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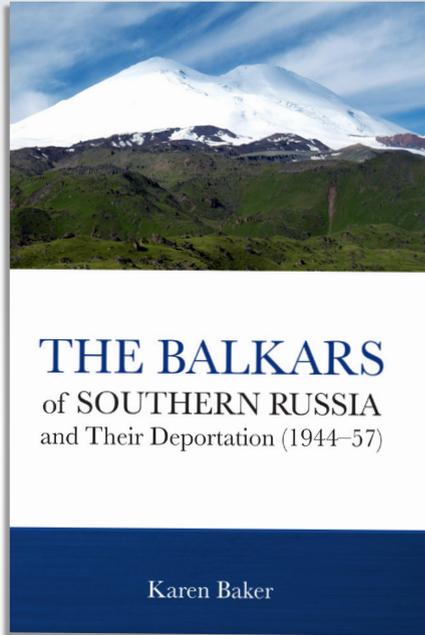
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NEW BOOK

The Balkars of Southern Russia and Their Deportation (1944 – 57)

A Christian Perspective

Indelible events are often stamped into the consciousness of a nation. These events shape individuals, and often entire societies, in the way they view social, cultural, political, ethical, and especially spiritual realities. The deportation of entire ethnic groups of the North Caucasus region of southern Russia was an immense operation of the Soviet government during World War II. The Balkarians, or Balkars, were forcibly taken from their native homelands and deported to distant lands within the Soviet Union. They remained in exile for thirteen years. The third generation of Balkars since that horrible experience continues to live in the shadow of the atrocities committed against their people. This book applies comprehensive research to the facts of the deportation. More importantly, it examines lingering resentments and current sentiments of the Balkarians through extensive personal interviews with those who experienced the deportation.



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Karen Baker

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What is the Global Prayer Digest?

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

Become a Daily World Christian

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

Myanmar, Mothers and the Frontier Fellowship Movement

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

Loose Change Adds Up!

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

Devotional Ideas

How can you make the most of this prayer digest:

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

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

RECORDS AND SUBSCRIPTIONS

U.S. Center for World Mission
1605 East Elizabeth Street
Pasadena, CA 91104-2721
Tel: (330) 626-3361
subscriptions@uscwm.org

MANAGING EDITOR

Keith Carey

ASSISTANT EDITOR

Paula Fern

WRITERS

Vicki Anderson
Glenn Culbertson
Patricia Depew
Patti Ediger
Wesley Kawato
Arlene Knickerbocker
Esther Jerome-Dharmaraj
Christopher Lane
Annabeth Lewis
Karen Hightower
Ted Proffitt
Lydia Reynolds
Jeff Rockwell
Jean Smith
Jane W. Sveska

DAILY BIBLE COMMENTARIES

Keith Carey
David Dougherty
Robert Rutz

CUSTOMER SERVICE

Dan Eddy
Diane Tolsma
Lois Carey

GRAPHICS

Matt Anderson

PRINTER

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Dear Praying Friends,
Ukrainians have a language, culture, and heritage that is strongly tied to Russia; in fact, Russian civilization did not begin in Moscow, but in Kiev, Ukraine's capital city! This situation comes back to haunt Ukrainians periodically

as you can see from recent news.

One of the things that Russia and Ukraine share is many of the same unreached Muslim and Jewish people groups. This month we will pray for these unreached people groups in Ukraine, but while you are at it, pray for those that are in Russia too.

For a country in Eastern Europe, Ukraine has a strong evangelical presence that can potentially reach many of these people groups. Though it is very difficult for ideas to spread during times of war, people who live in a crisis are often open to new answers. When you see headlines about the tragic situation in Ukraine, pray not only for God to comfort the innocent, but also that He will use this situation to extend His fame to the unreached Muslims and Jewish peoples living there.

In Christ,

Keith Carey

Keith Carey, editor, *GPD*

PS—One of the things that comes up from time to time has to do with our daily entries. Are they fictional or factual? Many of our stories are realistic fiction that are written to illustrate the attitudes and beliefs of the people group.

Pray for a Fellowship Among Every People Group in Ukraine



Ukraine in a Time of Crisis

—by Wesley
Kawato, GPD writer

The current crisis in Ukraine has roots that go back deep into the history of the country. The Ukrainians are a Slavic people who speak a language similar to Russian, but not all Ukrainians belong to the Ukrainian ethnic group. Several Muslim people groups also settled within the area that would later become Ukraine. Jews also settled in this land, after fleeing from places where they were being persecuted.



Early History

There is much that is unknown about the early history of Ukraine. By the Middle Ages this land had been settled by Slavic people groups that usually practiced an Orthodox form of Christianity. In those days Ukraine was divided into many petty states.

In 1386 the Union of Krevno merged Poland and Lithuania. The newly unified country ruled a large part of what is now the northern part of Ukraine. But Poland and Lithuania eventually went their separate ways. In 1569 the Union of Lublin brought much of Ukraine under Polish rule. By then the Muslim Tatars had begun attacking Ukraine. Many smaller states in Ukraine merged with Poland to seek protection from the Tatars.

By 1500 A.D. the Tatars were already Muslim. The Tatars would eventually conquer Crimea. Historians don't agree on where the Tatars came from. Some believe they originated in Central Asia. Others believe the Tatars were formed by the intermarriage of several local people groups. What we do know is that the Tatars speak a non-Slavic Turkic language, very different from Ukrainian.

During the 1600s Russia began to dominate Ukrainian politics, changing the balance of power in the region. That led to a period of time Ukrainians call "The Ruin." This was a 30-year war for control of Ukraine that began in 1657 and ended in 1686. Russia, Poland, the Turks, and the Cossacks were the main combatants. Russia and Poland eventually allied to defeat the other nations. In 1686 they divided Ukraine amongst themselves. This war left much of Ukraine in ruins.

The Ottoman Turks never accepted Russian control of Ukraine. Poland grew weak and was partitioned by her neighbors. The collapse of Poland tempted the Turks to take over the part of Ukraine that the Poles had once controlled. This led to the Russo-Turkish War of 1768. By 1774 Russia controlled all of Ukraine.

In 1774 Ukraine, after much strife, was finally unified under the rule of a single nation Russia. In those days Crimea wasn't administered as part of the Russian province of Ukraine. During the 1800s various leaders tried to develop a sense of national identity for Ukraine. Their efforts didn't gain much popular support. By this time many Russians had settled in Ukraine. Many Jews had also settled in the major cities.

Ukraine In the Last 100 Years

Russia entered World War I in 1914. Losses on the battlefield helped lead to the Russian Revolution in 1917, which shattered both Russia and Ukraine. The Russian Revolution left 1.5 million people dead in Ukraine. Three independent states emerged within Ukraine, and they fought each other rather than the communists. By 1919 the communists had conquered all three states, but resistance continued for another year. In 1920 Soviet Russia was in complete control of Ukraine.

Things became even worse during communist rule. Soviet efforts and experiments to industrialize Ukraine diverted many workers out of farming. The new Soviet collective farms which they set up were very inefficient. Poor

government farming practices caused the Great Starvation of 1932-33. Food shortages killed 10 million Ukrainians.

Then in 1941 Germany invaded the Soviet Union. By then one third of Ukraine's urban population was Jewish. The Germans captured many Ukrainian cities during the war. Many Jews were deported to concentration camps.

At first a few Ukrainians welcomed the Germans as liberators, but they quickly learned that the Germans were no better than the Russians. A resistance movement soon developed against the German aggressors.

By the end of 1944 all of Ukraine had been liberated from German rule, but the resistance groups didn't disband. They began fighting the Russians for independence. It wasn't until the early 1950s that the Soviet armies pacified Ukraine.

The return of peace led to an economic boom in Ukraine. That's when Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev planted the seeds of the current Ukrainian crisis. In 1956 he placed the Crimea under the control of the Ukrainian Republic. The Tatars were the largest people group in Crimea, and they had no wish to be part of Ukraine.

Things remained peaceful in Ukraine only as long as Soviet police and armies kept the two people groups from attacking each other. That ended with the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991. All Soviet troops and police withdrew from Ukraine. Shortly after that Ukraine declared independence.

On the day Ukraine became independent the Ukrainians were a minority in their own country. Ethnic Russians slightly outnumbered ethnic Ukrainians. In 1991 Russia still entertained the hope of one day absorbing Ukraine. Doing that would be as easy as holding a referendum, provided the ethnic Russian population remained united on this issue.

In 2004 Russia considered Viktor Yanukov, the Ukrainian prime minister, to be their ally. He was an ethnic Russian who championed the cause of union with Russia. During the 2004 election for president, Yanukov was at first declared the winner. Protests erupted when it was learned that the election had been rigged. Popular protests put in power Viktor Yushenko, Yanukov's opponent. This event came to be known as the Orange Revolution.

In 2010 Yanukov was elected president and began moving Ukraine toward union with Russia. Such policies alienated the Ukrainian parliament. They impeached Yanukov in 2014.

The removal of Yanukov from power dashed any hope Russia had of a union with Ukraine, so the Russians switched to a back-up plan. They encouraged separatist rebellions all over Ukraine. The Tatars declared Crimea to be independent, and Crimea then merged with Russia. Separatist groups also declared parts of the Eastern Ukraine independent. Heavy fighting continues in this region today, as the Ukrainian army fights to crush these rebellions. Russian troops have crossed into Ukraine in support of the separatists.

People Groups

The Ukrainians and the Russians are by far the two largest people groups in Ukraine. The Orthodox Church has a strong presence within both of these groups. However, there are also some small unreached people groups in Ukraine. For example, there are unreached Muslim and Jewish groups that we will pray for this month. The number of Jews in Ukraine was reduced significantly during World War II by German persecution. Many others left for Israel after 1945. But the Jews are still a significant minority within Ukraine.

Among the Muslim people groups living there are the Crimean Tatars. A recent census counted 248,000 Crimean Tatars. There are also Azeris, Uzbeks, Turks, Arabs, and other prominent Muslim Central Asian peoples living in Ukraine that we will pray for this month.

Prayer Points

Ask God to lead mission agencies to target each of the unreached people groups in Ukraine for outreach.

Pray that the Lord will create a hunger for the true God in each of these unreached people groups.

Pray for peace in Ukraine. Pray for God to protect the innocent victims of war.

He defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow, and loves the foreigner residing among you, giving them food and clothing.

May the Lord give us hearts broken and bleeding for the poor lonely orphans begging and knocking at our doors. Restore their joy and their losses; plant roses 'round their raised crosses; pour beauty and blessings upon their lives; give them hearts confessing a life restored.

Pray that the gospel would penetrate the orphanages in Ukraine. Pray that workers would be sent to minister to these children. Pray that godly men and women would advocate on behalf of the orphans. Pray that those involved in orphanage ministry would not weary in doing good. Pray that the Lord would give these orphans a hope, a future, and a home.—VA

Missionary Biography: Bill Kapitaniuk

The elderly guest in the Kapitaniuk's home said to Bill Kapitaniuk and his two brothers, "I'd like to pray for you. Would you like to accept Christ into your hearts?" Mainly to be polite, the boys knelt around the table and prayed. But something happened to Bill that day.

Bill was born in Ukraine in the U.S.S.R. in 1928. As communism consolidated its hold on the Soviet Union, his family fled to Poland and from there emigrated to Canada. After high school, Bill decided to study the Bible at Prairie Bible Institute in Three Hills, Alberta. To help pay expenses, he mended shoes using rubber from old tires.

One day Peter Deyneka, founder of the Slavic Gospel Association, spoke at the Prairie Bible Institute. In closing, he spoke of the Slavic people in Europe's displaced persons camps. "World War II has left thousands of them destitute, homeless, jobless, and without spiritual resources," he said. "They are hungry to hear of a God who loves them and cares about what happens to them." Bill Kapitaniuk had heard many missionary speakers at Prairie Bible Institute. But none had ever spoken of where he had been born.

When Deyneka spoke of the needs of the Slavic people in the displaced persons' camps, Bill's heart felt strangely drawn. He had spoken Polish before he had spoken English. Having a Slavic background, he understood the culture and wouldn't need to spend years learning about the customs. He could start right away!

Pray for the Holy Spirit to send His ambassadors to the mission field soon.

Missionary Biography, Continued

Day 2

Daniel 3:4b-5, NIV

By 1952, Bill Kapitaniuk was in Germany ready to begin work. In 1956 while still in Germany he married Sophie Bobel, a Christian Jewess, who became the mother of their eight sons.

In 1957 he heard there was now freedom to travel in Poland; so Bill left Sophie and their new baby and headed for Eastern Europe. At first it wasn't easy to get the Polish people to trust him. Few foreigners came to Poland, and the people were not ready to unreservedly accept as an authentic Christian anyone who arrived on their doorstep. But after "filling in" at a church meeting on a Sunday morning, he was deluged with invitations to speak all over the country. Bill was impressed with "their warmth, their hospitality, their eagerness and willingness to hear the gospel," and when he saw their hunger for spiritual things, he knew why God had sent him back to Poland.

Everywhere Bill traveled in Eastern Europe, he found the people tremendously hungry for the Word of God. All the Christians, especially in the Soviet Union, wanted Bibles so desperately that several Eastern European Christians said they were willing to smuggle Bibles across the border, even though they knew that if caught, they might be thrown in prison.

Pray that those smuggling Bibles into closed countries will not get caught, and the Bibles will find their way to spiritually hungry people.

