christ offers.

For God did not give us a spirit of timidity but a spirit of power and love and self-control.

Listen to Almighty God telling you He has given you His power so that your prayers will be turned into results! He has entrusted you intercessors praying these prayers with power and authority in heaven and earth. And on top of that, He loves you with agape love.

Pray that the people you pray for today will embrace the Savior and take His ways to other nations.—RR

Badhai (aka Jangid Brahmin) People

Safir sank dejectedly into the comfortable chair, tossing his sheaf of rejected resumes on the nearby table. Giana, his bride of two years, rushed to his side. “Perhaps tomorrow is the day for you to find a new job. We will not think about today if the gods have selected tomorrow for your good luck.”

Safir sadly acknowledged the truth of the changing times for the Badhai people. “Giana, in ancient times we were the Jangid Brahmin—the divine people, direct descendants of the great architect of the entire Indian culture! We designed the temples, had revelations as to the appearance of the gods and made the idols that people worship. Through meditation we were inspired to invent many new tools for workmen. Now other castes are encroaching on our work by studying technology and obtaining engineering degrees. I don’t know what to do! I’ve prayed and sacrificed, yet the gods bring me no work. Perhaps I must get an engineering degree like them.”

Pray that the Badhai people will hear of Jesus as their world enlarges to include business dealings with international corporations. Pray that the Lord will bring believers into their lives who are friendly and kind, yet bold and excited about their life in Christ. Pray that the Holy Spirit will soften the hearts of the Badhai during this time of change so that their heritage of vision and design might be used for the glory of God. Pray that their hearts will be turned to Him.—PE

Sarla gazed out the window to the meadow where her husband was getting married. She had not been blessed with a child, so this freed her husband to take a second wife. While she had dutifully pinned a bunch of flowers to his turban before the ceremony, the tears just couldn't stop. He was her beloved husband, and she didn't want to share him with another woman. Before he left for the ceremony, he worshipped one of the many Hindu gods and goddesses that demanded veneration to forestall bad luck from entering their lives; then, he bowed down to his carpentry tools and thanked them for providing a livelihood.

Sarla's eye was caught by a light grey pigeon that landed on a tree branch near her window. She stood to look quickly around and found a mongoose near the tree. "I see them both!" She cried. "A mongoose and a light grey pigeon together! I will now have good luck! Perhaps I will even have a child!" She could hardly wait to tell her husband.

The Barhai people of northern India number about four million. For the most part they are carpenters and wood carvers. Their name means "cutters," which describes their means of livelihood.

Pray for the Barhai people to be freed from the bondage of ceaseless sacrifices and veneration to non-existent entities. Pray for them to become open to accept the free gift of salvation through Jesus Christ, the true and faithful God who loves them.—PE

For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

In every religious system, there is a spiritual elite that determines what should be done and what shouldn't be done. In the days of Jesus it was the Pharisees. Like many spiritual leaders, the Pharisees were concerned about external, appearances—"righteousness" devoid of internal spiritual transformation. You can only imagine how people felt when Jesus defined "righteousness" in terms of internal issues of the heart, and He insisted that His followers exceed the false "righteousness" of their spiritual leaders.

Pray that when the Barhai Brahmins embrace Christ, they will rapidly learn to exceed the false righteousness of their spiritual leaders and be transformed into the likeness of Christ.

Bhat People

...leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.

The kingdom of God involves not only reconciliation between God and man, but also between man and man. In many cases people carry grudges for years, grudges that must be dropped at the altar. In today's entry we read about a very dysfunctional way of dealing with interpersonal grievances.

Pray that the Bhat people will drop their grievances with one another at the altar of forgiveness and find spiritual refreshment.

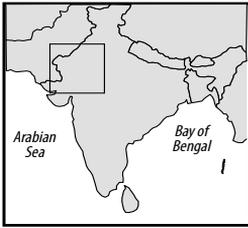
Bhindu paraded through the streets holding an effigy of a man high on a pole with a slipper attached to it. For some reason the man had insulted Bhindu, and as he paraded along, Bhindu sang a song of humiliation about his enemy in a high-pitched voice growing louder and louder. At last the man ran up to him and shouted, "Here, take some money! But be quiet and say no more! Bhindu smirked as he counted the money, lowered the effigy and walked away.

What Bhindu was doing was a twisted version of an ancient practice known as *phakra*. This practice involved singing poetic songs of praise to another person and is part of the culture of the Bhat people.

The name Bhat comes from the Sanskrit word for "scholar." The Bhat mostly reside in the northern part of India and are landowners and temple priests. Their people have been most responsible for the history-keeping, genealogy, and preservation of Indian literature. These Hindus shun physical work and are linguistically and culturally isolated from the gospel.

Pray that every Bhat person will have the opportunity to hear a clear presentation of the gospel in their mother language. Pray that a great thirst will arise in the hearts and minds of the Bhat to know the true and living God. Pray that God will call workers to take the living water, the good news of Jesus Christ, to every Bhat person.—PE

Rawat Rajput People



Prem Rawat gazed sleepily out the airplane window as he elevated his aching feet. He had flown hundreds of thousands of miles to deliver his message of peace. An international motivational speaker, Prem knew he was not a typical Rawat Rajput. But he feels that he has been called to be a man of peace for his people.

This gentleman, Prem Rawat, does, indeed, not follow the typical life of a Rawat Rajput.

For a long time Rawat Rajputs have had the reputation of being fierce warriors. They are proud of their esteemed warrior status earned by their ancestors, protectors of the ancient king of northern India. Although Prem is not a Christian, he is a Rawat Rajput who preaches the message of peace.

The Rawat Rajputs population is currently more than 103,000. Many of them farm cash crops as a land-owning people in the state of Rajasthan which borders Pakistan. They also work in government jobs, small businesses, and as white collar workers. In urban settings Rawats are often teachers or engineers.

The Rawat Rajputs profess Hinduism and worship Ashapuri as their family god. Like other Rajput communities, the Rawats exhibit an almost negligible response to the gospel.

Pray that a person who espouses peace like Prem will encounter a Christ-believer and that the testimony of Christ will penetrate his heart. Pray that Prem will learn about the true peace that comes from knowing Jesus.—LR

First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all men, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life, godly and respectful in every way. This is good, and it is acceptable in the sight of God our Savior

Prayer warrior, here is your command to pray as an intercessor for all men, including kings and people in high places and government positions. Pray that He will guide both righteous and unrighteous rulers into His wisdom in deciding matters of war and peace and economic stability or catastrophe.

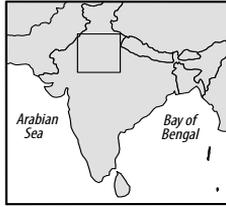
Pray for many Rawat Rajput people to soon meet their true Lord and Savior who loves them.—RR

...our gospel came to you not simply with words, but also with power, with the Holy Spirit, and with deep conviction.

The goal of world evangelization will never be achieved by the brilliance of human strategy, the wisdom of cultural adaptation, or the power and effort of human determination; nevertheless, each of these elements has its place in God's plan. Only God's Holy Spirit, moving and working among hearts in each people group, will accomplish their evangelization. He also uses the available humans that have yielded to His purposes.

Pray that believers in India and all over the world will be sensitive to the Holy Spirit's guidance so that the Great Commission will be fulfilled.

Kashyap Rajputs



And up counted the coins he had already made that day: 120 rupees. It was quite early in the morning for his roadside restaurant to have made so much money. He looked at the picture on the cover of that morning's newspaper that lay on the counter. The photo was of Anurag Kashyap, the famous movie director, producer, and screenplay writer. Andup looked up as an older man dragged in a small group of teary-eyed girls dressed in clean outfits. Andup guessed that these unhappy looking girls would be trafficked; he couldn't be certain. But he was certain he might make as much as 200 rupees cooking for the group.

In today's India the Kashyap Rajputs dominate the roadside restaurant industry. The less fortunate members of the community work as landless agricultural laborers. They are found throughout the state of Haryana, and they speak Haryanvii, a dialect of Hindi.

The Kashyap Rajput community is divided between Hindus and Sikhs. No one who follows Christ lives among them, and there is no known specific outreach to this community. Nevertheless, an indigenous ministry, the Native Missionary Movement, works in the state of Haryana.

Pray that Indian believers will be drawn into the Kashyap restaurants and then speak boldly to them about the hope they have in Jesus. Pray that the Kashyap Rajputs will also speak up in defense of victims of the traffickers that visit their roadside restaurants. Pray that the Kashyap will embrace the hope of Christ when they learn about Him.—LR

Yadav People

Harendra picked up his pencil and read the question again: “What people group are you from?” He glanced at the clock and saw there was still 45 minutes left in class. He was glad. It would be impossible to answer this question quickly with only a few words or even a paragraph. He would need to explain who the Yadav people are—he would have to tell their story. And that would take time.

He began to write: “Some call us thieves. Others claim that we are foreigners. But according to my grandfather who is a very wise man, we are descended from the great King Yadu. We are also descended from Lord Krishna himself. Krishna, like many Yadav, was a keeper of livestock.”

Sadly, the Yadav peoples believe their heritage lies in a mythological king and a false god. They not only participate in traditional Hindu festivals and rituals, but often practice astrology and use talismans. Nearly all of the Yadavs are Hindus. Most have never heard the gospel or had an adequate opportunity to respond to the mercy and forgiveness of the true Savior, Jesus Christ.

Pray for the Lord to send workers to the Yadav peoples. Ask Him to prepare the hearts of these people to hear and respond to the good news of Christ. Pray for the Yadav to be set free from their bondage to false gods. Pray that they will enter into a relationship with the true and living God.—CL

My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and appear before God?

God cherishes those who cherish Him. It is very hard for members of the Yadav people to embrace Him when their loyalty is divided between false spirit beings and an ethnic pride that can easily make them think they are better than their neighbors.

Pray for the Lord to raise up some from the Yadav peoples who will embrace Him and Him alone.

... and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

When we embrace Him, He forgives us from our sins. But when we pray the Lord's Prayer, we know that we must also forgive others from the heart if we are to be forgiven.

Pray for the Holy Spirit to give forgiving hearts to the Jat peoples. Pray that they will receive the gospel with faith and joy.

Jat Ghatwal People

"When a Jat goes wild, only God himself can stop him."

"When a Jat gets angry, run three miles and then run two more."

"A Jat will shoot first and ask questions later."

"A Jat is most happy when he's fighting or making money—preferably both at the same time."

There are many proverbs and sayings about the Jat peoples, and most of them are not especially complimentary. Their reputation for being volatile is well established.

But they are also known for being strong and courageous in battle. This was confirmed by the British who designated the Jat a "martial race."

The Ghatwal are just one of the many Jat communities. They are often distinguished by their red turbans. What the Ghatwal have in common with other Jats is their adherence to Hinduism. They are considered an unreached people group, and there are no known followers of Christ among them.