This is what you are commanded to do... you must fall down and worship the image of gold that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up.

Throughout history many pretenders have contended for the allegiance of men's hearts. The communist party in the USSR and Poland insist that there is no God, and mankind can produce a human-based workers' paradise. They established the idol of secular humanism. The ancient King Nebuchadnezzar enforced the worship of an idol. Both came to ruin, and today thousands of people in nations like Poland and Ukraine are still finding their way into the loving arms of Jesus. But there are still unreached Muslim and Jewish people groups that are being left behind during these days of harvest.

Pray for a complete harvest among the unreached peoples in Poland and Ukraine.

Missionary Biography, Continued

The God we serve is able to save us from it, and He will rescue us from your hand, O king. But even if He does not, we want you to know, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image . . .

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego teach us at least three lessons as we stand against the spirit of anti-Christ. First, God is able to deliver His servants from danger, and give us great boldness and confidence. Second, He is not obligated to rescue His servants from physical harm; His power is directed by His wisdom. Third, a balanced view of God's ability keeps us from timidity on the one hand or presumption on the other.

Pray that our Lord will teach today's workers to stand firm with boldness, but proclaim His Word with love and respect.

One day in 1969 while trying to cross the border into Hungary with a station wagon full of contraband Bibles, Bill began to envision a depot stocked with thousands of Bibles and Christian books for Eastern Europe. He claimed the promise, "I will go before you and make the rough places smooth; I will shatter the doors of bronze, and cut through their iron bars" (Isaiah 45:2). "Couldn't the 'iron bars' be the Iron Curtain?" he wondered.

The official at the border told Kapitaniuk, "Your Polish visa has been denied." For some time Bill had been taking large quantities of Bibles and books into Poland; then Christians living on the Soviet border carried them into the Soviet Union. Bill suspected that the Russian authorities knew he was providing these books. Stuck now in France, he knew it was time to start the launching pad he had previously dreamed about; he would get more Bibles into Eastern Europe and Russia.

By 1984 Bill had a professional offset press and the personnel needed for all phases of a printing operation. Almost immediately the presses were running at full speed. Within weeks, they had printed 27,000 Polish Illustrated New Testaments. Before two years had passed, Bill and his crew had transported over 150,000 of these New Testaments into Poland.—AL from *God's Printer For Poland*, Bill Kapitaniuk's story as told to Halyna Smith, Baker Book House, 1987.

Pray for the Lord to clear the way to get Bibles into the hands and hearts of people suffering from today's conflicts in Ukraine.

Tatars of Ukraine



Tatar Men

The Tatars of Ukraine who live outside of Crimea are a separate people group, and they should not be confused with the Crimean Tatars who have been given much media attention this year. About 73,300 Tatars are spread out in colonies throughout Ukraine and Russia. The city of Volga is a center for many Ukraine Tatars, and today we will focus on them.

They are a people who have lost much of their cultural identity. Although of Turkic origin, many Tatars claim Russian as their mother tongue instead of their Kazar Tatar language.

In the 1800s Tatar cities were known as the greatest cultural centers of the Islamic world. But now it is difficult to distinguish them from other cities. Rural Tatars, however, maintain some of the old traditions, including wearing conservative clothing and practicing superstitious beliefs.

The Tatars identify themselves as Muslims before recognizing their ethnic Turkic identity. The urbanized liberal Tatars encourage the women to join the men in mosques, and prayer times are arranged around work schedules.

Christianity was introduced to the Tatars of Ukraine several centuries ago by the Russian Orthodox Church. “Christians” burnt Tatar mosques and forced conversions to Christianity. Today, the Tatars of Ukraine have only a 0.2 percent Christian population. A completed New Testament exists in their language, but there are no known churches.

Pray that God will minister forgiveness to the Tatar hearts, so that Jesus can enter them.—LR

For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and return not thither but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and prosper in the thing for which I sent it.

Intercessors, as together you blizzard Ukraine’s unreached peoples with prayers straight from God’s Word, you are the channels of His power accomplishing through you the redemption of people who will greet you with many thanks as you meet around His throne!

Pray that His Word will accomplish His purpose in Ukraine.—RR

You will eat grass like cattle . . . until you acknowledge that the Most High is sovereign over the kingdoms of men and gives them to anyone He wishes.

What is central to your identity? It is easy for a king like Nebuchadnezzar to wrap his identity in his powerful position, or for someone to identify with their ethnicity. But God in His love can break even the most proud king, the most ardent nationalist, and anyone else whom He chooses to break.

Pray that the Lord will prepare the hearts of the Crimean Tatars to acknowledge the Lord of creation.

Crimean Tatars



The mother bit her lip as she leaned close to the computer. She and her husband searched the footage of a security camera, hoping to witness their son's abduction. This scene has repeated itself again and again as young pro-Ukrainian Crimean Tatar men continue to "disappear" from the Crimean Peninsula in recent months. Since the annexation of Crimea by the Russians, many Crimean Tatar homes have been marked by Russian militiamen, and silent protesters have disappeared.

Russia's recent annexation of Crimea from Ukraine has sent shock waves throughout the Crimean Tatar community. A possibly rigged vote indicated a large number of Crimean Tatars prefer the annexation, but many of them desire to remain with Ukraine. Many are also being denied Russian citizenship which could affect their rights to own land, to travel, or to have access to schools and healthcare.

Nearly 98 percent of the 248,200 Crimean Tatars live in a part of Ukraine that has been annexed to Russia. The Crimean Tatars are a Turkic people who have often suffered persecution from Russia. They are mostly nominal Muslims, mixing animistic beliefs with unique customs. With only 0.01 percent putting their faith in Christ, the Crimean Tatars still have no complete Bible or fellowship. However the number of believers is now increasing.

Pray that the Crimean Tatars will soon hear about and learn about Jesus who loves them and wants to be their Lord and Savior.—LR

Chechens in Ukraine

Ukraine's Donetsk Airport battle raged on in a bloody massacre. Then a contingent of fighters on the side of pro-Russian separatists battling the Ukrainian security forces suddenly stopped in unison. They faced Mecca and performed Muslim prayers, according to a May 30, 2014 article entitled, "Chechens Fighting in Ukraine Could Erode Support for Separatists." This article exposed these fighters as Muslim extremists with a fierce reputation as warriors, the fearsome Chechens!

The land of Chechnya seems hidden away in southern Russia's remote valleys of the Caucasus Mountain range. Chechens, however, do not hide. Traditionally fighting against Russia, Chechens have earned a reputation as heartless terrorists who once bombed a Russian theatre with 700 people in it, and a school killing more than 300 Russian children. Why would Chechens fight for Russia's interests in Ukraine? Are they mercenaries? We don't know for sure.

Since 1989 the Chechens have fought two wars to obtain independence from Russia. During this time their numbers in neighboring Ukraine have plummeted. Fewer than 2,800 Chechens now live in Ukraine, and last summer's bloody conflict between pro-Russian separatists and Ukrainian security forces have claimed the lives of an untold number of Chechens.

Chechens in the Ukraine are almost 100 percent Muslim, and have no known followers of Jesus. They have the New Testament in their language, but no churches.

Pray that the Holy Spirit will transform Chechens so that they will eagerly seek to extend the kingdom of the Prince of Peace.—LR

The fruit of righteousness will be peace; the effect of righteousness will be quietness and confidence forever.

Trust in the Lord develops righteousness, which produces quietness and confidence in the Lord. Those who have always put their faith in a God of wrath and in fallen spirits that deceive and harm them live in fear and unrighteousness. But the One who created the heavens offers righteousness, peace, and confidence. Which would you prefer? Which do you think the unreached Chechens would prefer if given a choice?

Pray that during this decade many Chechens will hear about Jesus and put their trust in the One who takes away our fears and gives us quietness and confidence.

Then He opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures.

As we approach the time of the year where we think about Christ's death and resurrection, it is good to remember people like the Karaites who do not know the Savior. Unlike many unreached people groups for whom we pray, they not only have the Old Testament Scriptures, but they also read them and believe them. It is good to pray for their minds to be open so they can understand that their Savior has come!

Pray for the Karaites of Ukraine and Russia to be zealous in their willingness to read the words of the prophets and find their Messiah.

Karaite People of Ukraine

(This story is intended to illustrate the beliefs and attitudes of this people group.)

“We are the Jews who got away!” Grandfather smiled as he told the story to the grandchildren around the table. “Because we reject the Talmud but revere the Tanakh, we were not considered Jews by Hitler. He ordered us to separate work details, but not to the death camps.”

Twelve-year-old Jacob pressed for more details about the differences between his people, the Karaite, and the regular Jewish people. His Grandfather replied, “We are very observant. You see that we prostrate ourselves in prayer. We don’t wear phylacteries upon our foreheads because we believe that the Bible directives mean the Holy Word should be in our thoughts and direct our activities; they are not contained in a box upon our heads. We don’t read the Jewish scholar’s interpretation of the Jewish Bible. We each read the Bible for ourselves and have the freedom to interpret it as God gives us understanding. That’s why we are called ‘Karaite’ which means ‘reader.’”

Pray that Messianic Jews will be called to take the gospel to the 1100 Karaites in Ukraine. Pray that the Holy Spirit will lift the veil from their eyes, and they will see Jesus Christ as He is clearly pictured in the Old Testament. Pray that they will understand and accept the ark of Salvation that is open to them through the Lord Jesus.—PE

Tabassarian People in Ukraine

(This story is intended to illustrate the beliefs and attitudes of this people group.)

Mohammad carried his little sister to their mother as she worked at her loom. “Mama, she won’t drink her buttermilk. She just wants me to read this Jesus story to her.” “Then you must keep trying. Don’t give up so easily. But bring the book closer so that I can hear the story as well.”

The Tabassarians in Ukraine were Christian at one time, but in the 9th century A.D. they were overtaken by Islam. They are an extremely tenacious people and still maintain elements of Christianity in their faith, although they also include folk traditions which include cloud and nature worship. They also have stubbornly fought off invaders through the years, and even the Soviet government could not move them out of the highlands where they live. They just refused to go.

Mostly an artisan community, the 1,000 Tabassarian people in Ukraine earn their living by doing beautiful embroidery, weaving, and wood-carving. Mohammad’s dad is a silversmith as are his uncles. Beauty and art are very much appreciated in Tabassarian villages.

Although their version of Islam is entrenched in the society, there is now a New Testament and children’s Bible storybook in their language. Lately the JESUS Film has been shown in their villages, and approximately 100 people have now accepted Jesus into their hearts and lives.

Pray that a solid fellowship will rise up among the people, and that their natural tenacity will be used by God to increase their faith in Jesus. Pray that they will give the Word of God to the Muslim peoples around them.—PE

“And as for Me, this is My covenant with them,” says the Lord: “My Spirit which is upon you, and My words which I have put in your mouth, shall not depart out of your mouth, or out of the mouth of your children, or out of the mouth of your children’s children,” says the Lord, “from this time forth and for evermore.”

Every promise of God is an arrow in the quiver of His intercessors to be used as He directs. Can you fathom a gift like the Spirit of God which blesses not only you, but also your descendants? We are praying for this almost unbelievable promise to be given to peoples who now walk in darkness and hopelessness.

Pray that God will send messengers to the Tabassarians with His Spirit and His Words for them to pass on to their children and grandchildren.—RR

For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.

Habakkuk eventually understood that God wanted all the peoples, all the nations, to see and understand His authority. God wanted those who didn't know Him to see His salvation and turn to Him. Just as the waters seem limitless, the knowledge of the Lord will also be without limits according to the words of this prophet. No matter what the situation in the world may be today, the future is glorious! Our responsibility in this great drama of life is to willingly bear witness of His glory to every nation!

Pray that God will speed the day when the knowledge of the glory of the Lord covers the earth! Pray for the Avar people to soon enjoy the privilege of knowing and experiencing His glory.

Avar People of Ukraine

(This story is intended to illustrate the beliefs and attitudes of this people group.)

Sanaar's back felt as though it would break. He'd been clearing a plot of land to see if he could plant a vegetable garden on it. There were more rocks than dirt on this plot; only 15 percent of the land near the village can be farmed. Sanaar wanted to finish clearing the rocks from the land before the Igbi Day festival began, as that was a highlight of village life.

Young people were already running from house to house collecting small round loaves of bread as treats. They were dressed in costumes ranging from devils and skeletons to scary wolves. Sanaar grabbed his wolf-like mask and ran to the center of town. Good and bad deeds of the villagers were being named aloud for all to hear, and the bad deeds were blamed on a likeness of a demon which would soon be ritually sacrificed. These Avar people could feel free of guilt again, at least for a while.

Pray that the 1400 Avar people in Ukraine will return to the original gospel of Jesus Christ that they used to follow before their forced conversion to Islam in 1874. Multitudes were slaughtered for resisting this conversion which left no Believers among them. Pray they will learn about the sacrifice Jesus Christ made to erase their sins. Pray that they will accept this priceless yet free gift that Jesus offers us. Pray for the JESUS Film to be translated into their language. Pray for workers to bring the good news to the precious Avar people of Ukraine.—PE

Lak People of Ukraine

Day 10

Malachi 1:11, NIV

(This story is intended to illustrate the beliefs and attitudes of this people group.)

Hanima bustled around as she was getting the meal of goat cheese and flat bread ready for the big meeting. Today two families would come to her home to discuss the marriage of their children. She had selected a bride she thought would be perfect for her nephew. As the eldest woman of the family, it was her responsibility to make the matches for marriage. She was very satisfied with her choice and was excited to see the families' response to her decision. She hoped the bride price would be generous, even though in these modern times it was usually small compared to the price paid in ancient times.

Hanima and her people enjoy great prestige among the Muslim community because the Lak tribe was the first group in the region to embrace Islam in the 7th century. Today they are only a small tribe in the lovely mountain valleys of Ukraine; but their 1000 members are fluent in the many languages that surround them, and they are considered the most multilingual people in the region.

There are no known Lak believers at this time. Pray that the Lord will call believers to visit the group and that the Bridegroom, Jesus, will be accepted and embraced by the people as their Savior. Pray that the Lak gift for being able to speak many languages might be used by the Lord to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ to the multi-lingual people that surround them in Ukraine. Pray that strong fellowships will be raised up to be lighthouses to the truth of God's love for the Lak people.—PE

My Name will be great among the nations, from the rising to the setting of the sun.

The heart of God for all the nations is very evident here in the Old Testament book of Malachi. God wants His people to shine forth among the nations so all can see His salvation. So it is today. How will the nations hear unless those who know His Name gladly go to them with the message?

Pray that our response to the Father's challenge will bring honor to His Name from the rising of the sun, even to its setting.

But the Prince of the Persian Kingdom resisted me 21 days. Then Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, because I was detained there with the king of Persia.

This comment made by the angel of the Lord to Daniel gives us some insight into what happens when we pray. We know from this passage that the Lord responds to our prayers. In this case, he sent His angel to Daniel. But notice that the answer to this prayer was delayed because of the work of the enemy, the Prince of Persia. It may take much regular prayer before the Lord breaks through the spiritual darkness. Will you be one who prays for the unreached nations until the Lord is victorious?

Pray for the salvation of the Lezgian people group in Ukraine.

Lezgian People in Ukraine



Lezgian people at a wedding

The Lezgian girl swept the floor of their small, yet tidy home. Through the corner of her eyes she saw her mother at work, wiping away beads of sweat from her forehead as she deftly wove a carpet to be sold at the market the following week. Her father was somewhere on nearby verdant pastures grazing their goats under the scorching summer sun. The summer heat was sweltering, and they all knew they would have an equally uncomfortable winter with freezing temperatures.

The Lezgian people of Ukraine are a Muslim group that lives and works in brutal weather conditions. Even though the Lezgians are Muslim, they have not relinquished their pre-Islamic belief in pagan gods, and their worship includes some pagan beliefs. In recent years some Lezgians have come to faith in Jesus Christ. However, their numbers are so few that they cannot even form a fellowship.

Pray for more Lezgians to come to know and follow Jesus Christ. Pray that the few who have received Him as their Lord may be encouraged in their faith to share Him with others. Pray for a movement to Christ among Lezgians in Ukraine and in Russia.—EJD

(This story is intended to illustrate the lifestyles and beliefs of this people group.)

Humming a melancholy tune she had learned from her grandmother, the

Lezgian girl swept the floor of their small, yet tidy home. Through the corner of her eyes she saw her mother at work, wiping away beads of sweat from her forehead as she deftly wove a carpet to be sold at the market the following week. Her father was somewhere on nearby verdant pastures grazing their goats under the scorching summer sun. The summer heat was sweltering, and they all knew they would have an equally uncomfortable winter with freezing temperatures.

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Dargins in Ukraine

Day 12

Daniel 1:19, NIV

(This story is intended to illustrate the lifestyles and beliefs of this people group.)

The nimble feet of the ornately dressed women and men moved to the rhythm of the drumbeat. The nasal, high-pitched song of the lone singer filled the night. Children played with one another. Women clapped their hands and sang. Men talked and laughed, and there was a general air of festivity. These Dargin people had every reason for joy; they were celebrating the dawn of the New Year! In a short while two renowned actors would enact in dialogue the traditional dispute between summer and winter.

The Dargins are an ethnic group originating in the North Caucasus of southwestern Russia. They make up the second largest ethnic group in the Russian republic of Dagestan. However, a large number of them have been exiled from their home country and now reside in Ukraine.

Most of the Dargins practice a form of Islam which was brought to their ancestors in the 8th Century A.D. But it was not practiced widely among them until the 15th century. Even now although the Dargins are Muslims, they still hold onto some of the beliefs that predate Islam.

Pray that the Dargin people of Ukraine will come to hear of the love of Jesus and begin to follow Him with all their hearts.—EJD

The king talked with them, and he found none equal to Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah; so they entered the king's service.

This is an excellent example of how the Lord can make lemonade out of lemons. Though His chosen nation, Israel, was in exile, God used people like these four men as His ambassadors to a powerful, influential nation. We need to remember that when tragedy strikes, God will still use the situation to extend His Kingdom to those who do not know Him.

Pray that as people are stirred up, moved, and exiled in today's world, God will use the situation to raise up His chosen ambassadors to extend His fame to the nations.

The prophet Jeremiah gave a message to Baruch son of Neriah in the fourth year of the reign of Jehoiakim son of Josiah, after Baruch had written down everything Jeremiah had dictated to him.

Baruch was an intelligent, well-educated man who lived in Judah during the time of Jeremiah. He could have used his talents to gain wealth and status. But God told him later in this passage to not seek great things for himself (v. 4). It is easy for intelligent, talented people to live for themselves. But many doctors, engineers, professors, and others with higher education have chosen to give back to God what He has given them. In fact, four of the 13 GPD writers teach at the college level, but they have chosen to give their talents to Him to help to mobilize prayer for unreached people groups.

Pray to yield your aspirations, ambitions, and dreams to His perfect will.

Chuvan Yukaghir People in Ukraine



(This story is intended to illustrate the lifestyles and beliefs of this people group.)

The stunted forest floor was dappled with the morning sunlight as the band of Yukaghir women followed by a group of children made their way into the forest. As nightingales perched atop the trees were chirping and whistling, the women and children foraged the bushes for edible berries. While they were

gathering berries and nuts, the strapping young men were erecting bark and skin shelters in which they will live for the next several summer months while fishing upstream. The berries and nuts that the women gather will be used to supplement the family meals.

The Yukaghir family groups are generally organized into clans, and an able adult male leads each clan. They are the remnants of a population who for many years have inhabited the tundra and taiga zones of Arctic Siberia. Over the centuries they have braved severe weather and survived. Most of them still live in the northeastern part of Russia's Siberia. However, according to the Joshua Project, 210 people from the Chuvan subgroup live in Ukraine.

In the 18th century many Yukaghir people became Orthodox Christians; however, they still hold onto traditional shamanistic beliefs. The Chuvans are listed as unreached, and there are no Evangelicals among them.

Pray that the Yukaghir tribes of Siberia and Ukraine will find Jesus Christ to be the only one to meet their physical and spiritual needs.—EJD

Kumyk in Ukraine

Day 14

Malachi 3:16a, NIV

Picture a town in the southeast corner of Ukraine near the border with Russia. Various ethnic people groups live there. Among these groups we find the Kumyk. There are 660 Kumyk people living in Ukraine, and they follow Islam mixed with traditional beliefs. While the New Testament is available in their language, very few Kumyks have put their faith in Christ.

The Kumyk people take pride in their creative achievements: writing, art, and music. Neighboring groups respect them. They decorate their homes with clay and wood carvings and inscriptions. Their songs and dances are accompanied by stringed instruments called *kumuzes*, wind instruments, and accordions. A favorite Kumyk national dish is *kbinkal*, dumplings boiled in meat bouillon, served with sour cream gravy and garlic. The Kumyk also eat grape or cabbage leaves stuffed with rice and sausage, rice porridge, soups, pies, breads, and pastries.

Recently they have been agonizing over Russia's latest invasion of the region.

Pray that followers of Christ who love the Kumyk and their artistic abilities will go as His ambassadors to this people group. Pray that believers will intercede for the Kumyk until they have fellowships of believers in Ukraine and Russia. Ask the Lord of the harvest to call believers from Ukraine to cross the cultural bridge to the Kumyk. Pray that the Holy Spirit would give boldness and love to the few Kumyk believers.—GEC/PF

Then those who feared the LORD talked with each other, and the LORD listened and heard.

I remember 60 or 70 years ago when a man was spoken of as "God-fearing," that's all you had to say about him. Everybody knew that this meant he was also honest and had integrity, because he knew that everything he did was known by God, and he would have to give an account to Him. When such men talk with God, He listens and remembers.

Pray for God-fearers to crop up throughout every community of Kumyk people, be they in Ukraine or Russia. Pray that God will send such men to the people to raise up more such men multiplying into the people groups around them.—RR

Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed; for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.

Midst persecution and war, may His cross be lifted high; and may the gospel soar beyond crypts to touch the sky! May His children be strong, courageous, fearless, and encouraged!

Pray for the real war going on behind the scenes—the spiritual battle for the souls of the peoples of Ukraine, especially the Ingush people. Pray that they would come to know Christ as their Prince of Peace during these dark times.—VA

Ingush in Ukraine

The *Kiev Post* reports that Ingush fighters have been identified among the rebels resisting Ukrainian authority. The newspaper adds that their participation is an extension of their struggle to gain independence from neighboring Chechnya.

The fight for independence has etched scars on the history of the Ingush people over the centuries. Christian missionaries brought the message of Christ to them in pre-Islamic years. Then Muslim armies conquered the area. In 1810, Russia became their ruler. In the 1940s, Soviet dictator Josef Stalin relocated them to Siberia and Kazakhstan. In the 1950s they were allowed to return to their southwest Russian homeland. A few hundred settled in southeast Ukraine. Since then, it seems that they have fought against any outside authority.

Ingush music features a version of the *balalaika*, the accordion, a three-stringed violin, a type of oboe, and drums. They enjoy oral traditions, reciting legends and epics, songs and proverbs. “An Ingush or Chechen man is expected to know the names and birthplaces or origins of his paternal ancestors going back seven generations. Some women can also trace their ancestors in this way, and some people can trace their maternal ancestors as well.” (Johanna Nichols, 1997, http://linguistics.berkeley.edu/~ingush/ingush_people.html)

They only have access to portions of the Bible in their language, so pray that they can hear and respond to His Word. Pray that the Holy Spirit would call storytellers and oral communicators to carry the good news to the Ingush people. Pray that the Prince of Peace would reveal His life to Ingush leaders.—GEC

Karachai in Ukraine

Day 16

Isaiah 25:8a-9a, NIV



The Caucasus Mountains form a tall rigid spine between the Black Sea and the Caspian Sea. Mount Elbrus crowns this ridge at 18,510 feet (5642m). In this rugged area nestles the Karachai-Cherkessia region, native land of the Karachai people. In a space about the size of Connecticut,

they count 172 rivers and 130 lakes. Such isolation creates a spirit of individualism and strong traditions. They suffered the same dislocation as other oppressed groups under Stalin's regime. Now we find Karachai people in various parts of Turkey, Germany, the United States, as well as Ukraine.

They remain very independent; important traditions dominate much of life: weddings, funerals, and family events. They hold strong loyalty to their immediate family as well as to the clan. At the same time, hospitality holds high honor. Cowardice may be the most serious offense to the Karachai people. Their lives have become more difficult since terrorists have infiltrated their communities, causing conflicts and straining their strong social fabric.

With the New Testament available in their language, the Karachai in Ukraine (about 190 people) could prove receptive to the good news.

Pray that expatriate Karachais in Germany or the United States will hear the message of Christ and bring the good news to their kinsmen in Ukraine and Russia. Pray that the Holy Spirit will prepare the hearts of Ukrainian Karachais to meet Jesus.—GEC

The Sovereign Lord will wipe away the tears from all faces. . . . In that day they will say, "Surely this is our God; we trusted in Him, and He saved us."

Being surrounded by enemies, nations like the Karachai have learned to be independent. They know that they can depend on no one, and trust is almost non-existent in these situations. Contrast this with the attitude we read about in Isaiah 25. The nations will trust in the Lord, and like a wounded child, allow Him to wipe away their tears and depend on Him for salvation.

Pray that the Karachai people will soon learn to trust and depend on the Lord, so that they can enter His Kingdom with child-like faith.

The king said to Daniel,
“Surely your God is the God
of gods and the Lord of
kings...”

According to the customs in Daniel’s time in the Ancient Near East, each group of people lived in the service of their own god, whom they worshiped and served in exchange for his blessing. The defeat of Judah had supposedly marked their God as a lesser deity, unworthy of worship by the mightier king of Babylon. However, through the faithful testimony of Daniel and his friends, Nebuchadnezzar was confronted with the glory and power of Yahweh, God of Judah and God of the nations. In this case God used the interpretation of dreams to reveal Himself to the great king. Later He used other demonstrations of His great power to convince Nebuchadnezzar and others of His supremacy.

Pray that God will use the faithful service of His children to reveal His power and love to the mighty of our day.

Northern Azerbaijani People (aka, Azeris) in Ukraine



Azerbaijani men

of Azerbaijanis. Due to numerous invasions, they have spread throughout central Asia to Ukraine, Russia, Iran, and Iraq.

About 45,000 Azerbaijanis (aka, Azeris) live in northern Ukraine. Some are farmers, but many have moved into the cities to work at menial jobs in industry. The majority of Azerbaijani women have jobs outside the home. “Azerbaijanis are one of the least religious nations on earth,” according to *Wikipedia*. It goes on to say that they aren’t faithful to practice the five pillars of Islam, nor do they dress as other Muslims dress. However some Shi’ite Muslim leaders in Iran are Azerbaijanis.