Pray for God to capture the hearts of the Jat Ghatwal people. Pray for mission organizations to send workers to this people group. Ask the Lord to establish His Church among them. Pray for the Ghatwal to be well represented before the throne of God and before the Lamb of God in heaven.—CL

Kuta Caste

“Father, come quick; we will be rich now! The rice-husking machine just arrived.” Shakti, a Kuta, was so excited he started to jump and dance around his long awaited machine that would allow him to begin his own small rice mill. Soon neighbors close to his home came running to congratulate him. Some came with baskets of rice to be milled; others threw a little rice at him. Shakti’s father smiled with pride. This was a wonderful day for the family.

“Kuta” means “pound” in Hindi, and these people were named after their traditional occupation of husking rice. They are small in number, and most of their villages are located in the state of Uttar Pradesh in northern India. With the expansion of rice mills, many Kuta are no longer involved in traditional rice growing and husking. Instead, some have started their own rice businesses with the help of their new, portable husking machines. Many Kuta men drive cabs for a living.

The lives of the Kuta are controlled by their Hindu beliefs. Only a few members of this group have been touched by God’s Word. Pray that God will provide contacts, strategies, and wisdom for Christians so that the Kuta can learn that the one and only God of the Bible will provide them with true hope, salvation, and joy in life.—PD

Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

His will is being done on earth as it is in heaven when the kingdom of God is preached to unsaved people on earth. His will is carried out when unsaved people give their lives to Christ, and His kingdom is expanded. What a great privilege to be able to pray for the unreached people groups!

Pray for God’s kingdom to extend into the hearts of the Kuta people, so that His will is done among them.

Mali People

Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.

Another easy mistake for Hindus to make is to think that they can worship Jesus along with the other gods to which they have been devoted. Jesus must be the only Lord or He isn't Lord at all. What a difficult standard for people who are used to being able to embrace many gods!

Pray that the Mali people will fully understand that they must forsake all other gods if they want to call Jesus Lord.



Caleb Project

Beautifully adorned with a flowing garland of jasmine, roses, hibiscus and lotus, Neema, the Mali Indian bride, applied sandalwood

paste to the forehead of her groom, Das. He smiled and placed a dot of bright red *sindoor* paste in the center of her forehead. She would wear the red dot on her forehead and a flower each day to bring good luck to her husband. Proudly, Neema felt she would receive the blessing of Devi, a Hindu goddess, and be a good wife. Both looked majestic in their beautiful marriage crowns as they presented flowers to Devi, the Hindu warrior goddess and lover of the god Shiva.

An estimated nine million Mali people live throughout many regions in northern India and Nepal. In Rajasthan some believe that the high caste Mali group originated from Rajput warrior communities. The word "Mali" means "garland," and these people are well-known for their main work which is related to gardening and growing beautiful flowers. The women are especially talented in creating and selling flower garlands primarily used as presentations to Hindu gods and for weddings.

The Bible and other audio-visual materials have been translated into their Hindi dialect. Christian missionaries from both within and outside of India have reached out to these people. However, only about 1,200 Mali identify with Christ.

Pray that God will remove the barriers that are keeping the Mali people from the great joy of knowing and having a personal relationship with the Living God.—PD

Gadaria People

When asked about his people, Rajeesh, a Gadaria replied, “As everybody knows, our people have good qualities like honesty, sincerity, dedication, and self-determination. We are a hardworking people who live all over northern India. Our name comes from the Hindi word *gadar* meaning ‘sheep.’ In the past our ancestors moved from one place to another taking care of their animals. Writers find us to be a colorful and interesting people. One man, Dr. Shashi, called us, ‘The Shepherds of India.’ That writer knew us very well! Most of us are physically strong but educationally, socially, and politically we are a backward community. We urgently need to move forward with better education and more political power.”

Spread across India, there are about 6.5 million Gadaria people. The majority of them have abandoned their past lives as shepherds; they now raise goats and cattle and sell the milk. Few of them own land, and they often have to work for others. Many work as day laborers in masonry. They are in urgent need of help in the areas of health, education, clean water, and job training. However, their most urgent need is to meet the Savior. All of them are Hindus, and there is almost no outreach to them by the Christian communities.

Pray that God will quickly bring believers to them who will explain God’s word through storytelling, tapes, and films. Pray that believers will help the Gadaria to experience the greatness of God through kind deeds, social action projects, and discipleship.—PD

Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock.

Christ is the solid rock! All other ways are as vulnerable as a house built on sand. But who will understand this unless the Holy Spirit reveals it to them?

Pray that God will reveal to the Gadaria their need for a solid-rock Savior. May they learn that only Jesus can be their rock-solid foundation during life’s many turbulent circumstances.

Since prayer is at the bottom of all this, what I want mostly is for men to pray—not shaking angry fists at enemies, but raising holy hands to God. And I want women to get in there with the men in humility before God, not primping before a mirror or chasing the latest fashions, but doing something beautiful for God and becoming beautiful doing it.

What a great picture of how to spend time with God by interceding for unreached peoples, as He is transforming you into His beautiful likeness!

Thank Him for the privilege of being used by Him as you roll up your sleeves and work with Him through intercessory prayer and service.—RR

Dalera People

Tejas, a Dalera basket weaver, quickly finished the last detail on the lovely cane basket. Then he prepared to leave his house to sell all the new baskets he had made to a local businessman. With pleasure he looked over all the items he had for sale: all different sizes and shapes of baskets, plus baskets for fish traps, bamboo toys, and even some earplugs. He was especially proud of a picnic basket that he felt would bring a good price from the market. Suddenly his little boy ran to him to say, “Good Bye!” Reaching down, he gave his son a little home-made toy horse. Screaming with delight, the child hugged his father.

“Dalera” is derived from a Hindi work for basket. There are approximately 18,000 members of this people group, and they live primarily in northern India. Although today the majority of the Dalera people are landowners and farmers, there are some who continue in the occupation of basket weaving. Their strong communities are self-governing and problems such as divorce, adultery, stealing or criminal acts are taken to an appointed caste council to be settled. They are loyal to their Hindu gods and worship many of the deities, including those honored at many of the Hindu festivals. There are no known followers of Christ among the Dalera people. There have been efforts to reach them with the gospel, but they have not yet responded.

Pray for the Holy Spirit to rip the veil from Dalera hearts that keeps them from embracing Jesus. Pray that serious efforts will be made to reach them for Christ. Pray that the Dalera people will know the truth and light of Jesus.—PD



Caleb Project

A Rajput father and daughter

Lavesh smiled shyly, but agreed to tell the Westerner about herself. “I am proud to be born to a Lodhi Rajput family. My parents permitted both their girls and boys to study and go to school up to the post graduate level.” She explained that views about women and their rights are changing. “The status of women in our area is

very good, and girls are encouraged to study up to the highest level.” She continued, “Life is even changing for widows. Previously they were not permitted to remarry. My grandpa’s aunt became a widow the day after her marriage. She wasn’t allowed to remarry and remained without a family until her last breath, but things are different now.”

Lavesh is a member of the Hindi-speaking Lodhi people who live in Uttar Pradesh. Traditionally they were agriculturists, but life for them has been changing rapidly in the past 50 years. Although many still farm, they also work in offices and run small businesses. The government lists them in the Other Backward Classes (OBC) category which provides them with many benefits like reserved quotas in government jobs and education, and relaxed qualifying standards in competitive examinations. As strict Hindus, the Lodhi observe all the major festivals. They need to hear about Jesus.

Pray for the Holy Spirit to soften the Lodhi hearts and to create a discontent with the spiritual desert they live in. Pray for believers to adopt and evangelize the Lodhi and to begin a vibrant church planting movement.—JS

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

God is seeking people who are humble enough to understand that they need Him. Only He can enrich them spiritually! No other so-called “god” will do. How will they know unless they hear the Word of God, and the Holy Spirit beckons and calls to them?

Pray for many from the Lodhi Rajput people to be “poor” enough in spirit to come to Christ seeking what only He can give.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

True righteousness does not come from performing rituals, and it certainly does not come from worshipping spirits that are in rebellion against the one true God. For someone from a Hindu background like the Kurmi Kshatriya people to seek and find Him, they must have a ravenous hunger for righteousness.

Pray for this hunger to come to the Kurmi Kshatriya people.

Kurmi Kshatriya People

As Anmol and Yatin walked to class together, their conversation turned to the caste system. Both were members of the Kurmi caste. Yatin had just told Anmol, “I think the caste system is for the old people. We are free today; we can get an education and work anywhere. We aren’t bound by the old traditions.” Anmol responded, “That is true, but I am proud to be a Kurmi. We descended from Kshatriyas, the warrior class!”

The Kurmi people are found throughout India from Punjab in the west to Bengal in the east and also in southern India. Traditionally they were a farming caste, which is why they are classified as “Other Backward Castes” (OBC). This classification guarantees them government benefits today. The Kurmi used to be famed as excellent cultivators and market gardeners. Today they are educated, and you can find them in all areas of the workplace. One of their key issues is their desire to be recognized by other castes as belonging to the prestigious Kshatriya warrior caste. Although legally the caste system was abolished in India, it is still a very real presence in the lives of people, determining whom they marry and sometimes where they work.

Pray that the Hindu Kurmi may realize that Jesus is their only hope for salvation and lasting status. Pray that the equality before God that comes with joining His family will give them their true value as part of a royal priesthood of believers.—JS

Outsiders may think the caste system in India is dead, but caste consciousness still influences the attitudes and customs of most Indian people groups. The Saini landowner caste has often been combined with the Mali caste, but the Saini deeply resent this. It began in 1937 when the ruler of Jodpur granted the request of a Mali community to be recorded as Saini. Today there is still outrage among many Saini about being grouped with the Mali people whom they consider to be a lower caste.

Most Saini are Hindu, but during the British era many became Sikhs since they were preferred over other Hindus and Muslims for army recruitment. Consequently, many rural communities became Sikhs so that they could depend on army jobs in addition to agriculture. Today, as with other castes, the Saini are well educated. With diminishing land holdings due to population pressure, they can be found in various trades and businesses. There are many professionals among the Saini.

Today in India there are indigenous Christian organizations reaching out to 1.2 billion people. Over 100 evangelists have already graduated from Mid-India Church Partners Christian Training Programs and are currently working in the field. In addition to planting churches, Mid-India Productions is producing audio and visual programs that teach biblical principles in a way that is relevant to the younger tech-savvy generation of India.

Pray for the Saini people to be reached through evangelistic media and become followers of Jesus Christ.—JS

Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

Without the transforming work of the Holy Spirit, mercy is in short supply worldwide. He calls us to be merciful, but mercy is lacking, especially in a religious system where people believe that bad “karma” from a previous life must be paid off for one to move forward in this life. In such cases mercilessness is considered merciful.

Pray for mercy and true compassion to come to the Saini people.