There is freedom to share the gospel in Ukraine, but the Azeris are very resistant to it. The New Testament and the JESUS Film are available in their language.

Pray for culturally relevant Christian radio and television broadcasts to be readily available for the Azerbaijanis. Pray for the Holy Spirit to break up the hardness in their hearts. Pray for Azeri persons of influence to accept Christ and lead others to saving faith in Jesus. Pray that they will ask, seek, and find their true Savior.—JWS

“Father, why must we leave our home in the middle of the night?” “Hush! Pick up your blanket and follow me! Quickly!” Throughout history, this scene has been repeated many times in the lives

Uzbeks in Ukraine



Uzbek flower saleswoman

Ukraine has literally been a crossroads for Central Asian and European people groups. Many Muslims have found freedom from the abuses in their own countries in the democratic political

climate of Ukraine. The eyes of the world are focused on Ukraine now with its growing separatist movement in the eastern part of the country.

Among the various Central Asian ethnic minorities in Ukraine are over 12,000 Uzbeks from Uzbekistan. The fall of the USSR in 1991 and the “freedoms” it supposedly brought to the former Soviet states did not occur in Uzbekistan. The autocratic president is in full control of the country, and there is no freedom of speech, religion, or the press in the country. Many have fled the repressive regime. A number of young Uzbek men are part of the separatists fighting in Ukraine’s east.

The growing Islamist movement in Uzbekistan was squelched by the government. Unfortunately Christians were caught in this oppression. But there is good news! For the first time there is a completely translated Bible in the Uzbek language. Central Asian Bible Media has also accomplished the task of making the Bible electronically available so that it can be downloaded on a computer or cell phone.

Pray that Uzbeks in Ukraine will now read God’s Word in their heart language. Pray for the Lord of the Harvest to send the appropriate laborers to sow the seed of the gospel in Uzbek hearts, and pray for a bountiful harvest.—JS

The Spirit of the Lord God is upon Me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good tidings to the afflicted; He has sent Me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prisons to those who are bound.

Just as God anointed Jesus with His Spirit, He continues to anoint those whom He sends to the Uzbek people. God enables believers to tell the Uzbeks the good news of how Christ died on the cross for their sins, was buried and rose again on the third day. God can bind up the brokenhearted, proclaim His liberty to their captives, and open the prisons of their hearts.

Pray that God will continue to multiply these blessings down through generations of church planting.—RR

In the time of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a Kingdom that will never be destroyed, nor will it be left to another people. It will crush all those kingdoms and bring them to an end, but it will itself endure forever.

These words of certain victory should encourage and strengthen us in the task of world evangelization. We do not yet see the Kingdom in its glory and power, but the Kingdom is here. It is among us. It is growing, pulsating with power as God calls and fills His people with the power of His Spirit. It is growing as God thrusts His people into a worldwide harvest, calling those from every nation to share in the glory of eternal fellowship with the Heavenly King.

Pray that the King of kings and Lord of lords will strengthen our hands, quicken our minds, and encourage our hearts with a vision of His victorious Kingdom.

Kazakhs in Ukraine



Kazakhs in traditional dress

more were persecuted by Stalin and fled to other areas. There are now over 5,000 Kazakhs living in Ukraine. Kazakhstan still remains very leery of reports that its citizens may be participating in the separatist movement in Ukraine. Fear of Russia remains strong in Kazakhstan.

Traditionally, Kazakhs have been a nomadic people, herding their animals and living in yurts. But that picture does not hold true for the Kazakhs in Ukraine. Many came to Ukraine in the 1980s under a popular Soviet educational exchange program. After completing their education, they chose to stay in Ukraine rather than return to the very autocratic rule in Kazakhstan.

Kazakhs are Muslim, but there is a growing evangelical movement among Kazakh youth in Kazakhstan.

Pray for a cross pollination of evangelical enthusiasm from those in Kazakhstan to their Kazakh brothers in Ukraine. Pray that the freedom of religion in Ukraine will nurture the efforts of Ukrainian evangelicals as they reach out to the Kazakh community.—JS

Tajiks in Ukraine



Tajikistan is in the mountainous center of Central Asia, and its people are the oldest ethnic group in the area. Because of its location, Tajikistan has repeatedly been invaded by armies, starting with Alexander the Great. Because of these ongoing invasions, Tajiks have fled to many other countries. Today over 4,000 Tajiks live in Ukraine. They are nervously watching the country's conflict with Russia

and have mixed emotions about the outcome. They fear losing Russia as a powerful trading partner; but at the same time they remember their own oppression from the Soviets.

Most Tajiks are Sunni Muslims. Religion was discouraged under the Soviet atheist policies in all of the Central Asian countries; but now there is a growing resurgence of Islam. Tajiks are a very musical people and have even turned much of the Qur'an into music. They are also a spiritual people and enjoy discussions of spiritual things. They understand the concept of sacrifice, which could be a redemptive analogy to Christ dying on the cross. Music and poetry could be a key to reaching Tajiks for Christ. Introducing them to the great poet, David, and his Psalms might have special meaning for them.

Pray for evangelicals in Ukraine to befriend the Tajiks in their country. Pray for creative ways to use music and poetry to reveal the good news of Christ's sacrifice to them.—JS

For the Lord your God is the one who goes with you to fight for you against your enemies to give you victory.

Picture the Tajik men fighting for their lives, deprived of their children and their wives; they must hide underground while bombs destroy their homes. Christ is pleading for their lives, revives despondent hearts—now they are thriving! The lost are saved; Christ restores them and makes atonement for them!

Pray for the men of Ukraine who are separated from their families while trying to defend their homes against enemy attack. Pray for the protection and salvation of these men and their families who are caught in the crossfires of war.—VA

In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it.

In the Perspectives on the World Christian Movement class, missionary statesman Ralph Winter observed that throughout history when the people of God have failed to share the gospel with the peoples around them, He has often brought those peoples to the gospel, sometimes even with great force. Israel's idolatry and selfish failure to take the good news to their neighbors led to the siege of Jerusalem. Today's church has failed to take the gospel to all the peoples of the world, and so God has brought the peoples to the church's shores.

Pray that the Holy Spirit will use the Church in Ukraine to respond to opportunities for ministry to newcomers in their communities.

Kyrgyz People in Ukraine



A Kyrgyz girl

Today we are seeing more and more people groups moving away from their traditional homelands. Sometimes it is for economic or educational pursuits. Often it involves fleeing from oppressive regimes or persecution. These people miss their culture, their former lifestyles and their foods. The Kyrgyz of Kyrgyzstan who live in Ukraine must long for the mountains and grasslands of their homeland. As nomads they herded their animals searching for suitable pastureland. Kyrgyzstan is a far cry from the flat-forested land of Ukraine.

But, Kyrgyzstan offers little opportunity for its people to hear the gospel. Most Kyrgyz are nominal Muslims, only adopting the religion about 100 years ago. They know little about Muslim traditions, and their traditional ancestor worship still plays a large part in their lives. The small number of Kyrgyz in Ukraine are fortunate to be there. Ukraine has been dubbed “The Bible Belt” of the former USSR because of its strong Christian heritage.

Pray for the Kyrgyz of Ukraine to be set free from the delusions of spirit worship and the false hope of Islam. Pray that evangelicals will reach out to this small community and share the gospel message with them.—JS

Turkmen People of Ukraine

Day 22

Daniel 6:10a, NIV

Ukraine is the Bible Belt of Eastern Europe! Almost three-fourths of Ukraine's population is Christian of some sort, and they have a strong evangelical presence. Almost all the unreached people groups in this war-torn country are either Jewish or Muslim.

One of the Muslim minorities in Ukraine is the Turkmen people. Although once Christian, Turkmen have been Muslim for centuries. In the 17th century many of them migrated to Russia, and some eventually came to Ukraine. Since they have a strong cultural affinity with the Turks, during World War I the Turkmen were suspected of being a possible fifth column for Turkey, Russia's adversary. After World War I and the Bolshevik Revolution that followed, the Soviets sought to rid the Turkmen of Islam in 1928. The policy failed.

Some 3,500 Muslim Turkmen today live in Ukraine. Although very few Turkmen follow Christ, there are evangelistic tools such as the New Testament, Christian radio, gospel recordings, and the JESUS Film available in the Turkmen language.

Pray that God will stir these people to seek Him, to read His Word, and to listen to Christian broadcasts. Pray that God will direct some of the few Turkmen believers and others to evangelize the Ukrainian Turkmen. Pray that Ukrainian churches will reach out to Turkmen as they try to extend God's Kingdom to the hearts of these Muslims.—TP

Three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed. . . just as he had done before.

Would you obey an edict that forbade you to pray to anyone but the king? Are you willing to remain steadfast and faithful to the Lord? Daniel was right in his decision to continue to pray to his God. Although we are normally obligated to obey the law of the land, we are to obey God alone when the civil law conflicts with God's law. Missionaries and national Christian workers today often find themselves in difficult situations where the law of the land appears to conflict with the demands of Scripture.

Pray that the Father will give His messengers wisdom to discern when the conflict is real and unavoidable. Pray that they will have boldness to act with courage and conviction.

Meskhetian Turks in Ukraine

But it is also true that many nations will be amazed at Him. Kings will look at Him and be unable to speak. They will see what they had never been told. They will understand what they had never heard.

Heads of state with hearts of stone sedate Faith and Hope—overthrown. Christ the Head of earthly thrones, rescues kings, calls them His own!

Pray that the political leaders of Ukraine would be amazed at Christ. Pray that they will have ears to hear the truth of the gospel, eyes to see the beauty of Christ, and soft, humble hearts, to receive Him.—VA



A Turkish woman

The Germans started a war again, so why shouldn't we expect the same from the Turks? In WWI, Germany was closely allied with the Ottoman Turks. At the outset of WWII, Turkey remained neutral, but the Russians feared they would get together with their old ally and attack Russia from within. So Russia removed

Meskhetian Turks under their jurisdiction and sent them to places where they would be less of a threat. Others were sent by Soviet dictator Josef Stalin to Uzbekistan where they were unwelcomed, persecuted, and often murdered. Consequently, the Meskhetian Turks who were able to flee left their country.

Today 3650 Meskhetian Turks live in Ukraine; most of them immigrated there in the last 20 years. They mostly live in rural areas where they farm, according to the Joshua Project. There are also Turks from Turkey in Ukraine and the closely related Turkmen that we prayed for yesterday. They are all Sunni Muslims, the largest of Islam's two main sects.

Pray that God will use the current Ukraine–Russian conflict to help the Turkish Muslim populations in Ukraine to understand that selfishness and war will continue whenever people follow religious systems like Islam or Orthodox Christianity rather than just follow Jesus. Pray that the Meskhetian Turks will begin to view Islam unfavorably, consider other alternatives, and put their faith in Jesus. Pray that Ukrainian churches will reach out to these people in Jesus' Name and seek to establish Meskhetian congregations of Christ followers among them.—TP

Adyghe (AKA, Circassians) in Ukraine

Day 24

Isaiah 56:6-7, RSV

The dancers moved gracefully about the stage, their long, colorful costumes billowing at every sweeping turn. “What is the dance about?” the little girl asked her mother as they watched. “They are telling a story of the harvest,” the mother answered. They watched for several more moments before the mother added, “See... those dancers are picking crops, and those dancers over there,” she pointed, “are grinding the grain.” “And now they are making bread,” the little girl added. The mother nodded. “The dance of the harvest has always been part of Adygh culture. It is one of the ways we keep our identity as a people.”

Whether living in rural areas or cities, the Adyghe people of Ukraine value tradition. Once largely Christian, they began to follow Islam in the 17th century. Despite religious influences, their system of cultural laws, rules, and etiquette (known as *habza*) have been maintained. Today there are very few believers in Christ among the Adyghe people.

Pray for the Lord of the harvest to send workers into this waiting harvest field. Pray for a great spiritual awakening and for many Adyghe to be drawn into relationship with Christ. Ask God to use His Word in the Adyghe language to speak to the hearts of the people. Pray for the Lord to establish His Church and His Kingdom among the Adyghe.—CL

And the foreigners who join themselves to the Lord, to minister to Him, to love the Name of the Lord, and to be His servants . . . these I will bring to My holy mountain, and make them joyful in My house of prayer . . . for My house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples.

See what the Lord is doing here? As you pray in His harvest among the unreached peoples of Ukraine, many of them will join us as joyful intercessors for their own people groups and others. They will have the privilege of being joined to the wonderful Lord! What a great thing to do for the nations!

Pray that all of the Lord's intercessors will know the joy of seeing Him multiply their ministries.—RR

Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and His understanding no one can fathom.

Imagine the excitement of those who hear of the True Lord for the first time. His power resulted in the Universe being created out of nothing, and He is love. No god can boast of such a thing! And there's more: no one can fathom His understanding. By giving allegiance to this Creator, people are joining with the One whose understanding is far beyond anything mankind can imagine. What a hope! What a privilege!

Pray that when the unreached hear of the One who created them, they will marvel in such a way that it will be impossible not to worship Him.

Kabardian (Circassian group) in Ukraine

The numbers are disconcerting: 440, 0, and 100. There are estimated to be only about 440 Kabardian people living in Ukraine. A group so small hidden in a population of more than 45 million people is not only very difficult to identify, but it is also difficult to share the gospel with them.