Kachhi People

Enter by the narrow gate.
For the gate is wide and
the way is easy that leads
to destruction, and those
who enter by it are many.
For the gate is narrow and
the way is hard that leads
to life, and those who find
it are few.

One of the easiest mistakes
Hindus make is to think that
there are many ways to
salvation. Jesus teaches us the
exact opposite. The way
to eternal life is narrow, and
few find it. Broad is the way
to destruction.

*Pray for the Kachhi people
to find the narrow gate.
May many from their
communities soon learn
about Jesus as the way.*

At a marketplace Santosh asked the vegetable vendor if the plump fruit he had selected was from a Kachhi orchard. “Everyone knows that the Kachhi grow the best fruit and vegetables!”

The Kachhi caste is found in northern and central India, particularly in Bihar, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh. Traditionally they are a community of peasant farmers, especially known for their excellent cultivation of vegetables. Most of them are Hindu, but there is a Buddhist minority. Although they are traditionally agrarian workers, they, like many other agrarian castes in India, are now involved in other businesses. In Delhi the Kachhi are mostly small business owners. Education is given to both males and females; however, women are not encouraged to study at the higher levels.

There is no information available about the number of believers there may be among the six million Kachhi people. However, there is an opportunity to share the gospel with them. Growing nominalism to Hinduism leaves many young people disillusioned with traditional Hindu worship. Many local evangelical groups are methodically reaching out and planting churches throughout the area.

Pray that God will continue to open doors for the gospel to be shared with the Kachhi people. Thank God for opening up an interest in new ideas among the younger Kachhi people. Pray that the Spirit will be working in their hearts so that they will seek His truth.—JS

Lohar People

Day 26

Matthew 7:28-29, ESV

The bullock-cart rocked and rolled on the uneven road riddled with potholes. Its many occupants were jostled, but they sat quietly and appeared undisturbed by the inconvenience. Their eyes were fixed. The father's eyes were looking at the distant horizon where the road appeared to disappear. The mother was looking at the verdant paddy fields where the millet was growing. The children were looking at a broken piece of wood on the side of the cart. The grandparents' eyes were fixed on the children. Each of the occupants' minds was preoccupied with several chief concerns. Will we be accepted? Will the organizers of the weekly market in the next village allow us to set up shop? Will the womenfolk allow us to draw water from the communal well? Will the children play with us?

The Lohar people of India are nomads who at one time prided themselves in being “high-caste” weapons makers. However, over the years their fortunes have waned. In spite of toiling from dawn to dusk, they live in extreme poverty. They move from one place to another as they try to sell their metal wares. Everywhere they go they have to combat the negative stereotypes that they are nomads and thieves.

The Lohar are Hindus. Among their many needs are education and stability.

Pray for believers to live among the Lohars and help them with their educational needs for the glory of the Father. Pray that the Lohar will experience the love of Christ, in whom there is abundant life.—EJD

And when Jesus finished these sayings, the crowds were astonished at His teaching, for He was teaching them as one who had authority, and not as their scribes.

Only Jesus has ever taught with true authority because only He is God. He has the power to teach, and His words are straight from heaven. No other god can honestly make such a claim.

Pray for the Holy Spirit to give the Lohar people discernment to understand that true authority comes from Jesus, the only Son of God.

Surely you remember, brothers, our toil and hardship; we worked night and day in order not to be a burden to anyone while we preached the gospel of God to you.

Paul made tents to support himself and his team in their first-century ministry of church-planting throughout the northern Mediterranean world. Today modern day “tentmakers” are working in countries across the globe with the vision of establishing indigenous fellowships among peoples with no vital Christian witness.

Pray that today's tentmaker missionaries will not only be successful in their secular endeavors, but will leave behind them growing, evangelizing groups of disciples.

Dhobi People

Fanning the burning embers in the stove, the Dhobi girl wiped the sweat on her face with the edge of her saree. She had seen her mother do this a million times; now it was her turn. Using a pair of iron tongs, she took the burning coals, put them in a heavy iron and waited for the iron to heat. She sorted the clean clothes that her brother had just brought in and began ironing a washed and starched shirt.

Dhobis of India earn a paltry sum of money by washing clothes for wealthier people. They belong to Dalit communities, and were once considered “untouchables.” When a Dhobi girl marries, among her meager dowry there will be an iron. Even as a young girl, she learns from her mother to iron the clothes that her father and brothers washed in the river. Once the clothes are ironed, one of her brothers will deliver the crisp, clean clothes to their owners. And the small amount of money earned will be used to pay for household expenses.

According to the Joshua Project, “Most of the Dhobis follow popular Hinduism and worship local gods as well as the washing stones.”

Pray that the Dhobi community will hear the gospel and come to faith in Jesus Christ.—EJD

Koli People

Day 28

2 Timothy 3:16-17

India Gospel Outreach



The Koli fisherman sat in his boat on the banks of a river in western India. The fisherman mended his nets as a Christian missionary watched. “I thought your God was a carpenter and not a fisherman?” stated the

modern day fisherman. “That’s true, but many of his good friends were fishermen.” replied the missionary. The fisherman fixed his gaze upon the missionary. “So Jesus understands people like me?” “Yes he does.” The fisherman set aside the net he’d been mending. “There must be more to life than catching fish and worshipping gods who never answer my prayers.” “Yes there is. Let me tell you more about Jesus and Peter.” The missionary saw the fisherman’s eyes light up. He sensed the man was ready to consider following Jesus.

The Koli live in western India in places like Gujarat State. At 12 million strong they are one of the largest people groups in western India. They speak Gujarati and are almost all Hindus. A few Koli claim to be Christians; but they may not be truly saved because they don’t understand the need to be spiritually reborn in Jesus Christ.

Pray that God would break the hold that Hinduism has on the Koli. Ask the Lord to burden faithful workers to reach out to this people group with the message of salvation. May the Koli one day come to see the true and living God as the One who can save them from their sins.—WK

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

What a tremendous promise—thoroughly equipped for every good work! One great challenge for those sending a new generation of laborers into the harvest field is to provide training in how they should present the Word of God so that people can understand and accept it. In many cases, that means telling informal stories like the example we are reading about today.

Pray that the Father will use His Word to equip existing and prospective missionaries in proclaiming Jesus to Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists, tribals, and others without a church of their own.

Teli People

The sorrows of those who run after another god shall multiply; their drink offerings of blood I will not pour out or take their names on my lips.

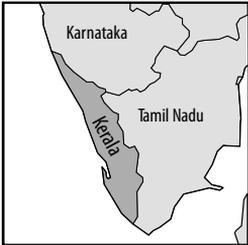
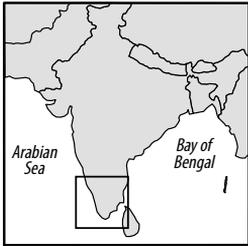
Worshipping multiple gods is accompanied by spiritual confusion and a lack of commitment to any one god. There is no true devotion between the “gods” and those who worship them. Spirituality often is reduced to a bargain between spirit beings and the people who worship them.

Pray for the Teli people to become disillusioned with their spiritual lives. Pray that they will seek and find the One who can free them from their spiritual bondage.

Raji walked into Isak’s vegetable oil shop in western India. Raji and Isak were both members of the Teli people group. But Isak wore a skullcap and bowed to the east. “Isak, what are you doing?” Raji asked. “I’m Raji, the friend your father told you about.” Isak answered, “I was praying in the direction of Jerusalem.” Raji tilted his head in puzzlement. “Why Jerusalem? What’s so special about that city?” Isak replied, “I’m a Jew. Jerusalem is where the God we’re waiting for will one day come from.” Before Raji could reply, a chanting sound filled the air. Isak sighed. “Some of our Teli brothers are Muslims. That’s the call to prayer coming from the mosque on the next block. “I don’t know what to believe,” mumbled Raji. “I’m a Hindu and I worship many gods. None of them have brought me any satisfaction.”

The Teli people live in western India and started off as makers of vegetable oil. Today many are merchants, and they sell much more than vegetable oil. Other members of this people group have recently become farmers. The Teli are very divided about religion. The majority may be Hindu, but there are also many Muslims and a small group of Jews among this people group. Some Teli mix ancestor worship into their religious practices. At this time there are almost no worshippers of Jesus Christ among the Teli.

Pray that the Teli will develop a hunger for the true God. Ask the Lord to lead a mission agency to target this people group for outreach. May the Jews among the Teli come to see Jesus Christ as their Messiah.—WK



Rasheesh walked into the Hindu temple and bowed to the statue of the snake. He quickly stopped because he felt uncomfortable, but didn't know why. Rasheesh remembered that he was a Nair, and that his ancestors had always worshipped snakes. That thought brought him no comfort. He couldn't shake the feeling that there was something evil about snakes.

The Nair live throughout India, mainly in the southwestern state of Kerala. The Nair had once been proud soldiers. In 1809 the Nair revolted against their British colonial masters. After that revolt was crushed, the British limited the number of Nair who could serve in India's colonial army. Since that time the Nair began drifting into nonmilitary professions. Since India's independence in 1947, the Nair could be found in many professions. Most Nair are Hindus. Very few have heard that true life only comes from knowing Jesus Christ.

Pray that God would open the spiritual eyes of the Nair people group. May they see that snake worship is demonic. Ask the Lord to break the hold that snake worship and Hinduism have on this people group. Pray that the Nair people will listen to gospel radio broadcasts.—WK

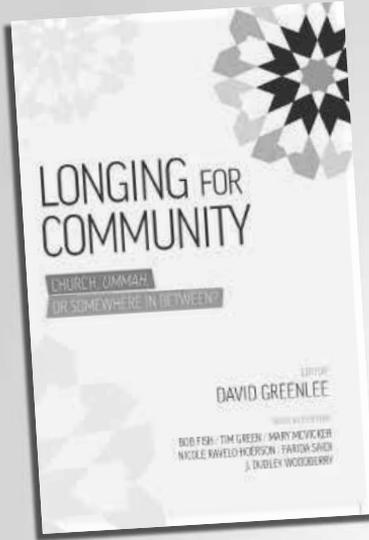
...and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

Have you considered what it might be like for the thousands of peoples in today's world who do not have the Bible in their own language? Think of the help and comfort you receive daily from God's Word—to say nothing of the most basic instructions and knowledge of life you find in Jesus Christ.

Pray for those who are struggling to make God's Word clear and understandable to the people groups who have never heard about Jesus. Pray also that God will use your prayers, giving, sending, or going to reach these people for Christ.

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FEATURED BOOK



Longing for Community

Church, Ummah, or Somewhere in Between?

Understanding the strength and unity of the ummah—the worldwide Muslim community—and its role in an individual's identity is essential in comprehending the struggles that Muslims undergo as they turn to faith in Jesus Christ. It has been a place of security, acceptance, protection, and identity; turning away from it entails great sacrifice. Where, then, will Muslims who choose to follow Jesus find their longing for community fulfilled: ummah, church, or somewhere in between?

Longing for Community compiles the research and reflection of twenty missiologists, sociologists, anthropologists, and linguists—among them Muslims who have become believers in Jesus Christ—presented at the second Coming to Faith Consultation in February 2010. The contributors explore the multiple levels and hybrid nature of social identity, pointing to the need to free our discussions from single-dimensional scales, which are far from adequate to describe the complex nature of conversion and lived-out faith. Beyond the issue of identity, the contributors offer important lessons from mission history, explore liturgy as an appropriate vehicle for teaching, discuss appropriate means of communication, and point to both the need and contextually appropriate possibilities of greater involvement of women in training and ministry.

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Global Prayer

Digest

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Urdu

SPEAKERS

SO NUMEROUS, SO UNREACHED

- 11 Lord, Make the Water Carriers Spiritually Thirsty!
- 13 Faqirs Searching for Spirituality And Finding Nothing
- 18 Muslim Muhajirs No Longer Accepted in Pakistan
- 23 Saifi People Physically But Not Spiritually Wealthy
- 30 Urdu Speakers Being Reached in Europe!



Dear Praying Friends,

This month's prayer entries are perfectly sandwiched in between the entries from last month and those for next month! As previously mentioned the Urdu speakers that we pray for this month speak a language that is so

much like Hindi that they are often mixed together as the "Hindustani" language. The major difference is that Hindi speakers are usually from the Hindu religion and Urdu speakers are usually Muslims. Most Urdu speakers live either in India or Pakistan. Next month we will pray for Pashtun people, who live in either Pakistan or Afghanistan. It's almost like our prayers will be a swath of cool water for people going from east to west!

We are covering a lot of people this month. Many of the people groups have populations that are in the millions, and they are isolated from the gospel by culture and religion. Please do not forget to pray for the Urdu speakers this month!

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Keith Carey". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid and personal.

Keith Carey, managing editor, *GPD*

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Pray for a Christ-Centered Fellowship Among Every Urdu Speaking People



SOUTH ASIA

Urdu Speakers Then and Now

To be a Muslim from north India virtually guarantees that a person will speak Urdu. It is the unifying language of ethnic, social, trade, and religious groups of the Muslim peoples of India. As pointed out last month, Urdu is closely related to Standard Hindi. In South Asia it is often difficult to predict which of these two languages will be spoken in any given situation.

—From a worker among
Urdu speakers in India

The Rise of the Muslims

During the reign of Akbar the Great, the Persian language became preferred among the top strata of Muslims in northern India. During and after the British rule, English also greatly influenced the language of the people. Today, the Persian and English effect on the language of Muslims (Urdu) is felt in nearly every sentence they speak.

Urdu speakers especially dominate the urban landscape of north India. This is mainly due to the fact that the Moghul (Muslim) emperors built strongholds near water sources, defensible hills, river junctions, and other areas where cities would later develop. They left behind large communities of Muslim people, which have grown until the present day. During the 1947 partition of India, many rural Muslims from north India, particularly the Uttar Pradesh and Punjab states, left to join Pakistan. Those remaining in India tend to stay near other Muslims instead of spreading out across the country. Their status as a religious minority also encourages people to stay close to one another for protection, employment, financial security, and social support. Regardless of political challenges, a tour from the Islamic schools of Deoband to the Yamuna River banks in Delhi to Agra's Taj Mahal to the sprawling Bara Imambara Mosque in Lucknow will reveal the extensive heritage Muslims have in this part of the subcontinent.

Alongside religion and language, north Indian Moghul style food is something that Muslims and non-Muslims recognize as distinct. There is a great love for spices, flat bread, slow cooked meat, and anything with the word *theeka* in the name. One fun dish is named

kuta-kut because of the sound made while the cook chops and separates the food when he's cooking it. Of course every meal needs to be followed by chai, which is a milk tea with copious amounts of sugar.

Recent Challenges for Urdu Speaking Peoples

The last several decades have been challenging for Muslims in India. The decline of historical Muslim-focused political parties has led to more marginalization of this large group of people. The current rise to power of a strong Hindu nationalist party also does not bode well for Muslims and other minorities in India. One example of this challenge is the destruction of the Babri Mosque in Ayodhya in 1992. There are plans to build a Hindu temple on this site, which would only further inflame the tensions between these two major communities.

Let's Pray!

- There are more than 10 million Urdu speaking Muslims in the northern state of Bihar. Sharukh is from Bihar and he came to faith in Christ more than 10 years ago. Sharukh has moved to Delhi and is married now. He and his wife are Muslim background believers (MBBs), and they intentionally live in a neighborhood dominated by poor Muslim people. They lead classes to help young students gain confidence in their studies. Sharukh is also very intentional about sharing his faith and answering questions about the Christian faith. God is using Sharukh and he hopes to lead a discipleship-training program for MBBs in the coming years. Please pray for Sharukh and his family to remain strong in this setting, and that they can be salt and light among people walking in deep darkness (Isaiah 9:2).
- The need for sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ is great among the Urdu speakers of north India, but a major challenge is a shortage of workers for the harvest ministering among them. There are fewer cross-cultural missionaries per capita working among these people in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar states than nearly anywhere on earth. Indian believers who are in outreach work also are often hesitant to focus their efforts on Muslims. However, India is a relatively easy place to engage Muslims with the good news, and there are international as well as local workers making sincere efforts here. There are still more open doors in cities, small towns, and rural settings among Muslims. Join us in praying that the Lord of the harvest will soon send laborers into this field.

For further reading:

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Urdu>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muslims_of_Uttar_Pradesh

Missionary Biography—Thomas French

Your throne was established long ago; You are from all eternity.

One of the things that is far too easy for us to forget is we are not striving for individuals to be saved from sin. That is far too small a goal. We are praying for His Kingdom to come, that is, for the extension of His Kingdom to the hearts of the nations. Only His Kingdom is for eternity. Anything less than His Kingdom is too small! That is the message that missionaries like Thomas French brought to the nations.

Pray for the Urdu-speaking peoples to seek His Kingdom, and become His subjects for eternity.

As a boy, Thomas French imitated his father, a leading Anglican minister, by writing sermons. Both his parents were deeply spiritual and early on shared their faith with their children. With them he often visited missionaries and thus learned to pray for them.

As a young man Thomas considered seriously the claims of the church at home and the needs of the church abroad. He received a letter from a missionary who wrote, “Christ has promised that the gospel shall be preached for a witness ... all over the world before He comes.... Now what I ask of you is carefully to search and examine, that it may not be through unfaithfulness that you decline to enter on an apostle’s work.” French talked and prayed about the matter with a friend, and they both dedicated themselves for service abroad. When this friend was later killed in an accident, the vow they had taken deepened his commitment even more.

In 1850, at the age of 25, French was accepted by the Church Missionary Society. He became engaged to a young lady he had met at Oxford. The next month, however, he sailed for India, postponing marriage for two years. On board ship, French and his colleague, Mr. Stuart, began the work to which they were called, holding services daily as well as special Sunday services. They even set up a Bible class for the sailors. They landed at Calcutta in early 1851.

Pray for aspiring missionaries to fulfill their commitments without wavering.—AL

Missionary Biography, Continued

In India French soon became known as the seven-tongued clergyman. He advised new missionaries to learn four languages at once! It was his own pattern for study. On the side, he also established a college!

In India, French yearned to bring his pupils from the Muslim and Hindu upper classes to Christ, and for this reason agreed to teach at St. John's College, a mission-related school. At heart, however, he was a pioneer evangelist and fretted at the lack of converts among his students. Being a man of action as well as vision, he suggested to his mission that missionaries who had worked for several years in educational institutions and had mastered the local language be sent out to pave the way for fresh missionaries.

Once when Thomas French was walking alone through the woods in India, a tailor ran up to him, saying, "Oh, sir, I know who you are; you are the Lord's servant." He told French about an Indian preacher he had seen give a tract to another man, and how dismayed he had been when the man tore it up. "But I pieced it together," he continued, "and learned how to read it. I told my friends about what it said, and now many of us believe in Jesus." French was profoundly moved by this story and accompanied the tailor to his home. That group of believers became the nucleus for a church.

Pray for today's missionaries to understand what the Lord is doing among those around them.—AL

Be not like a horse
or a mule, without
understanding, which must
be curbed with bit and
bridle, or it will not stay
near you.

Entire cultures are set in their ways. It often takes generations of work by missionaries before there is a spiritual breakthrough. Meanwhile, people suffer from the consequences.

Pray that this generation of Urdu speakers will be the one that has a Jesus-oriented spiritual breakthrough.

Missionary Biography, Continued

Blessed is the one who considers the poor! In the day of trouble the LORD delivers Him . . .

One of the ways the Lord shows His concern for the poor is through His servants. People like Thomas French have lived among the poor, helped them when possible, and loved them. It is nearly impossible to understand the needs of the poor in a developing country like Pakistan unless you live among them.

Pray for the Lord to raise up workers who will live among the poor in urban Pakistan. Pray for these workers to be protected from health problems that could cripple their work.

After the Frenches were married in 1853, their family multiplied rapidly. After the birth of their fourth child, Mrs. French became dangerously ill and had to be sent with the children back to England.

Living by himself and determined to get closer to the poor among whom he worked, Thomas decided to cut himself off from European society and live with the poor. His health broke, and he collapsed unconscious in the jungle. In 1863, he was ordered back to England, where he stayed for the next six years. Once again, he left his family to return to South Asia. For health reasons, itinerant evangelism was now out of the question, so he set up St. John's Divinity school to train leaders for the growing national church.

In late 1877, French went back in London to be consecrated Bishop of Lahore, leaving for South Asia again a few weeks later.

Bishop French's episcopate, begun when he was 53, lasted 10 years. Worn out from trying to meet all the requirements of this office, he resigned in 1888. Back in England for three years, however, he found it difficult to rest. In 1890, now 66, he went again for another term in the Muslim world. Once again he fell ill. He died alone in Oman in 1891.—AL from *Thomas Valpy French, First Bishop of Lahore*, by Vivienne Stacy.

Pray for today's missionaries to have discernment concerning when the Lord wants them to slow down and take care of themselves and their families.

Urdu-Speaking Shaikhs

“**S**ometimes I feel I have done something morally wrong by faking a Hindu identity; it’s like I have betrayed my religion. I have never told my family what I have done. Every day I put the red dot on my forehead and wash it out before I go home. I ask Allah to forgive me. Please don’t tell the boss; I must keep this job!”

Aashi, a Muslim Shaikh woman working as a housekeeper in a private Hindu Hospital, was explaining her situation to a fellow employee. “Just the other day, one of the hospital officials asked me to find other girls to work here. I told him most of them are Muslims, and he said they must be Hindu.”

Religious discrimination has forced some Muslims from the Shaikh community to secure jobs by pretending to be Hindu. The Shaikhs of India have a population of about 49 million. Some live in Nepal and Pakistan. The majority work as farmers and traders. Others work in low paying jobs as housekeepers, taxi or rickshaw drivers. Only a very few Shaikh people have heard what Jesus can do for them, or have been invited to become part of His Kingdom.