Which brings us to the second number: 0. This refers to the number of followers of Christ among the Kabardian people in Ukraine. That zero should be a motivating factor for reaching these people with the message of Christ.

The third number is a motivating factor as well: 100. That is the percentage of the Kabardian people of Ukraine who follow Islam. In other words, it is believed that all of them may be Muslims.

The Kabardian people have survived centuries of violence in Eastern Europe and Western Asia. Many of them converted to Christianity in the 18th century. They were later forced to become Muslims. Today, they practice a liberal form of Islam with remnants of Eastern Orthodox Christianity mixed in.

Pray for the Kabardian people of Ukraine to have the opportunity to hear the good news of Christ. Pray for God to send missionaries to this small, but highly valued group of people. Ask Him to open doors for the faithful workers who answer the call to go and to prepare the hearts of the Kabardian to respond to the gospel. Pray for the Holy Spirit to draw members of this Muslim people to the Savior.—CL

You do not have to look far if it is upheaval you want. In recent days in the country of Ukraine there has been more fighting than has been seen for decades. But for a religious group such as the Yazidis, upheaval and persecution have been continual companions for many years, even for those who did not go to Ukraine as refugees.

The Yazidis are a Kurdish religious group. They are scorned and accused of devil worship because of their devotion to a religion which they have adhered to for centuries known as Mazdeism. This religion attempts to blend elements of Judaism, Hinduism, and Christianity with Zoroastrianism. One of their primary teachings is that God first created the world, and then He created seven archangels to rule over it. The most prominent angel is known as the Peacock Angel, who passed a test from God and refused to bow down and worship Adam.

About 2000 Yazidis live in Ukraine, and there are no known evangelicals among them. They do have the Scriptures in their language, but no known established fellowships.

Pray that God's people in Ukraine would make efforts to connect with the Yazidis in their communities. Pray that the hearts of the Yazidis would be softened toward God's Word, and that they would come to know His love for them. Pray that centuries-old deceptions would be removed from their hearts.—JR

He told them, "This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in His Name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

As we enter into holy week, it is time to think about the ministry of Christ. Because of what He did on the cross, religious systems to reach God like we are reading about today are not necessary. All that is needed is faith that He paid for our sins on the cross, and He has victory over death.

Pray for Yazidis to hear and respond to the message of Christ's death and resurrection this Easter season.

If you spend yourselves on behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday.

There is significant overlap between the unreached people groups without a church in their midst and the hungry half of the world without adequate physical and material resources. Isaiah reminds us that the people of God are called not only to spend their money to feed the hungry, but also to spend their lives in sacrificial service. That service cannot be a mere token. It must satisfy the needs of the oppressed. Isaiah also points out that those who serve the Lord receive the fruits of service: healing, answered prayer, guidance, personal provision, and joy.

Pray that our Gracious Father will teach us to help those who are desperately hungry both for bread to eat and the Bread of Life.

Kurmanji Speaking Kurds in Ukraine

The Kurds have been without a national home for many years. The region known as Kurdistan lies where Iran, Turkey, and Iraq meet, and it includes a small part of northern Syria. Many Kurds believe that the warfare currently occurring in Syria will result in a separate Kurdistan. Others are not so optimistic; many have fled to other countries like Ukraine for refuge. About 2000 Kurds are currently living in Ukraine, and their hope as a people is that they will one day have their own land.

Kurmanji is the most widespread language used by the Kurds throughout the world with about 20 million native speakers. It is also the ceremonial language of the Mazdeism religion which some Kurds, in particular the Yazidis, have adhered to for centuries. As stated in yesterday's prayer entry, many Kurds in Ukraine (notably the Yazidis) are adherents of Mazdeism which has elements of Zoroastrianism, Hinduism, Christianity, and Judaism mixed together. However, it is not known how devoted the Kurmanji speaking Kurds in Ukraine are to Mazdeism. Most Kurmanji-speaking Kurds are Sunni Muslims. There are no known churches established among them in Ukraine.

Pray that the Kurmanji speaking Kurds in Ukraine will experience a great spiritual hunger and begin seeking truth from God's people. Pray that the church in Ukraine will be burdened for the Kurds in their midst. Pray that beyond a physical or national home on Earth, these people will seek and find their spiritual home in Christ.—JR

Eastern Yiddish speaking Jews in Ukraine



“I never imagined when I came from Israel that I would put my combat knowledge to use in quiet and peaceful Kiev,” Jewish Ukrainian Moishe Levin told a reporter. He continued by saying, “I

went to Maidan, the main city square of Kiev, at the beginning of the clashes between the protesters and the security police. One group of protesters asked me for help. That was when I realized that this was my fight too even though I had been warned that many of the protesters were anti-Semitic. In the first days I did not tell anyone that I was Jewish. Then I started to tell people. I was shocked by the reaction. The people were grateful for my help. A number of other Jewish men volunteered to fight. ... The event at Maidan was the beginning of a new relationship between us and the Ukrainian people, which has been strained for so many years.”

When the Soviet Union collapsed in 1991, over 80 percent of the 487,000 Jews in Ukraine left the country, taking with them their Eastern Yiddish language. Many of them went to Israel where they had to learn Hebrew. Today about 66,000 Eastern Yiddish speakers live in Ukraine, according to the Joshua Project. This Jewish community has started to revive in many areas, including the building of synagogues.

As better relationships are developing between the Jews and Ukrainian believers, pray that the Ukrainian Yiddish speaking people will be open to the Lord.—PD

You only have I chosen of all the families of the earth; therefore I will punish you for all your sins.

Because Israel was entrusted with great blessings, her mandate was equally great: to bless all the families of the earth. When the chosen nation rebelled in selfishness and idolatry, her punishment was correspondingly severe. But is it not the same for us? Jesus declared, “From everyone who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked” (Luke 12:48). We who know Jesus Christ and who have the means to take the blessings of the gospel to the ends of the earth are obligated by our opportunities to do so.

Thank our gracious God for our blessings and acknowledge the responsibilities He has placed upon us. Pray that He will keep us from the sins of selfishness and self-indulgence.

No man can redeem the life of another or give to God a ransom for him—the ransom for a life is costly, no payment is ever enough. . .

So very true! No man can redeem the life of another, but God in the form of Man can do it. Jesus is the only Son of the Living God, so He alone can pay for the sins of the world. No sin is forgiven except by the blood of Christ.

Pray for the Hasidic Jewish communities in Ukraine to seek out and find their only Redeemer!

Hasidic Jews in Ukraine



Cotton

(This story is intended to illustrate the beliefs and attitudes of this people group.)

“Despite all the problems we are experiencing here in Ukraine, we had over 30,000 Hasidic Jews from all over the world come to Uman this year to celebrate Rosh Hashonah, the Jewish

New Year. For the Hasidic Jews, this is important because our founder, Rebbe Nachman, died and was buried here in 1810. Most of us believe that during the holiday of Rosh Hashonah, God breathes within each praying member of the Hasidic faith, especially in Uman.”

Abram was proudly sharing his memories of the 2014 festival and pilgrimage with a journalist. “Rebbe Nachman was a religious sage adored by his followers for his brilliant mind and holy demeanor. We believe that while he was a human being who felt ordinary human emotions, he felt them in a higher, divine way. He was able to see a holy meaning in every human action. Rebbe Nachman was always connected to God, so in honoring him, we honor God. His words help us connect with God just as they did when he was alive. His teachings make us deeply aware that our lives make sense.”

Pray that the Lord will lead believers to the Hasidic Jews of Ukraine so they will hear about Him and get to know Him directly as their personal Lord and Savior.—PD

Israelis in Ukraine



“Joel, our flight for home (Israel) will leave tomorrow morning. We have to leave Odessa as soon as possible. The doctor said you could fly.” Joseph and his brother, Joel, had come from Israel to Ukraine where they

were attacked by a Ukrainian neo-Nazi mob. Joel’s injuries from the beating had required hospitalization. They, along with other students from Israel, were in danger and needed to quickly leave the country.

A number of young Israelis are in Ukraine to study. Most of these students live in Odessa. From January through September 2014 over 3,300 Jews in Ukraine have relocated to Israel compared to about 2,000 in 2013.

The war in eastern Ukraine has displaced over one million people; over 814,000 are now refugees in Russia. For Jewish people the situation is particularly difficult as they are not wanted in either Ukraine or Russia. The increase of anti-Semitism in Ukraine and Russia has risen to its highest level since WWII.

The majority of these Israeli and Ukrainian Jews are secular or atheists. God said in Jeremiah 23:3, NIV “I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the countries where I have driven them and will bring them back to their pasture (Israel)”.

Pray the Israeli Jewish people in Ukraine will hear and obey God’s Word and accept Jesus as their Messiah through God’s messengers.—PD

And the Lord delivered Jehoiakim, king of Judah, into his hand, along with some of the articles from the temple of God. These he carried off to the temple of his god in Babylonia.

The Israelis were fleeing for their lives, and it seemed that God was nowhere to be found. But in Daniel we also see something exciting happening: God is on the throne no matter what may happen! Five times in succeeding chapters the power of God is displayed in causing the most powerful leader in the world to acknowledge Yahweh’s sovereignty in the affairs of men and nations. God’s intention here is that all men learn to recognize that although the kings of the earth take their stand against the Lord, He still reigns triumphant.

Pray that the Israelis will finally understand that their God reigns, and His mercy and grace is never ending.

Jews for Jesus Efforts in Ukraine

O Israel, hope in the LORD; for with the LORD there is unfailing love. His redemption overflows.

In a couple of days, we will be celebrating the resurrection of the Jewish Messiah, Jesus. What can offer more hope than victory over death and decay? This is the hope that Jews for Jesus offers the people they contact! The Savior is risen, and death cannot stop Him!

Pray that the message of the cross, and the victory over death will strike a chord in Jewish hearts when they hear of the empty grave.

If you asked a Jews for Jesus worker about what they are doing in Kiev, the capital of Ukraine, they would have a lot to talk about! Jews for Jesus' mission is to preserve Jewish traditions while they give out the gospel message to Jews. Their deepest desire is that every Jewish person would not only hear about Messiah Jesus, but they would also receive Him as Lord. Jews for Jesus reaches around 1,100 Jewish families a year in Ukraine. Their workers visit many Jewish families repeatedly and study the Scriptures with them. They are actively involved in street evangelism and distribute 500,000 gospel tracts annually in Ukraine. Every Saturday they have a worship service that includes Bible study.

For over 70 years, the majority of Jewish people in Ukraine have had no background in Judaism. They usually identify as cultural Jews only. Yet many have been responsive to God's message through His servants from Jews for Jesus. However, Jewish evangelism is becoming more difficult because of the fighting between various political groups in Ukraine and Russia. In addition, many Jewish rabbis have increased their efforts to teach their people to reject Jesus as Messiah.

Pray that truth will be known in these situations, and that His light will shine in the darkness. Pray that nothing will prevent the hope of Christ from reaching the hearts of Kiev's Jewish communities.—PD

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Dear Praying Friends,

One of the best things about composing an editorial for a *GPD* after the different writings have been submitted is that I can better understand the big picture for the month. In this issue we are praying for Manchester, a large city

in England. I kept finding that Manchester's fine universities have attracted people from all over the world. Some of the world's most unreached peoples such as the Maldivians come to Manchester to get a college education. Unreached Arabs from Yemen and Oman also attend these universities.

What will they take back to their home countries? Will they return disillusioned with the so-called "Christians" that they have met who live as if God doesn't exist? I'm sure that in many cases this happens.

But there are groups like South Asian Concern that do whatever they can to help these unreached Muslims, Hindus, and Sikhs to have a chance to respond to the gospel.

Over 200 years ago Englishman William Carey stated that such people have not rejected the gospel; they simply have had no chance to respond to it. To give them this opportunity, Carey went to Bengal, India, where he spent the rest of his life spreading the gospel to unreached people groups. If he were alive today he would be delighted to know that many of these same people could be reached in his home country. What an opportunity!

In Christ,

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

Keith Carey, Managing Editor, *GPD*

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U.S. Center for World Mission
1605 East Elizabeth Street
Pasadena, CA 91104-2721
Tel: (330) 626-3361
subscriptions@uscwm.org

MANAGING EDITOR

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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Paula Fern

WRITERS

Vicki Anderson
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GRAPHICS

Matt Anderson
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Pray for a Church Planting Movement Among Every People in Manchester, England



Manchester: City of Innovation and Ethnic Diversity

—by PR, Nazarene
Theological College,
Manchester

Welcome to this month's edition of the Global Prayer Digest (GPD), which focuses on the city of Manchester, England. We hope to give you a snapshot of the city, its people, and spiritual climate. Manchester itself has aspirations of becoming a world-class city with a thriving business community and artistic, cultural and creative neighborhoods.

As the regional center of the area, the city has several key things that promote growth, including its universities, a knowledge-based economy, the airport, and cultural and sporting activities. One of the main assets of the city also is the diversity of its residents.

The city of Manchester is just one borough out of the 10 boroughs that make up Greater Manchester. This area has a population of over 2.6 million people with ethnic minority groups consisting of 11.09 percent of the total population. There are over 200 languages spoken in Greater Manchester. The top 15 most spoken languages are English (92 percent), Urdu (01.23 percent), Polish (0.83 percent), Bengali, Punjabi, Gujarati, Arabic, Farsi, French, Somali, Kurdish, Portuguese, Cantonese, Spanish, Pashto, Italian, Greek, Czech, German, and Pakistani Pahari (with Mirpuri and Potwari).