Pray that God will direct kind and sincere followers of Christ to these Muslim people. May they come to know the strength, hope, and comfort that can only be found in a personal relationship with God given freely through His grace and love.—PD

At your rebuke, O God of Jacob, both rider and horse lay stunned. But You, You are to be feared! Who can stand before You when once Your anger is roused?

All of fallen mankind wait for the Day of Judgment. His anger will be unstoppable. The Shaikhs can trust in their own righteousness by obeying the words of the Qur’an, or they can depend on the righteousness of God. Who can stand before Him? No one!

Pray that that Shaikhs will have a healthy fear of the One whose anger will be unstoppable on the Day of Judgment.

One gives freely, yet grows all the richer; another withholds what he should give, and only suffers want.

The Memon people would understand this proverb. They are noted for their generosity and their community development work. This is a community that defies all the negative stereotypes of Muslims. But does noble character mean that they follow Christ? Not at all. They do the right thing for other reasons, not to glorify the Lord.

Pray that the Memon people will discover the greater reason for giving to charity.

Memon People

“We cannot achieve anything substantial until the madrassa system is modernized. Our *madrassa* (Islamic religious school) should be a place where students receive both Islamic teachings and a modern education.” Rashid, a Memon teacher in Mumbai, was explaining to several skeptical mullahs (Islamic religious teachers) why he supported a new academic program. He continued, “A few *madrassas*, such as the one in West Bengal, have added modern curriculum, and they have been very successful in preparing students for the modern world. The children are growing spiritually and they can plan their career in any field of their choice. In this way our Muslim communities can benefit.”

The one million Memons worldwide are especially recognized for their achievements in business, trading, education, writing, medicine, and politics. The majority can be found scattered across India and a few thousand still live in Pakistan, mainly Karachi. Others are well established in parts of Europe, Kenya, and the Middle East. Wherever they migrate, they establish social and welfare committees. Any member of their group can ask for help, making sure that they don't face dire poverty. They are highly respected for their professionalism and often are available to help with problems in communities. Very few of these people know the Savior.

Pray that God will open the minds and hearts of the Memons so they will understand He is the lover of their souls, and allow them to enjoy His great blessings and eternal life.—PD

Ansari-Momin People

“**T**his is a great day! I thank Allah for giving me wonderful parents, great teachers, and the privilege to have studied at G.M. Momin Women’s College, which has been awarded “The Best College in Mumbai.” Rafia, a Momin Muslim, was addressing her fellow students and teachers at an appreciation dinner prior to accepting her masters degree in chemistry.

She continued, “Today I can say that Momin Women’s College has given me confidence and self-reliance to meet today’s challenges. In a few weeks I will begin my study to become a medical doctor. I’m so grateful!”

The 14,900,000 Momin-Ansari people live mainly in the cities of west and north India. Some reside in Pakistan, and a small number of them live in the Terai Region of Nepal. Many are now successful entrepreneurs and professionals such as teachers, engineers, and doctors. Others are found working in the textile industries where their communities overlap with Ansari weavers. Education is important to them, and they are one of the few Muslim groups to promote higher learning among their women.

Pray that Momin Muslims will have contact with followers of Christ who will share His spiritual riches with them. Pray for them to come to know the Living Lord so they can have a life filled with the reassurance of His peace, joy, and most important, His salvation.—PD

Whoever multiplies his wealth by interest and profit gathers it for him who is generous to the poor.

One of the things that Islamic peoples understand is that it’s wrong to gauge the public through high interest rates. In secularized America, there are places that offer “advances” to people’s paychecks that charge interest rates that rival those charged by organized crime networks. In Hindu India, there are similar situations. Such situations multiply when people turn their backs on the ways of God.

Pray that the Momin-Ansari people will understand that there are areas where they agree with the principles of the Bible.

Day 7

Psalms 2:8, ESV

Ask me, and I will make the nations your heritage, and the ends of the earth your possession.

You are doing that today! Isn't that exciting? God is the one who works, but you are one of the many who is asking for the nations to turn to Him. Be encouraged as you intercede for the Pinjara people today.

Thank the Lord that He gives you the privilege of praying for the nations. Thank Him for this heritage.

Pinjara People



An age-old profession is slowly dying out due to mechanization, but cotton-carding is still done in some villages. It is the traditional occupation of the Pinjara people. Using a bow, the cotton-carder strikes a mallet and

draws it across the bow's string three or four time, scattering small fluffs of cotton and dirt at the same time. Then the carded cotton is made into spindle-shaped ready for the spinning wheel. It is a very time-consuming process. The Pinjaras still practice their trade by going door to door to card cotton that is used in quilts, mattresses and pillows.

The Pinjara feel formal education is of little value, and their literacy rate is well below the national average. Boys may study up to the secondary school, but girls are usually sent to a madrasas (Islamic religious schools) to learn Arabic and Urdu.

The Pinjaras are Muslim, yet they also have a strong belief in evil spirits. Their needs are great. They need access to education, especially for girls. They should be encouraged to utilize the government initiatives that benefit their society, and they need self-sustaining income generation for long-term growth.

Pray that prayers offered today for the Pinjaras will soften their hearts to believe the gospel message when they hear it. Pray that they will be able to adapt to the changes in society that threaten their traditional occupation. Pray that freedom found in Christ will improve the status of women.—JS

Darji/Darzi People of India and Nepal



A Darji tailor

An Indian legend says that the god Parasurama was pursuing two brothers to destroy them, but they found haven in a temple. A priest hid them and gave one brother the task of sewing dresses and the other the task of dyeing cloth. The Darzi are said to be descendants

of the first brother and are most commonly tailors, while the Darji are cloth dyers. As tailors the Darzi interact with many other businesses. Because of this openness to business and upward social status, it is a great opportunity for Christian organizations to offer outside assistance to educational or other development projects. One such project that can lend to sharing the gospel is through offering micro loans.

The Darji people of India and Darzi of Nepal are both part of the Urdu Muslim people cluster. There are translations of the Bible, the JESUS Film, and gospel recordings available to them in the Urdu language. There has been no active church planting among them for years.

Although both the Darji and the Darzi speak Urdu, their communities also speak a number of other languages as most communities do in South Asia. Each language subgroup may require its own church-planting project.

Pray that both the Darji and the Darzi communities will not be satisfied with a religion that offers no possibility of a personal relationship with a loving God. Pray for God to thrust out creative workers who can provide them with economic development projects.—JS

Your commandment makes me wiser than my enemies, for it is ever with me.

Do you ever take your Bible for granted? Truth be known, most of us do. Urdu speaking peoples like the Darji have a Bible in their language, but they do not regard it as highly as they do the Islamic holy book, the Qur'an, which is written in a language that they can't understand.

Pray that many from the Darji community will seek His Word and begin to treasure His commandments and guidance.

O LORD, make me know my end and what is the measure of my days; let me know how fleeting I am!

At some point in our lives all of us wonder what impact we have had. We wonder what is the use of life itself. God has the answers for us. Those who serve Him and work towards extending His Kingdom are making a huge difference. Think of what those who work with these weavers are accomplishing. They are helping poor people to earn a living, and giving them a chance to become subjects of the King of kings!

Pray that people who fill our churches will understand that they can be used of Him to extend the Kingdom. Pray that they will measure their days.

Ministry to Textile Weavers in Central Asia

Ahmed's people have an ancient tradition of beautiful textile weaving, but it is quickly being lost. He believes he can find a market for these traditional textiles if he can only encourage weavers to continue in their craft. But Ahmed's vision is not just about preserving a tradition. He also sees the opportunity to use this project to build relationships in this remote region of Muslim Central Asia that have little kingdom witness. Ahmed shares his faith in Jesus as he visits the weavers, and offers them audio scriptures so they can be bathed in God's Word while they weave. They are vaguely familiar with the stories, but now they can hear them direct from God's Word. He sees the impact of the Scriptures during conversations when he visits his weavers to check on their work. Not just the weaver, but her whole family, begin to see their need for a savior and to follow Jesus. Thankfully, more and more women are practicing the craft and reestablishing the value of their textiles and being exposed to the gospel.

While these women recreate their ancient textiles, pray that they will connect with their heavenly Creator who wants to restore them to economic and spiritual wholeness. Pray for a great movement of the Holy Spirit to fall across these weavers and their families as they listen to God's Word. Pray for new markets for these goods so that people throughout the world can enjoy what God has done through these Central Asian weavers.—JS

Manihar People

It soon became obvious to the market vendor that he was dealing with a married Manihar woman because she was wearing glass bangles, earrings, and a nose-ring as symbols of marriage. He also knew that she probably brought some of her wares to barter for fruits and vegetables.

The Manihar are a Muslim community who work with stones, glass, ivory, and tin foils making bangles and beads. It is really a cottage industry with all members of the family employed in the endeavor.

Along with their traditional business of making and selling glass and lac bangles, they also sell goods like cosmetics, *tikli* (forehead jewelry) and sealing wax. Due to the international ban on elephant tusks, they now make ornately carved bangles from plastic.

The Manihar have large families and rely heavily on the public distribution system to buy subsidized grain, cooking oil, and kerosene. Many remain dependent and in debt to local moneylenders and shopkeepers for credit.

A low literacy rate suggests the need for the gospel to come to the Manihar in oral as well as written form.

Pray for the Manihar community to find markets for the products that they make. Pray for employment opportunities. Pray for a rapidly increasing rate of literacy, especially among the younger people. Pray that missionaries might find the opportunity to use micro loans as a means of sharing the gospel message with the Manihar people.—JS

**If a man does not repent,
God will whet His sword;
He has bent and readied
His bow. . . .**

Islamic Urdu-speaking peoples like the Manihars understand that we must repent before a holy God. God is holy and we are not. That they understand. But they don't know that we can only be declared righteous by the work of Jesus Christ, who paid for our sins.

Pray that the Manihar people will embrace the only Savior. Pray that they will follow Him out of love and gratitude.

Like cold water to a thirsty soul, so is good news from a far country.

Jesus Christ came to save sinners by paying their sin debt. That is good news! It's hard to imagine why so many reject this message, but most people chose the broad way that leads to spiritual destruction. Yet for those who humble themselves to embrace His ways, this message is like a cool cup of water on a hot day!

Pray for the Bhisti people to embrace this message, and even tell it to their customers as they work.

Bhisti People

Chander adjusted the large skin water pouch hanging from his shoulder by a wide strap. The sun was very hot, and many people in the marketplace were willing to accept a tin cup of water for a few coins. One after another drank deeply and dropped coins into Chander's worn palm. The tin cup was then passed to another customer, then another with no thought of sanitation. The water-carrier business had been poor since water pipes became more common, but a festival or marketplace still enabled Chander and other Bhisti people to make a meager living.

The name of Chander's people, Bhisti, is from a Persian word for paradise, and his people were thus named when they rushed water to thirsty soldiers. India has about half a million Bhisti people, Pakistan has about 60,000, and Nepal is home to only about 200 Bhisti people. Their language is Urdu, however they also speak the language of the area where they live.

Pray for the Bhisti people's physical well-being as they struggle to make a living in a world that has changed since their caste began. Pray for their mind as they are saturated with terrors of evil spirits, and the cultural practice of the Sunni Muslims. Pray especially for their souls which are everlasting that they may hear and respond to the One who brings living water.—PE

Qassab People

Day 12

Psalms 18:30, ESV

All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to the Lord, and all the families of the nations will worship before You (Psalms 22:27).

Mirandhu has never heard this promise. No one has told him. He simply spends day after day steadying goats and sheep with one hand and swiftly killing them for their meat and hides with the other. This is how he and his family make their living. They are Qassab, which means “cut or ‘butcher’” and refers to their daily work as butchers.

There are about 1,590,000 Qassab people in northern India and Pakistan. Their language is Urdu, and although less than two percent of the people are Evangelical, some church planting has taken place in the past year. Nearly the entire community is Sunni Muslim, and it is very difficult for anyone to tell them the good news.

Pray that the Lord will favor the entire Qassab group with dreams, visions, and messengers to draw them to Him. Pray for good fruit to come from new church plantings efforts among the Qassab people. Pray that Qassab people who accept the Lord will have His protection from persecution. Pray for the Holy Spirit to so fill Qassab believers with His love and joy that it will be obvious to all. Pray that their faith will quickly deepen and their obedience will grow rapidly as we approach the fulfillment of Psalm 22:27.—PE

This God—His way is perfect; the Word of the LORD proves true; He is a shield for all those who take refuge in Him.

The Lord’s ways are perfect, and His Word is true. He offers Himself as a shield for those who come to Him in humble repentance.

Pray for the Qassab people to turn to Him in humble repentance. Pray that they will experience His perfect presence and His protection now and forevermore.

**The woman Folly is loud;
she is seductive and
knows nothing.**

In the flesh, all of us are drawn to folly and foolishness. If it weren't for the Lord, we would wallow in it from the time we are born till the time we die. Those of us who have embraced the Lord can be freed from this. But what about those like the Faqir people who have no access to the Lord?

Pray that the Faqir people will rise above their human ways and seek the One who leads us to Godly wisdom.

Urdu Speaking Faqirs

Nasi parted his long, gray beard into two upswept curves matching his huge handle-bar mustache. He massaged red mud into his skin, bare except for his loin-cloth. Bright saffron talismen hung from his neck and he sat on a banyan tree root and repeated names and verses holy in Islam. He is a Faqir, which means “poverty.” He is a member of an ancient caste of magicians and beggars who teach folk Islam for alms from those who revere them. Rather than being honored he is disdained for practicing magic by more orthodox Muslims who regard what he is doing as being like that of the Hindus. To him, the inner dimension of Islam is more important than following the letter of the Qur'an. This may involve going into an ecstatic dance at any moment.

In India there are over 96,000 Urdu-speaking Faqirs like Nasi who trace their beginnings to the era of Mohammad. Nasi and his caste say that their purpose in life is to remain on a spiritual quest for God. How pitiful that their quest has led to magic and deception! They wish to find God, but they have found only counterfeits. Who will pray through the strongholds? Who will send and support those who can take the message of the Savior to the Faqirs?

Pray that God will call forth support, prayer teams, and messengers to bring them the good news of Christ, the only One who can save and provide an abundant life.—PE

Moghol People

The Great Mosque and the Taj Mahal are now tourist attractions, but they are very important for India's history. They are reminders of the Moghol Turks who introduced Sunni Islam to India when they invaded South Asia from Afghanistan. For a while they successfully incorporated Hindus into their regime. However, when they came to discriminate against Hindus, their empire began to collapse, ultimately falling to the British and initiating tension, which still persists between India and Pakistan today. Today ethnic Moghols live in Pakistan, India and Afghanistan, where they speak Mogoli, not Urdu.

Urdu-speaking Moghols share a number of common traits: the Urdu language, Islam, memory of past rule, caste, and sharia law. They can be either Sunni or Shi'ite Muslims. Caste allows them to comfortably fit into the larger Hindu society, which they once ruled. Sharia family, inheritance, and property law, and the Qur'an connect them to the global Muslim communities and sets them apart from the dominant Hindu society of India.

When the British took over South Asia, they Romanized the Persian script of Urdu and used it with the government and the military. There is even a Romanized Urdu New Testament along with the Bible in Urdu script. There is also Christian literature in Urdu. However, Qur'anic views of Jesus hinder acceptance of Him as Savior.

Pray for Moghol people to see Jesus beyond the Qur'an. Pray for protection of new Moghol believers, and for their discipling. Pray for believers to be successful in establishing church-planting movements among Moghol people.—TP

Hear, O my people, while I admonish you! O Israel, if you would but listen to me!

Like most unreached people groups, the Moghol people have few chances to listen to the Lord. Though there are Christian materials in Urdu, they live among families and friends who regard these materials as far less accurate than the things they hear in the mosque. If they decide to listen to His servants, they can be ostracized from their communities.

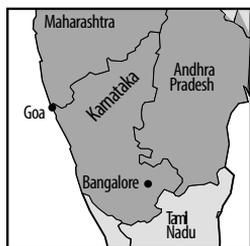
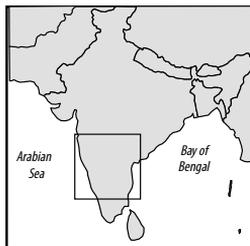
Pray for many from the Moghol people to listen to the Lord, no matter what penalty they face.

But my people did not listen to my voice; Israel would not submit to me. So I gave them over to their stubborn hearts, to follow their own counsels.

Tragically, this has been the fate of thousands of people groups. Like the people of Israel, nations have chosen to not listen to His still small voice when He speaks to them. They can have missionaries, Bibles, gospel recordings, radio broadcasts, and web sites in the local language, but people's hearts must be open.

Pray for the Malawud people to listen to the voice of the Lord when He speaks to them. Pray that their hearts will be soft, not stubborn.

Malawud People



The Deccan Plateau is neither here nor there, but somewhere in between. This region of central India, which is about 40 percent Muslim, was once “in the shadow of the Mughal Empire to the north ... and a Hindi empire to the south” (*Saudi Aramco World*, Mar/Apr 2013). The Deccan Plateau straddles India’s central states of Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, and Karnataka.

There today one finds the Malawud people, whose culture now as in the past is a mixture of Hindu and Muslim elements, especially in the arts. The arts are important to them, especially public arts.

The Malawud people work in businesses, banks, government offices, and schools in the city, and in agriculture outside the city. Like the Moghol we prayed for yesterday, they have castes. Society is patriarchal, and women are veiled in public. Religious life focuses on the tombs of Muslim saints as well as worship at the mosque. One tomb in their region claims a lock of Mohammed’s hair as a relic.

Pray for workers to be thrust out to the Deccan Plateau, and for the Holy Spirit to prepare hearts to be open. Pray that God will open the Malawud and other peoples in this region to the Bible and its message of hope beyond the tomb. Pray that they see Jesus as Savior and not just a Christian saint.—TP

Urdu Speaking Muslim Rajputs

Day 16

Proverbs 20:9, ESV

Feeling a slight twinge of guilt upon hearing the Muslim call to prayer, Rakesh once again promised Allah that he would make the pilgrimage to Mecca next year. Perhaps he should at least pray this time, since he was being disobedient by not going on the pilgrimage (hajj). Friends who had made the trip always returned with exciting tales of their journey. He hoped for a raise in his salary in coming months so he could save up for this holy pilgrimage.

Most Rajputs are Hindu, but a quarter of Rajputs from Pakistan, India, and Nepal are Muslim. The Muslim community descended from the warrior Umrao Singh, who had fought and was captured by a conquering Muslim ruler. After his release, the Hindu Rajput community refused to welcome him back. He then formed his own Muslim Rajput community.

Today we focus our prayers on the Urdu-speaking Muslim Rajputs. Traditionally, these people have been agriculturalists and key landowners. Lately, more work in service and wage-labor jobs. While some Hindu Rajputs have met Jesus, no known Muslim Rajputs have encountered Him. One hundred percent of Urdu-speaking Rajputs follow Islam.

Pray that Christian workers, or former Hindu Rajputs, will present Muslim Rajputs with the good news. Pray that a spiritually hungry Rajput Muslims will have an encounter with Jesus, and then have the courage to form a Rajput community that follows Jesus Christ. Pray for His will to be done among the Urdu speaking Rajputs.—LR

Who can say, “I have made my heart pure; I am clean from my sin”?

The answer is no one! Our hearts are impure and sinful. This is why we pray for the unreached peoples. Only the purifying work of the Holy Spirit can change hearts.

Pray for the purifying work of the Holy Spirit to cleanse hearts among the Urdu speaking Rajputs. Pray for them to find spiritual refreshment when they embrace the ways of the Lord who cleanses sinful mankind from sin and deception.

If we had forgotten the name of our God or spread out our hands to a foreign god, would not God discover this? For He knows the secrets of the heart.

Typically people think that they can live their lives without God knowing their heart. But the Bible tells us that the heart is wicked. No matter what external acts of righteousness we do, the heart still needs purifying.

Pray that the Meo Rajput people will understand that they must submit to the God who knows all the secrets of their hearts. Pray for His will to be done among this people group that needs to worship Him alone.

Meo (pronounced Mev) Rajputs

Ashmohd folded his arms and leaned back in his seat, a common position he presented as a police chief. Traditional jobs for the Meo usually entail livestock farming, not high-level police work. This time he wasn't speaking to someone pleading a case. He was reading a website he'd found when searching for information about his people on the Internet. He was intrigued that Christian websites published information about how to pray for Meo people. His heart was touched that people he didn't even know prayed for him.

The Meo people of India follow Muslim practices and customs, but they also mix their beliefs with Hindu teachings. For example Meo people claim to be direct descendants of two Hindu gods, Rama and Krishna.

The Indian caste system places the Meo low on the social strata. Even though they are of the Rajput caste, a traditionally respected caste that is known for having protected the king and taking leadership in their region, the Meo people are considered to be of the backward caste. More than 300,00 Meo occupy regions of Rajasthan, Haryana, and Uttar Pradesh in north India. Most speak Urdu.

Pray that the Meo will experience God's pursuit as they witness a loving Christian presence online. Pray that believers worldwide will harness the tools of the Internet and social media to reach more unreached people groups like the Meo Rajputs—LR

Muhajir People

At what point does an immigrant become part of the local population? That question is not easy to answer, especially when you consider the Muhajir people of Pakistan. The term *muhajir* comes from the Arabic word for “immigrant” or “refugee.” And the name certainly fits: the Muhajir people were part of the one of the largest forced migrations in history. As they relocated from India to Pakistan during the Indian Partition in 1947, the Muhajir considered themselves fortunate to share in something Mohammed, the prophet of Islam, had experienced. They believe he was the first true *muhajir*. When Mohammed’s life was in danger, he migrated from Mecca to Medina. He was then welcomed in Medina with open arms. Similarly, the Muhajir were welcomed in Pakistan, a nation they considered their new homeland.