From humble beginnings in Roman times, Manchester's population grew rapidly during the Industrial Revolution of the 19th century. It peaked at a population of over 750,000 in the 1930s. Towards the end of the last century, Manchester suffered a massive decline in its manufacturing base and severe population loss. Between 1951 and 2001, the population of the city fell 39.9 percent, from 703,100 to 423,000. It fell to just over 400,000 in the 1990s, but is now at a 40-year high with 514,400 residents. The 2011 Census data showed that Manchester was the fastest-growing city in the UK during the decade.

Greater Manchester's Muslim Communities

There are almost a quarter of a million Muslims living in Greater Manchester, and their heritage is from almost every nation in the Muslim world. However, different communities tend to congregate in certain areas. Asylum seekers are often dispersed all over the



region, and sadly they are often moved about before they can develop close relationships with their neighbors. They come from every trouble spot in the world, and they are at various stages in their asylum process. These refugees include Kurds, Sudanese, Iraqi Arabs, Libyans, Pakistanis, and many others, with the most recent being the Syrians. Many churches are reaching out to these refugees with ESOL classes (teaching English) and friendship.

They also try to gently share with them the good news of God's love in Jesus. With five universities a the total of over 120,000 students collectively, Greater Manchester has the largest concentration of students in Europe. The universities provide large numbers of overseas students, and there are teams working with them to provide friendship and the gospel message, often to people from countries where the gospel is prohibited like Saudi Arabia.



The settled Muslim communities in Greater Manchester mainly have their origins in the Indian sub-continent, although there is a small and long-settled Yemeni community in Salford. The recently settled communities are of Afghan, Somali, and Ethiopian origin, while the

majority of the longtime residents are from Mirpur in Azad Kashmir, Pakistan. Manchester's boroughs of Rochdale, Bury, Oldham, and Tameside have Mirpuri and Bangladeshi communities. The Muslim communities in Bolton Borough are both from Mirpur, but they also include a significant number of Indian Muslims from the state of Gujarat. In Trafford the Muslim community originates from three villages in Surat in Gujarat state in India. Each group comes with its own culture and has its own customs. Some are settling down well, while others are experiencing identity confusion and disorientation. In addition to these communities, in the hills above Bury in the former Holcombe Hall area is Darul Uloom Al—Arabiyyah Al-Islamiyyah, which is the oldest Muslim theological college in Great Britain. This college trains *imams* in the very conservative Deobandi tradition. How to reach these peoples who make up the majority of the Muslims in Greater Manchester is a major challenge.

There is also much to celebrate as teams of believers share the love of Jesus with other unreached groups in Greater Manchester. Foreign students coming from Iranian communities attend discipleship groups. Afghans, Libyans, Kurds, and Kuwaitis also have become new believers.

Prayer Points

- Pray that these discipleship-making movements will grow in numbers and in spiritual maturity.
- Pray that the Somali community will soon experience meaningful spiritual engagement.

- As you read through and pray each day for those who have yet to know Jesus in Greater Manchester, pray for unity and an awakening of God's people to reach out to their British Muslim neighbors, and their immigrant Muslim neighbors. Pray that they will reach out to Muslims with love and without fear.
- Pray that the church would increasingly reflect the demographics of the area and be willing to pay the cost of moving out of a comfort zone into the learning zone of engagement with those in the local community.
- Pray that the Word will spread quickly; (2 Thessalonians 3:1b "Pray for us that the message of the Lord may spread rapidly and be honored, just as it was with you" (NIV).
- Manchester was famous for its innovations during the Industrial Revolution. Pray that the church in Greater Manchester would overflow with creativity and warmth for those around them.
- Pray for a change in the spiritual atmosphere across Greater Manchester through prayer walking and prayer cells. Pray that the changed spiritual atmosphere will affect each of the 10 boroughs.
- Pray that Greater Manchester will soon "boast" of house churches led by Muslim background believers and be a beacon of hope to other cities in the UK.

For more information about the Mirpuris of Britain, order the Mirpuris of Britain Prayer Guide, £3.50

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For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given; and
the government will be
upon His shoulders, and
His Name will be called
Wonderful Counselor ...

“Wonderful Counselor” is the first of four names given to Jesus in this amazing prophetic verse. Christ in you, the hope of glory, is counseling you as you pray for unreached people groups in Manchester, England. He is also counseling the workers there, and the peoples He reaches through our prayers, and then He comes to live in them through His Holy Spirit! From verses in the Qur’an that call Him the “Spirit from God,” Muslims salute Him as being alive with the words, “Peace to You, Jesus Christ, Spirit of God!”

Pray that the unreached peoples of Manchester will come to know Him as their Wonderful Counselor!

Missionary biography, Hannah Hurnard

Hannah Hurnard was brought up in a Quaker home where religious beliefs were considered to be very important. “In comparison... nothing else mattered, and worldliness and anything that tended to make the spiritual life and growth of the soul seem unimportant were inexorably excluded.” Such a harsh upbringing might result in antagonism toward spiritual things. Yet the faith and life of Hannah’s parents “presented us with an inescapable challenge, and no child of theirs could easily drift into unbelief.”

In spite of the atmosphere in the home, Hannah prayed, but had no answer. She attended gospel services and was utterly bored and depressed. She repented, but couldn’t stop sinning. She found the Bible “the dullest and most lifeless book in the world.” She wrote, “Nothing helped. The saving power never came. The means of grace didn’t work. I simply couldn’t believe.”

Then in one-half hour when she was 19-years-old, her whole life was changed at a convention at Keswick, England. At the close of the convention, Hannah hurried out of the tent, got on her bicycle, rushed to a little room, and fell on her knees. Opening her Bible by chance to 1 Kings 18:21 she read the verse, “How long will ye waver between two opinions? If the Lord be God then follow Him.” Thus it happened. “Life was different from that radiant hour.” Hannah Hurnard set out to obey God, beginning with an early morning quiet time.

Pray for radical transformation in today’s English youths.—AL

Missionary Biography, Continued

When Hannah Hurnard attended Ridgeland Bible College that fall, she experienced the fact that the Lord could empower her to do what she could not do in the flesh. The traumatic experience of having to give a speech in class resulted in her expressing herself publicly for the first time in her life without stammering! From that time on the stammer practically disappeared, especially when she was preaching.

Hannah began to visit houses, going door to door in the slums of London, and she preached the gospel in halls and in factories. She visited the sick and preached in the open air. She worked with an evangelistic band of young people who traveled in a bus to hold meetings in villages.

After four years with the band, Hannah found herself alone one day in Ireland on a high rocky peak. There the Lord spoke to her: “Hannah, would you be willing to identify yourself with the Jewish people if I asked you to?” Hannah had always felt an inner antipathy for the Jewish people. “I don’t care for them and I’m glad I don’t have to live among them,” she said to herself. How could she be of any use as a missionary to the Jews when she disliked them? But at last she said, “Here I am, Lord. I will go as a missionary to Thy people Israel.”

Pray for a Holy Spirit directed willingness to obey the Lord’s calling for those believers who are serious about being ambassadors of Christ.—AL

... Mighty God ...

is the second of four names which must have astounded Isaiah as he penned these inspired words. A son, a human being, born with the title, “Mighty God”? The Pharisees didn’t get it. They crucified Mighty God because He told them His identity. Colossians 2:9 says all the fullness of the Godhead dwells in Him bodily. II Corinthians 5:19 says that God was in Christ, reconciling a sinful world to Himself. God really did walk the earth as a friend of tax collectors and sinners! (Luke 7:34).

Pray that God will use His people to make our amazing Jesus known as Mighty God to the unreached people walking the streets of Manchester.

Missionary Biography, Continued

... Everlasting Father ...
 In John 17:20a-21, Jesus prays, "... for those who believe in Me through their word, that they may all be one; even as Thou, Father, art in Me, and I in Thee, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that Thou hast sent Me."

In verses 22-23 He continues, "The glory which Thou hast given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, I in them and Thou in Me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that Thou hast sent Me and hast loved them even as Thou hast loved Me."

Pray that the unreached peoples in Manchester will believe in Jesus as they see The Father, in the Son, living in His people, making them one in Him.

For the first four years in the hot, damp climate of Haifa, Israel, Hannah never felt really well or ready to face the day. She worked in the medical clinic, studied the language, and taught English. Now God was calling her to do the work she did in England; she was to visit villages and preach the gospel!

It seemed utterly mad to Hannah to try to do in non-Christian Israel the same type of evangelism she had done in "Christian" England. Furthermore, it was 1936 when she felt the Lord calling her to Israel, just when the Arab riots against the Jews broke out.

The confirmation of her calling came when a new emergency rule was passed that no civilians could drive their cars on the roads outside of the cities without permission. Hannah found that this new regulation did not refer to women drivers, and for the next two years, her car was almost the only civilian vehicle still free to run about the country. So Hannah traveled and preached in Muslim villages where armed terrorist gangs often listened to her message.

Later, in 1938, the Lord called Hannah to take the gospel to every single Arab village in the country. Now with three cars and three teams, every Arab village was visited in just five years! In 1947, Hannah went back to Israel for awhile. Her later years were spent writing devotional books.—AL from *Hearing Heart*, by Hannah Hurnard, Tyndale House, 1981.

Druze in Manchester

Although there is a British Druze Society, there are only 510 Druze people in the entire United Kingdom. However, this is a secretive and close-knit group, preferring to melt into whatever group they are among at the moment. This practice comes from years of persecution for their views and practices.

Although they speak Arabic and practice a form of Islam, they differ from Muslims in many ways. Within Druze communities there is equality between men and women, rejection of slavery, and rejection of spreading the faith by the sword. They don't worship in mosques, but gather on Thursday nights in prayer houses they call Khalwat. Here they meditate and study. Druze are sometimes referred to as "ones who study."

Children are only considered to be Druze if both parents are Druze; marriage outside the faith is forbidden. They believe in one god and in reincarnation. They claim to be Protestant Christians if spoken to by Christians; if they are around Muslims they claim to be Muslims. They use this chameleon-like practice to protect themselves from persecution. This has made it difficult to evangelize them.

Pray that the truth of the gospel will penetrate Druze hearts and minds as they become more in touch with Christ's followers. Pray for their deliverance from fear and distrust. Ask God to send culturally sensitive workers to show them the love and salvation of Jesus Christ.—PE

No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from My father I have made known to you.

The Druze live with so much spiritual confusion! They defy definition, and their doctrines are hard to pinpoint. The one thing that would give them direction is a relationship with the Master of heaven and earth!

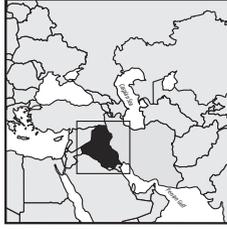
Pray that the Father will shed the Light of Christ over the esoteric and hidden doctrines of the Druze people so that they may walk in the freedom of truth. Pray that God would bring pastors, preachers, and missionaries to these people without clergy that they might no longer be without a shepherd.

Whoever believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, 'Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.'

Along the banks where a river rolls, these writers of the Dead Sea Scrolls . . . are exiled or in fear take flight. . . pathfinders pointing to a "world of light." May the gospel send forth cleansing rains, so that the Son may shine and break their chains.

Pray that the Mandaeans will understand the beauty behind their baptism rituals—that the living water is Jesus Christ! Pray that God will grant them safety in their homeland and abroad that they might live to hear the gospel message. Pray that He will strengthen the few known Mandaean-background believers in their faith. May they be used to spread the gospel to their brothers and sisters.

Mandaeans in Manchester



The primary sacrament of the Mandaean people is baptism! Besides Mormons, they are the only religion that believes in proxy baptism, and they are so centered around this practice that they wash themselves day and night to prevent condemnation. They worship in churches called *Mandis*, which are always built by rivers to facilitate baptism.

Some of the ancient teachers they revere are Adam, Noah, and especially John the Baptist. Their language is Aramaic, the language of Jesus Christ. However, the Mandaean people reject Abraham, Moses, and Jesus Christ, and shockingly, they consider the Holy Spirit an evil entity. They claim to be direct descendants of Noah and to have secret knowledge from God. Many Muslims consider them "people of the book."

The Mandaeans in the United Kingdom number 1,010. They are refugees from Iraq, their homeland. It is said that historically they are Jews who did not return to Jerusalem, but stayed in Babylon or southern Iraq. Now they flee for their lives in Iraq as the Islamists have declared a fatwa on them.

Pray that Mandaean spirits and minds will be prepared to receive the message of Christ and understand the symbolism of true baptism. Pray that God will call caring believers to tell the good news to the Mandaean people during this period of refugee status in the United Kingdom.—PE

Yemeni Arabs in Manchester



Do you like food and fashion? If so, then join people at the Yemeni Community Association and watch a fashion show and dine afterwards at the Hadramaut Restaurant in the Salford District of Manchester. Oh, maybe you might see a Salford University student record some Yemeni oral history, which traces the Yemeni migration from Cardiff, Wales to Manchester, England during

the last century.

Yemeni Arabs have been in the UK since the 1860s. They served in the British navy in World Wars I and II. They also worked in shipyards during these conflicts. You can see and hear their trade fair on YouTube. Their Community Centre offers a festival, fashion show, and folk dancing. Their community also teaches Arabic and helps support Yemenis in need of education, medicine, and assistance as newcomers to Manchester. These Yemeni expatriates also send money back home to the fatherland, Yemen, from Manchester. Yemen is the Arabian Peninsula's poorest country. In this they mirror foreigners all over the world who send a portion of their earnings to their relatives back home.

The Bible and the JESUS Film are both available in Arabic to the Yemenis. Being Muslim, they see Jesus as a prophet, not as the only Savior.

Pray that followers of Christ and churches in Manchester will show Yemenis the way to their much-needed Savior.—TP

Then they remembered His words.

It's the day after Easter, a good time to remember what Jesus said! The apostles at that time were not sure what to think in the chaos and confusion. They were even in the midst of making a mental shift from expecting a Savior to deliver Israel from Rome to knowing that they had been walking with the Savior of the entire world for three years!

Pray that as we move on from Easter, we will remember Jesus' words. Pray that we will remember that He is not just our "personal" Savior, but the Savior of the world.

You are witnesses of these things.

The apostles were witnesses of Jesus healing many Gentiles as well as Jews. They even saw in John 4 an entire Samaritan village listening attentively to the Lord of all. How bewildering it must have been for them! But in the book of Acts, the disciples slowly began to put the pieces together of what God was doing, and what Jesus meant when He said that the “Kingdom of God is near.”

Pray that you will understand what you see in terms of God’s overall plan for the world and how you fit into this plan.

Omani Arabs in Manchester



Create International

Child evangelism, anyone?

imam is a Libyan. The mosque supports democracy in the Arab World.

According to a YouTube video, the student union of the University of Manchester seeks to “enhance involvement with the local community and promote Omani culture and intra-Omani communications.” Manchester even has Omani National Day with music, a fashion show, and folk games for children. The Manchester Omani Society was established for students in three local universities.

Despite being present in Manchester since the 1940s and numbering some 10 percent of the Eccles District of Manchester, Omanis are just now becoming visible through community development projects. The Omani population of Manchester is 97 percent Muslim; only three percent are Christian, half of whom are evangelicals.

Pray that Omani believers will find creative ways to evangelize their Muslim Omani neighbors, families, and friends. Pray that the churches of Manchester will adopt, pray for, and actively evangelize Muslim Omanis, and that they will work with local Omani believers in outreach to Muslims.—TP

Palestinian Arabs in Manchester

Every conflict has two sides, and each side has its own version of the story. Citing ancient accounts and the Bible itself, Jews claim Israel as their homeland. Palestinians claim the same land as the Jews, and they call it Palestine. These two very different people groups hold radically different views on this long, tragic conflict.

Palestinian Arabs living in Manchester illustrate this difference. As they struggle for recognition and a homeland, they express hostility to England's Jewish population. They organize demonstrations and boycotts against Jewish-owned establishments. Palestinians campaigned for a boycott against a major bank accused of supplying military equipment to Israel, while Israel's supporters point to outsiders who arm the Palestinians in the Holy Land.

When we mention Palestinians to Christians, many of them make certain assumptions. Followers of Jesus tend to agree with the Jewish explanation of the conflict. Many act as if the Palestinians are beyond the reach of God's grace, even though there are many Palestinian believers.

As we focus our prayers on the Palestinians in Manchester, let us be encouraged. Jesus died for the Palestinians as well as for the Jews, and in Jerusalem we find growing congregations of Palestinian believers. Nevertheless, there are few Palestinian believers in the UK.

Let us pray for compassionate missionaries to reach out to the Palestinians living in Manchester. Pray that the Holy Spirit will reveal Christ to Palestinian community leaders. Pray for peace, justice, and mercy in the Holy Land.—GEC

I will pour out My Spirit on all people.

The book of Acts has been sometimes called the Acts of the Holy Spirit, since the third person of the Trinity is highlighted throughout this book. All believers have the Holy Spirit, but we still make mistakes, even as we preach the gospel in Jesus' Name. I have heard workers who are laboring among the Israelis strongly disagree with those who work among the Palestinians. Both groups of missionaries should be guided by the Holy Spirit, and both should have a special love for all people who live in Israel.

Pray for the Holy Spirit to give knowledge, understanding, and love to those believers who work among conflicting people groups.

You will be baptized with the Holy Spirit . . . You shall receive power . . . You shall be My witnesses . . . in the remotest parts of the earth.

Almighty God never tells His children to do something without fully equipping them beforehand. He sent new believers out from Jerusalem to spread the good news that there was full payment of all the sins of men by the death and the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Today, He continues to send His children to those like the Arabs from the UAE who do not know about the power of the true and living God.

Pray for God to prompt His children to pray, send, and go to the beloved UAE Arabs in Manchester. Pray that these people will be filled with the Holy Spirit as His ambassadors.

UAE Arabs in Manchester



UAE Boy

Manchester is one of the UK's most popular destinations for students from the United Arab Emirates (UAE). Students from the UAE are studying at all levels in a broad range of disciplines. The following subjects are particularly popular: management, accounting and finance, business studies, engineering, medicine, dentistry, and life sciences. The University of Manchester campus has two prayer rooms for Muslims, and there are a number of mosques located nearby.

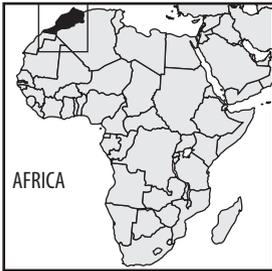
Arab people are welcome in Manchester. Many of the restaurants serve a selection of halal (ritually certified Arab meals), and many in the food service industry are trained to make and deliver this *halal* food to the Muslim customers.

A business investor from the UAE purchased a controlling interest in the well-known Manchester United football (soccer) team. That team is gaining much attention from the people in the UAE.

There are many opportunities for believers to reach people in Manchester from the highly unreachable UAE. Like Bible-believing Christians, devout Muslims value family life, religion, and hospitality. Christ's followers can relate well to these Muslims who know there is One True God.

Pray that these Arab Muslims will soon know that though there is One God, there is also One Savior sent to us. Pray that servants of the Living God will be sent by Him to Manchester to share His love and truth with these gifted people.—KH

Moroccan Arabs in Manchester



Moroccan Arabs are known as “the people in the red hats” because of the fezzes they wear. They are often seen together in family groups at the park appearing in clothes that are exotic to local residents who are familiar with this Arab community. In 1936 the Moroccan colony had to leave Manchester due to the fact that competition from Japanese corporations put them out of business. Apart from considerable material loss to the city, Manchester lost a body of good citizens who,

while retaining all their own customs and attributes, built for themselves a reputation second to none for honest dealing and clean living.

Mass migration from Morocco to the United Kingdom began in the 1960s, primarily consisting of migrant workers recruited for the hotel and catering industries. The community has grown significantly since then due to high birth rates and sponsored migration of dependents.

There is now a significant Moroccan community in Manchester. These British Moroccan Arabs are citizens of the United Kingdom whose ethnic origin lies in North Africa. Many of them also have been strongly influenced by the Berbers and may be part Berber.

Pray that these family-oriented, hard-working, honest people will see their need for a loving God and Savior Who will provide for their spiritual needs.—KH

The congregation of those who believed (in their risen Savior) was one heart and one soul.

There is much strength in unity. The first believers in the Lord Jesus Christ were drawn together by the common bond of their belief in Jesus as the Son of God. As persecution increased and they scattered, their unity of heart and soul became even stronger as they spread the good news of salvation. The family values and clean life style of Moroccan Arabs living in Manchester help them to relate to the teachings of Christ and are valuable points of contact for those who would tell them the good news.

Pray for unity of heart and soul among believers called to the Moroccan people in Manchester, and for understanding among this unreached people group.

Persians in Manchester

Seek the LORD while he may be found; call on Him while He is near.

People in a diaspora in free countries have the option of seeking and finding their Lord and Savior. He can be found in Manchester, England! He is near for those who seek Him.

Pray that the Persians and others who have made Manchester their home will seek and find Christ, the King of kings. Pray that as the Persians in this city seek to interface with the British majority, there will be many who follow Jesus.



Persian men

(This story is intended to explain the attitudes and beliefs of the people group.)

“Right now many of us live between two cultures,” Ali, a young Persian said to his friends. “We are Iranians living in the United Kingdom. But we are not truly Iranian and are not truly British. If we want to influence the culture we are living in, we must be involved in it. That means no longer keeping to ourselves and our people.” One of his friends raised an eyebrow and countered, “Doesn’t that mean risking becoming like the British, and losing ourselves as Iranians?” Ali nodded. “Yes. It is a risk. But unless we take that risk, we will remain irrelevant here.”

Most of the Iranians living in England came during the revolution of 1979. Many of them planned on remaining there only temporarily. Others, like Ali and his friends, were born in British cities like Manchester. Today, there are two main groups among the nearly 100,000 Iranians living in the United Kingdom: those who have been there for decades and those who are new refugees. No matter how long they have been there, the Iranians in places like Manchester are seeking ways to be heard and to have an impact on British culture.

Pray for the Persians in Manchester to have the opportunity to hear the gospel message and allow it to penetrate their hearts. Pray for their hearts to find satisfaction, peace, and joy in Christ.—CL

Parsees in Manchester

Day 12

John 8:39, ESV

(This story is intended to explain the attitudes and beliefs of the people group.)

“Do you see those men in robes and crowns?” the father asked his son. The boy glanced over at a department store window that had a manger scene in it. “Yes, dad,” the boy sighed. “The three kings who came to visit the baby Jesus...” “Not just kings,” his father said. “They were Parsee. Like us.” The boy nodded, pretending this was new information. His father told him this every year at Christmas. “We have royal blood in our veins,” he told his son. “King Darius, King Cyrus, and King Xerxes from the Hebrew scriptures were Parsees.” The boy nodded, not really listening.

The Parsee people are very proud of their royal heritage. They are also proud of their religion – Zoroastrianism. This ancient Persian religion involves the worship of one God who sometimes gets forgotten in the midst of rituals involving fire and guardian angels.

Zoroastrians also have a high regard for their ancient writings which they believe are holy scriptures. They believe that by reading and reciting their scriptures over and over they can be sure that they will go to heaven. These beliefs, along with their tightly closed communities, make it very difficult to share the good news of Jesus Christ with them.

Pray for the Lord to send Christ followers to share His love with Parsees living in Manchester. Ask Him to give mission workers insight and wisdom as they communicate the gospel message. Pray for the eyes of the Parsee people to be opened to the truth of Christ.—CL

They answered him, “Abraham is our father.” Jesus said to them, “If you were Abraham’s children, you would be doing the works Abraham did...”

Parsees look upon God’s own Son Jesus with conjecture and suspicion. The offspring of the Persian kings worship spiritual protectors—guardian angels, flames of fire, family members, and ancestors.

Pray that the minds of the Parsee people will be enlightened so that they will see that traditions, good works, ancestor worship, and royal bloodlines do not guarantee salvation. Pray that they will understand that the kingdom of God is open to all who call upon the name of Jesus, not just elite, royal races. Pray that God will send well-educated ambassadors to the Parsees that will be well respected and whose message will be received.

Pashtun People in Manchester

Now the Bereans . . . received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true.

Not every unreached people group is going to study the Scriptures as intensely as the Bereans. Yet there are ways to give the unreached a hunger for His Word which, in turn, can potentially draw them to the Savior. Did you know that Muslims honor the Psalms as legitimate worship material? Did you know that the Pashtuns are known for their poetry, and the Psalms and Proverbs could speak directly to their hearts? Did you know that they also honor the four gospels? Can you think of anything within these writings that might endear a Muslim to Christ?

Pray that missionaries will use the Word to draw unreached Pashtuns in Manchester to their Savior.

Pashtuns first came to Great Britain from Afghanistan during the mid 19th century. But significant numbers started relocating to the UK in the 1950s and 1960s. There are about 100,000 Pashtuns living in Britain today, and after London and Birmingham, the city of Manchester has the third largest population of Pashtun immigrants.

In recent years the Pashtuns have made their presence known in Manchester through popular restaurants, along with their involvement in soccer and music. Their presence in Great Britain is one of the most vibrant diasporas in the West. They mostly identify their religion as Sunni Islam, and their code of honor is known as *Pashtunwali*. They speak the Pashto language and believe that one must be Muslim to be truly Pashtun.

There is probably no sport that is more popular worldwide than soccer. It is known as football outside of the United States. In 2011 there was a once in a lifetime opportunity for Pashtun footballers in Manchester to compete in games that took them far from their usual surroundings and into serious competition. Thirty-two very fortunate players were selected to compete. This is expected to do a great deal toward promoting soccer among the Pashtun population in Great Britain.

Pray that the opportunities soccer has presented will open the way for the gospel to impact Pashtun lives. Pray for the God of the impossible to break the seemingly impossible barriers that could keep the gospel from spreading to the Pashtuns in Manchester.—JR

Sorani Kurds in Manchester

Create International



A Sorani Kurdish child

in London involving the sale of four women into the sex trade. In the video an apparent ringleader bellowed into a microphone offering four women up for sale courtesy of the Islamic State. In October, 2014, the UN stated that 150 Sorani Kurdish women and girls were shipped from Iraq to Syria by the Islamic State to be given to fighters or sold as sex slaves. It is believed that the actual numbers are much higher. (<http://www.bbc.com/news/blogs-trending-29691764>)

We prayed for Kurmanji speaking Kurds in Ukraine last month, but this month we will feature Sorani speaking Kurds in Manchester. Fortunately for Sorani Kurds the risk of being sold into human trafficking in Manchester is much lower than it is in their original Middle Eastern homelands. Because of the fairly high number of Sorani-speaking Kurds in this city, there is a demand for people who are fluent in both Sorani and English, especially in the court system. Unfortunately, in recent years a number of Sorani Kurds in Manchester have found themselves in trouble with the law.