However, the atmosphere has changed in recent years. In the decades since partition, the Muhajir have been increasingly marginalized. Today, many feel that they are a separate people from other Pakistanis even though they share the Muslim religion with the Pakistani majority.

Pray for gospel to be shared with the Muhajir people—how Jesus left heaven and came to earth so that they could be forgiven and have eternal life. Pray for these “refugees” to find their ultimate refuge in God. Ask Him to prepare the hearts of the Muhajir to receive the good news. Pray for a great awakening among this people group and for many to put their faith in Christ.—CL

Seven times a day I praise you for your righteous rules.

It is far too easy for us to judge the Islamic religious system without recognizing some good things in it. Those who are diligent in their Islamic practices pray five times a day. Could verses like this help them to see that there are areas we have in common with them?

Pray for Urdu-speaking Muslims to understand that the Bible has jewels that they will never find in the Qur’an.

With the mighty deeds of the Lord GOD I will come; I will remind them of Your righteousness, Yours alone.

One of the areas we agree with Muslims is that we know that God is righteous. He alone is righteous, and we are not. But what is righteousness? That is the key issue that separates the God of the Bible from Allah of the Qur'an.

Pray that the Muslim Indo-Mauritian people will hunger and thirst for the righteousness that comes from the God who loves us enough to send His only son to pay for our sins. Pray that they will want the One who knows our weaknesses and loves us anyway.

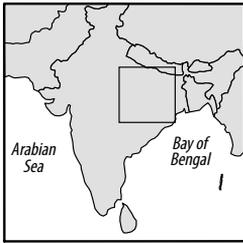
Indo-Mauritian People

An Indo-Mauritian history professor addressed a group of foreigners about his people group that started out as slaves, and now one of them is the head of state in Mauritius, an island nation off the coast of East Africa.

“Our bitter journey began with the abolishment of slavery in the 1800s. The British colony of Mauritius suddenly needed a labor force. That’s when we were brought from India. The recruiters said we were going to a special place—a land of plenty. Our needs would be few and we would have only a reasonable amount of work to do. That was a lie! Instead of a land of plenty, we found ourselves stranded in a land of hardship and misery. We were forced to work long, long hours, seven days of the week for very little compensation. Many of us died during those early years, succumbing to the effects of disease, poverty, and heartache. But somehow, we as a people survived. Today, we make up more than 70 percent of the population of Mauritius. Most of us are Hindus or Muslims, and all of us are overcomers.”

Pray for God to send workers to share His love with the Indo-Mauritians. Ask Him to reveal His mercy and compassion to them, and show them how highly valued they are in His eyes. Pray for these South Asians to have the opportunity to hear and respond to the good news of Christ. Ask God to draw many of them into His Kingdom.—CL

Rayeen (aka, Kunjra) People



Do you get enough fruits and vegetables in your diet? That is where most of your nutrients come from. If you lived in India, there is a good chance you would be buying your produce from members of Rayeen community.



The Rayeens live mainly in Bihar, though they also live most other north India states. Thirty-one thousand more of them live in Pakistan. They must negotiate prices with farmers and make sure they can make a profit on selling

them in local marketplaces after transporting them. And their produce must be fresh or people won't want to buy them. Imagine how easy it would be to arrive at the marketplace with shriveled produce on a hot day!

But spoiled produce is only one of the problems the Rayeen people face. They are Muslims, and almost none of them have even heard that Jesus Christ came to save sinners. One Christian web site pointed out that they have not rejected the gospel of Christ, they simply have not had a chance to hear it and respond. Even if that opportunity comes, they are not likely to respond to a message that contradicts what their people have believed for hundreds of years.

Pray for the Holy Spirit to thrust out workers among the Rayeen people. Pray for Him to give the Rayeen people receptive hearts.—KC

You cause the grass to grow for the livestock and plants for man to cultivate, that he may bring forth food from the earth.

Like it or not, mankind is dependent on God for daily bread. How do we handle this situation? Some people resent the fact that they are not independent of the One who gives life. Others might ignore Him and fool themselves into thinking they can make it without Him. Still others are grateful for the produce that God has given us.

Pray that the Rayeen people will have hearts of gratitude to the One who causes grass to grow for their livestock and plants for cultivation.

God is a righteous judge,
and a God who feels
indignation every day.

It is easy to think that God doesn't notice the oppression brought on by the wicked, but He does. He feels indignation when it happens. Does that mean that He doesn't care, or He can't do anything about it? Absolutely not! But he waits for the wicked to repent and for more people to pray.

Pray that the wicked among the Taga people will repent of their sins and be spiritually refreshed by the Loving Father.

Taga (aka, Tyagi) People

Rasheen sat next to his older brother, Raboi nibbling on the tandoori drumstick he offered until his grandmother hit Raboi with her cane. “Ouch! What was that all about?” He demanded, jumping up so fast he almost knocked over a nearby lamp. She pointed at the youth and replied, “We are not to be eating meat! And here you are teaching that precious little boy to eat chicken.” Raboi stood up and faced her before replying, “And why shouldn't we eat meat? Just because our ancestors were vegetarians? We aren't even Hindus like most of the Taga people. There is nothing wrong with eating some chicken, especially for a growing boy like Rasheen.”

A generation ago, a Taga youth would not have questioned his elder. Nor would he be likely to eat meat. Even today, traditional Tagas frown on eating meat, especially those who are Hindu. The vast majority of the Taga people are Hindu, though 190,000 of them are Urdu-speaking Muslims. The Hindu and Muslim Taga communities get along well in today's world that they often attend one another's social events. Tagas who converted to Islam were forced to do so during the days of the Moghul Empire. Most of them farm, though the Hindus among them were probably Brahmins at one time.

Pray for the Holy Spirit to touch the hearts of both Hindu and Muslim Taga people in such a way that they will question their old ways and seek the One who is the truth.—KC

Muslim Arain People

Everyone knows that the most common blood type is O, and that cuts across almost ethnic groups, yet there is a Muslim people group in Pakistan that primarily has B as their blood type. They are also one of the most prominent people groups in Pakistan. Most of them are involved with agriculture; they cultivate sugar cane, mangoes, wheat, and rice, so they make sure the Pakistanis eat well. Some are involved with the dairy industry. Let me introduce you to the Arain people.

These people were favored by the British colonizers for their hard work and discipline. During the colonial era the Arain people began to collect productive lands near emerging towns and cities. They could either sell their crops there or sell the land for a sizable profit. As they gained wealth, the Arains put their energy into getting higher education and political power.

The Arains probably have Arab blood (type B, maybe?) running through their veins from traders and missionaries coming from the Arab World. They are dedicated Muslims who would not even consider turning their allegiance to any other religious system.

Pray that many from the Arain people will forsake religious systems and embrace Jesus Christ in such a way that it will affect Pakistan's economic and social systems. Pray for their hearts to beat for Jesus, the giver of life.—KC

...yes, if you call out for insight and raise your voice for understanding, if you seek it like silver and search for it as for hidden treasures, then you will understand the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God.

Insight and understanding are priceless! On a worldly level, the Arain people know this very well. Instead of putting their wealth into luxury goods, they have "invested" so to speak in education.

Pray that the Arain people will soon use their insight to seek and find the One who holds their future in His mighty hands. Pray for them to have a healthy fear of the Lord.

Saifi People

Those of low estate are but a breath; those of high estate are a delusion; in the balances they go up; they are together lighter than a breath.

Wealthy peoples like the Saifis easily delude themselves into thinking that they do not need God. When there is wealth, it is way too easy to live as if God does not exist. For this and other reasons, Jesus commented that it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.

Pray for many from the Saifi people to beat the odds by living for Christ no matter how distracted they might be by wealth.

“So this is where the Saifi live,” muttered the Western visitor as he walked through a residential area in one of the major cities of northern India. The houses looked like ones you might find in a European or North American city. Cars were parked everywhere. Then the visitor walked past the mosque and heard the call to prayer. He remembered that members of this wealthy community depend on something other than Jesus Christ for their eternal salvation.

Centuries ago the Saifi people were sword makers. Like most people groups in India the Saifi started off as Hindus but later converted to Islam. The experts are unsure when this change took place. Today the Saifi are one of the richest people groups in northern India. Money has allowed many Saifi to get an education. Today there are many Saifi engineers and computer programmers. Most or all Saifi are Muslims. No member of this people group has openly claimed to be a follower of Jesus Christ.

Ask God to break the hold that Islam has on this people group and replace it with a strong devotion to Jesus. Pray that God will lead a mission agency to reach out to the Saifi people. Pray that this people group will come to realize that true satisfaction comes from knowing Jesus Christ and not from materialism or the teachings of Mohammed.—WK

Rangrez People

Day 24

Psalms 130:4, ESV

Ali dipped white cloth into a warm liquid as he worked in his shop in one of the large cities of Pakistan. His family was part of the Rangrez people group, a community that earns their living by dyeing cloth. Ali watched the white cloth gradually turn red in the dipping pans he used in his work. “You’re a good man,” said an old customer as he watched Ali work. Ali knew he was far from perfect. He knew that sin was like the red dye he was using. Once it colored a piece of cloth it would never come out. Ali worshipped Allah regularly, but he still felt dirty inside. He knew his sins hadn’t been forgiven. Perhaps Allah will forgive a sinner like me, he thought.

Long ago the Rangrez people group had lived in India. Back then they had been Hindus and had worshipped Vishnu. Centuries ago Muslim missionaries converted this people group to Islam. Since the partition of India in 1947 many members of this people group moved to Pakistan, but many Rangrez still live in India. Experts believe all Rangrez are Muslims. There are no known followers of Christ among this people group.

Pray that the Rangrez people group will realize that only Christ can take the red stain of sin from their lives. May this people group come to see Jesus Christ as much more than a prophet. Ask God to lead faithful workers to reach out to the Rangrez with the message of salvation.—WK

But with You there is forgiveness, that You may be feared.

We fear the One who can forgive sins. Why? He alone can do it, and He controls our eternal destiny! Yet, we can also cherish Him for the same reason!

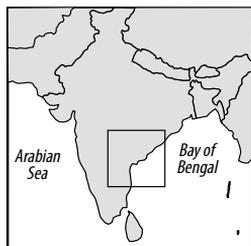
Pray that the Rangrez people will fear and cherish the One who alone has the power to forgive sins. Pray that the Holy Spirit will give them the gift of faith in Christ so that His Kingdom will be extended.

You have kept count of my sorrows; put my tears in Your bottle. Are they not in Your book?

For centuries the Khojas and other Shi'ite Muslim peoples have held onto hurts. Instead of using the oppression of the man who brought them Islam as a means towards learning how to stand up for what they believe, they use it as a means of holding onto rage and unforgiveness. The Bible says that we can let go of our hurts; He keeps track of the wrongs, and we are better off releasing them.

Pray that the Khojas and other Shi'ite Muslim peoples will release the wrongs committed against them to the One who alone can forgive sins.

Khoja People



Raji watched the Islamic festival with his friend Jose from Argentina. They stood on a sidewalk in Hyderabad, India, as Khoja men beat themselves with chains. “Why do your people do that?” asked Jose. “They are depicting the death of the one who brought Islam to us, a missionary named Pir Sadardin,” Raji explained. Joe thought for a minute and commented, “I also follow someone who was killed by

His enemies. His name is Jesus. But there is a major difference. Unlike Pir Sadardin, Jesus rose from the dead, He conquered death and sin.” “Please tell me more,” asked Raji. Jose said, “Yes, but not here.” The two young men then walked several blocks to Raji’s house.

Many years ago members of the Lohanna people group, in northern India, converted from Hinduism to Shi'ite Islam and came to be known as the Khoja. This happened in the 14th century, and it was mainly the work of a Muslim missionary named Pir Sadardin. Sadardin was eventually killed by angry Hindus. Today all Khojas are either Shi'ite or Sunni Muslims and there are no known followers of Jesus Christ among this people group.

Ask God to open the hearts of the Khoja people to the Risen Savior. May this people group come to see Jesus Christ as the only source of eternal life. Pray that God will soon lead the right people to reach out to them.—WK

Kumhar People

No matter how modern or ancient a particular people is you will always find pottery items among their possessions; everyone needs something to eat and drink from. Pots, utensils, water jugs; we all need them.

In India, a key pottery making community is the Kumhar people. Their name means “a maker of pots” or “someone who creates.” The urban market has shown a growing demand for their wares, and, more recently, they have moved from using red clay to using terracotta, because it is more durable and can be painted.

The Kumhar have remained largely landless, making and selling their pottery work as their primary occupation. Some are brick masons, or raise animals, or sharecrop. They are involved in a broader range of occupations than they were a century ago.

The Kumhar are also very diverse linguistically and religiously. There are Hindu, Muslim, and Sikh Kumhar, and they live all across India. Though we are praying for those who speak Urdu this month, Kumhar people speak a variety of South Asian languages. Very few members any Kumhar group are known to be believers in Jesus.

Pray for spiritual breakthroughs among the Kumhar. Pray for a hunger to develop among them that can only be filled with Jesus. Pray that they will be pliable clay in the Master Potter's hands.—JR

But the pot he was shaping from the clay was marred in his hands; so the potter formed it into another pot, shaping it as seemed best to him.

Jeremiah received a word from the Lord in regard to a potter and his work. The Lord confirmed that He is the potter and is able to take a piece of clay and make a desirable item out of it. Just as the potter can form a piece of clay and bake it till it is ready for use, the Lord can take us as individuals, and as nations, and mold us for His use. Could you imagine what He can do with peoples like the Kumhars if they would submit to His kingly rule?

Pray that many from the Kumhar people will submit to the Lord.

You will break them with a rod of iron; you will dash them to pieces like pottery.”

He is a God of love, but He is also a God of wrath. The two are inseparable. There will come a day when the wicked will be broken as if hit by a rod of iron and dashed to pieces like pottery. God does not wish to see any perish! But His wrath will some day break forth like a rod of iron.

Pray that many from the Arora people will repent, and become objects of mercy rather than objects of wrath.

Muslim Arora People

There are few South Asian people groups that can be Hindu, Muslim, or Sikh, and the Aroras are on that short list. Most Aroras are Hindu or Sikh, but there are also Muslims among them. For most of their history they have been religiously tolerant, and have even had a tradition of allowing their sons to change from Hinduism to Sikhism in order to honor the gurus.

The Arora are very familiar with persecution. Centuries ago they were violently abused during the Arab and Moghul invasions. They were forced out of their homes in 1947 during the Partition of India. But today, they are an influential community in India, with many of their number are working in business, education, finance, and medicine. They have shown a very strong work ethic.

The Arora have been open-minded to various belief systems for many years, but very few of them have made a commitment to Jesus. Fortunately, with all the resources available in Urdu, it is very possible to those who speak this key language will have the chance to turn their hearts to Him.

Pray that along with bettering themselves economically, the Arora people will seek spiritual truth that will lead them to Jesus and free them spiritually. Pray that the church will make efforts to reach out to the Aroras. Pray that Arora people, be they Hindu, Sikh or Muslim, will experience God's dream for their lives.—JR

Changar People

Day 28

Psalms 58:11, ESV

“**T**here are now two major things that have stopped our Changar farmers from migrating from their villages to other parts of India and Pakistan. These are aloe vera farming and the new irrigation plan that will allow more water to be distributed to the farmers. Aloe vera plants need minimal water, no pesticides, and wild animals will not destroy them. This has provided a stable income for many of the farmers and their families.”

Parvea, a banker in Punjab, was happy about the progress report he was giving to some landlords and businessmen in the community. There are more than 2,000 Urdu speaking Changar people who can be found living in the state of Rajasthan in India, and the Punjab Province of Pakistan. Life for these people is centered around their ability to farm on rented plots of lands where a portion of their crops goes to the landlords. Their women are known for their unique ability to make beautiful baskets and brooms, which they sell in local markets. When recent droughts affected their regions these people began to migrate elsewhere.

Changar communities are united in their Islamic beliefs and there are no known disciples of Christ among them. There are many Christian resources available in the Urdu language.

Pray that God will open the way for committed believers to be willing to extend friendship to the Changar Muslims so they will know God and desire to live by His word.—PD

Mankind will say, “Surely there is a reward for the righteous; surely there is a God who judges on earth.”

Is it too much to say that even with a sin nature, mankind somehow knows that there is a God who will judge the earth? This provides both a motivation and comfort. There is motivation to live a righteous life, and comfort for those who do it. But for those who don't, there is only the dread of certain condemnation.

Pray for many from the Changar people to be motivated to live a righteous life. Pray that they will understand that true righteousness is internal; it is not simply a matter of following rules and laws.

Nanbai People

We will not hide them from their children, but tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the LORD and His might, and the wonders that He has done.

Do you have contact with children? Most of us do. Did you know that if no one tells them about the deeds of the Lord, His light will dim among your people within a generation? Likewise, if someone tells of the glorious deeds of the Lord among the children of unreached people groups, He will be glorified and magnified among them.

Pray for the Lord to raise up many to tell of His deeds to the next generation.

Create International



Making chappatis, another popular bread.

“Dad, I don’t like getting my hands all sticky and sweaty by the tandoori oven. It reaches 800 degrees fahrenheit, for crying out loud! I don’t want to follow in your footsteps or grandpa’s footsteps. I don’t care if we bake the best naan bread in Pakistan. I want to go to school and earn lots of money so I can have a nice car.”

Mourees’h’s father gritted his teeth as he replied to his teenaged son. “You should be ashamed of yourself! You can take pride in being part of the most skilled baking community in Pakistan, but all you want to do is make money. I’ll do you a favor; I won’t tell your mother of your foolish notions. She would demand I give you a thorough beating.”

Mourees’h rushes out of the bakery, hoping never to return. Perhaps he will join his friend who is purchasing a gas-powered rickshaw for paying customers. He will still be sticky and sweaty, but he will meet people and see places his father has never dreamed of.

Most of the Nanbai people still make a living as bakers and cooks in Pakistan and India’s state of Uttar Pradesh. A few have opened tea stalls, and some pull rickshaws. They are virtually all Sunni Muslims.

Pray they will come to know Jesus, the bread of life, as their Lord and Savior. Pray for believers to make the effort to take gospel materials to the Nanbai people, so they can hear of His ways.—JWS

South Asian Concern

Day 30

Psalms 34:18, ESV

How are people going to reach Urdu-speakers in a place like Pakistan where missionary visas are highly restricted? It could be that they are being reached in Europe where missionary visas are not a serious restriction. There are about 100,000 Pakistani nationals in Greece, alone not to mention the rest of Europe. Other Pakistanis live in Barcelona, Spain.

South Asian Concern, a British-based network for reaching South Asians in their country, is hoping to see these Hindus, Sikhs, and Muslims reached in other parts of Europe. Consider these common scenarios: Unreached high caste Hindus often get the education to work in the IT industry, but they find jobs in England or other parts of Europe. Punjabi Sikh Jats, among the world's most skilled agricultural workers, are developing the cheese industry in northern Italy. Other South Asians who are less fortunate are trafficked into Italy or Greece where they find no employment.

As unreached South Asians begin to spread out on the European continent, they can be reached for Christ by any one of 40 members of South Asian European Network members. (From an April, 2014 South Asian Concern Newsletter)

Pray for the Holy Spirit to move some of England's 70,000 South Asian believers to reach out to Hindus, Muslims, and Sikhs on the continent. Pray for efforts to find where South Asians live in Europe and reach them for Christ.—KC

The LORD is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit.

In every culture there are people who are brokenhearted and crushed in spirit. These suffering people are often ready for spiritual change. Who can be more crushed in spirit and brokenhearted than someone who has just left their families to find work on a distant continent?

Pray that the brokenhearted and spiritually crushed among the South Asians in Europe will look to Jesus to heal their hearts and purify their spiritual conditions.

Because I love Your commands more than gold, more than pure gold, and because I consider all your precepts right, I hate every wrong path.

If this is true, then the people who have made God's Word available to the Muslim Central Asians have given them a gold mine! Think of it; how much would someone have to pay you to live your entire life without God's Word to guide you?

Thank the Lord that Muslims now have access to God's Word. Pray that they will read and obey what He says.

New Year's resolutions in October? What a strange idea!

In the *Global Prayer Digest (GPD)* office, we have had more contact with field missionaries since we started our partnership with Ethne to Ethne in 2006. God is answering our prayers, and we need to pray for follow up! In November of 2012, we prayed for unreached Muslim people groups in Central Asia that lack their own Bible translation. We prayed for the need for God's Word to reach these Muslims in their heart languages.

We recently found out that one organization had been working with a particular unreached people group for over 20 years. Suddenly people are accessing and receiving scripture portions and interacting with the Word. More people have accessed the Word through their web site and through distribution of paper copies than there has been for 10 years!

At one time scripture portions were only distributed by hand. But with the advent of the Internet, people can download their own digital or printed copies, often without neighbors and family members interfering. This web site also includes biblical answers to questions about everything from how to get along with others, how to handle money, and God's character. Many are writing to those who own the web site. Some send hostile comments, while others are seeking spiritual answers.

Thank the Lord for this new opportunity to get the Word of God to Central Asian Muslims. Pray for lasting spiritual fruit that will affect this entire region.—KC