Pray that God's people in Manchester will befriend the Sorani Kurds in their midst. Pray that they will be responsive to the gospel in the Western environment they now know.—JR

What kind of video has had over 250,000 views on YouTube in less than a week? This is what happened when a group of Compassion 4 Kurdistan actors shot a mock slave transaction

Philip went down to a city in Samaria and proclaimed the Christ there.

Philip, a Jew, was sharing the good news with the Samaritans—a people who were enemies of the Jews, and he was having tremendous success. What a testimony to the work of the Holy Spirit! Why would they respond to someone they might consider an enemy? Once again, the Holy Spirit moved in such a way that the humanly impossible became possible.

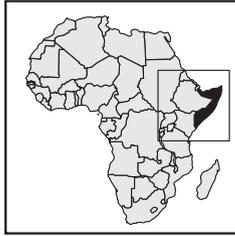
Pray for humanly impossible obstacles to the gospel to be made possible by the work of the Holy Spirit. Pray that this will be the year when He establishes numerous fellowships among Manchester's Kurdish people.

Somalis in Manchester

"...I have appeared to you for this purpose...to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in Me."

Dilapidated buildings, khat, (an addictive drug stimulant which numbs minds and blinds eyes), cries ascending like incense wafting in the air, chants that bellow and rise, dreamers dreaming of deliverance like Mo Farah, run for the prize. This is the culture of the Somalis.

Pray for the 94,000 Somalis in the UK, none of whom have been evangelized. Pray that the gospel would infiltrate their culture in powerful, life-transforming ways, and that they would come to know Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. Pray that the people would be freed from poverty, fear, and from addiction to khat.—VA



(This story is intended to explain the attitudes and beliefs of the people group.)

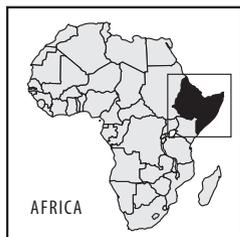
Ali was in his early 20s and out of work. He wandered the streets of Manchester past the shops on the street, not knowing which ones had “help wanted” signs because he couldn’t read English. He’d grown up in Somalia and had never gone to school in Manchester or Somalia. Ali had no idea what he’d do with his life, but he did want to live in a place of peace where he could earn a living. Maybe there was a job for him here, he thought, hoping against hope.

Ali isn’t a real person, but today there are many like him living in Manchester, England. According to a recent report, only nine percent of all Somalis in Manchester have jobs. Forty percent speak little or no English, so their chances of finding work are extremely limited. Most are refugees who have fled the never-ending civil war being fought in Somalia. Poverty and crime are serious problems in the Somali neighborhoods of Manchester.

Almost all Somali are Sunni Muslims. They consider Jesus Christ to be a prophet and not the Son of God who paid for their sin as an atoning sacrifice.

Ask God to send faithful workers to reach out to the Somali people of Manchester and other major cities with the message of salvation. Pray for Christian English teachers to reach out to the Somalis. Pray that God will break the power of the street gangs that terrorize many of Manchester’s Somali neighborhoods.—WK

Tigreans in Manchester



Are the Tigreans Muslim or Christian? Many of them are part of an ancient form of Orthodox Christianity where church services are held in Geez, a language that few Tigreans understand. Others are Sunni Muslims. So the answer would be both!

The Tigreans are a people group living mainly in Ethiopia and Eritrea. Many have migrated to British cities like Manchester. This migration began during

the 1960s when the Tigreans were fighting for independence from Ethiopia. Ninety five percent of these Tigreans are Muslims according to the Joshua Project website. There are about 15,700 Tigreans in the United Kingdom today. All of them, be they Muslim or Orthodox Christian, need a relationship with the loving Savior.

Pray that the message of salvation would soon be preached in Tigre, the Tigrean language. Ask God to lead a mission agency to send workers to the Tigreans in Manchester. Thank God that the Tigreans have a complete Bible in their language. Pray for it to be widely distributed, read, understood, and obeyed among Tigreans wherever they live.—WK

And immediately he proclaimed Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "He is the Son of God." And all who heard him were amazed. . .

Coffee served amongst friends, talk of wars that go on without end. Nomads, rambles, wanderers on searches, trekking barren lands, void of hope or churches, pilgrims on a journey through a wasteland, dry—Father, consent to mend their tents, that they might tabernacle with the Lord Most High.

There are at least nine languages spoken in Eritrea, one of which is dedicated solely to religion. Pray that this language would be used for the preaching of the gospel to the Tigrean peoples.

When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him again, but went on his way rejoicing.

Thus we see the beginnings for the Ethiopian Church, not far from where the Beja people originated. The Ethiopian eunuch already had the Scriptures available, and received Christ after a brief teaching from Philip. Today we have many more resources available when preaching the Word of God to the Beja: gospel recordings; the JESUS Film; and other tools.

Pray that those who reach out to the Beja people in Africa and in England will be equipped with the right tools to see Beja people receive the Lord.

Beja People in Manchester



A Beja youth

Twenty people, mostly young men, shouted protests as they marched down the street in Manchester, England. Most of these men are members of the Beja Congress UK, which sometimes meets in Manchester. They are concerned about human rights violations in Sudan. Their march was intended to rally support for their cause in one of the world's most influential nations, Great Britain.

The Bejas are a people group that lives in Egypt, Eritrea, Sudan, and South Sudan. Many come from the Darfur Region that spills over into neighboring Chad. Civil war has wrecked havoc on the lives of the Beja people for many years. As a result, many Bejas have sought asylum in places like Manchester.

The majority of Bejas are Muslims. Some are nominal Christians who belong to the Coptic Church. Coptic worship services are held in Geez, a language almost no one speaks any more. It is unlikely that many Beja people who worship in this language understand their own liturgy or doctrine.

Pray that the Bejas of Manchester would come to see Jesus Christ as the Prince of Peace, the One whose teachings can end the fighting in Darfur. Ask God to break the hold that Islam and ritualism have on this people group. There is also an open door for Christian relief workers to work among the Bejas of Manchester. Pray for many to use this relief work as a means to extend His Kingdom into Beja hearts.—WK

Iraqi Jews in Manchester

(This story is intended to illustrate the attitudes and beliefs of this people group.)

“Mother when did grandfather leave Iraq? Why did so many leave Iraq and come here to England?” With sadness in her eyes, Sarah explained the story to her daughter.

“Your grandfather was an important professor in Baghdad. In 1945, he became a member of the Jewish Lay Council, which administered the Community’s religious endowments, properties, schools, and hospitals. Most of the Jewish communities were prominent and respected. Starting in the 1950s there was persecution. Things became very bad in 1968 when a new political party, the Baaths, took over. Many of our Jewish people along with some Christians and Muslims were arrested and falsely accused of treason and spying for Israel. Some were tortured or killed. By the 1970s the situation was terrible; so many Iraqi Jews escaped Iraq. Then the government decided to grant passports to Jews and allow them to leave with the understanding that if they did not return in three months all their property would be taken. Your grandfather brought all of us to England, and we eventually settled here in Manchester. Life has been good, God has blessed us.”

The number of Jewish people remaining in Iraq has dwindled to about 60. Many of the Iraqi Jews in Manchester and throughout the UK have prospered and contributed to their communities.

Pray that believers will be led by God to befriend Iraqi Jewish people and share with them the spiritual wealth that only Jesus can provide.—PD

Remember that for three years I never stopped warning each of you night and day with tears.

Paul had a pastoral heart for the people he was reaching. Among other things was warning them about the cultural temptations that they would likely encounter and potentially succumb. Likewise, today’s workers among the unreached diaspora Jewish groups need to warn the people about trials and temptations they will encounter in the new culture.

Pray that as new believers from conservative cultures become used to the cultures in the Western cities that they will learn to avoid the pitfalls that can entrap them.

Blessed is the one who is not offended by Me.

Jews that lived in medieval times in Portugal and Spain had very difficult lives. In 1492 they were banished from these countries by Isabella and Ferdinand. Displaced, alone, lost and afraid, some of them eventually ended up in Manchester, England and entered the textile trade.

Pray that the Father will open the eyes of His chosen people to clearly see the gospel message, despite the abuse they faced from so called “Christians” in the past. Pray that He will send His ambassadors to convey the truth of the gospel to the Spanish Jewish people of Manchester. Give them ears to hear and eyes that recognize their long-awaited Messiah.

Orthodox Jews in Manchester



Strict Jewish law states that on the Sabbath day (from sundown on Friday to sundown on Saturday) they must restrain from labor because it is the day of rest.

They leave their homes only to attend Sabbath services at their synagogue. However, they cannot push a baby stroller, wheelchair, use a cane or carry items such as house keys or glasses outside the boundaries of home in order to go to the synagogue.

Orthodox communities often develop an *eruv* (e-roo-veen), which redefines the property (home) boundaries so activities like pushing a baby stroller are permitted within a certain area and women with babies can attend Sabbath services. The *eruv* must be “completely enclosed” by existing natural boundaries. Sections of thin wire connect high poles along the perimeter. Synagogue leaders inspect the *eruv* perimeter every Friday to ensure that it is intact. In Manchester a large *eruv* with a perimeter of 13 miles was completed in 2013. (see: <http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-manchester-25687756>) It took almost 13 years to complete and cost thousands of dollars. According to Manchester’s chief Rabbi, it has made a big difference in the lives of many Jews in Manchester. Many of the people who were restricted before can now attend Sabbath services in their synagogues.

Pray that God will send well prepared followers of Christ to talk with these Jewish people so that they can have the chance to experience the freedom and joy of their Messiah.—PD

Secular Jews in Manchester

Day 20
Acts 23:8, NIV

(This story is intended to explain the attitudes and beliefs of the people group.)

“**A**drina, where did you get married?” Some of the women employees at Kendal’s House of Fraser store in Manchester were talking about their weddings during a lunch break.

Adrina replied, “My husband and I come from liberal, secular Jewish families, but we both have relatives that attend synagogues for the main Jewish festivals. We wanted our wedding to be meaningful, so we decided to have the ceremony at the Manchester Jewish Museum. I remember how impressed I was when I read a sentence in their brochure that said, ‘We are committed to combating all types of prejudice, racism, and xenophobia, and we promote the ideal of tolerance amongst all cultures and faiths through education.’ We knew if we had some Jewish traditions in the ceremony it would mean a lot to some of the older people that we care about. We used a *huppah* (a traditional Jewish wedding canopy) under which the ceremony took place. My Uncle Natan officiated as we said our vows. A friend sang “Sunrise, Sunset” from “Fiddler on the Roof.” We danced, had great food, and everyone loved the chocolate wedding cake. It was a happy and memorable day.”

Although Manchester has a large, active Jewish Orthodox community, there are many others living there who are secular.

Pray that contacts with committed followers of Christ and some Messianic Jewish believers will lead these secular Jewish people to the Lord soon.—PD

(The Sadducees say that there is no resurrection, and that there are neither angels nor spirits, but the Pharisees believe all these things.)

On one level the secular Jewish people in today’s world are like the Sadducees of Jesus’ day. They maintain an identity as Jews, yet they are skeptical about the claims of the Scriptures. People who are secular in mindset are, in some ways, the hardest people to reach for Christ. Often there is a desire to distance themselves from spiritual matters and focus on the more material things that are here and now. Being identified as Jews leaves them hostile to what they consider to be non-Jewish matters of the heart.

Pray that those reaching out to the secularized Jewish people will overcome all spiritual and cultural obstacles.

Then they worshipped Him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy.

The worship of anyone but God is abhorrent to a devout Muslim. How do you feel when you hear of a cult leader being worshipped by his followers? Perhaps we can understand why Muslim Malays, who don't believe in the divinity of Christ, can find our beliefs to be wrong. The main thing that Muslims need is to know the nature of the real Jesus Christ! They need to know Him as the first-born of the resurrection and the One sitting on the throne next to the Father. The Holy Spirit must show them that Jesus is God in human form who walked on the Earth and loves them.

Pray for Malay Muslims, be they in Manchester or Malaysia, to understand the centrality of Christ in all that is holy.

Malay People in Manchester



Ethnic Malays in Manchester England like the bustling metropolis, the availability of *halal* (Islamic) food and the transportation system. The weather?

That's not so popular. It's much chillier than Tropical Malaysia! You need a jacket all year round in this climate. Even the summers are cold!

Many of the Malaysians in Manchester are students at one of these three universities: the University of Manchester, the Manchester Metropolitan University and the University of Law. Together the three universities boast an enrollment of 73,160 students. After the 9/11 attacks, Malaysian students were hesitant to come to England because of horror stories they heard about Western prejudice against Muslims. But Malay student groups help ease the transition for new students by picking them up at the airport, arranging housing, and providing frequent social opportunities. When the Malays make British friends, they soon learn to invite these Muslims out for coffee, not for anything with alcohol, since Muslims are not allowed to drink.

Pray for students who follow Christ to befriend Malays and earn their trust. Pray that the Malays will eventually come to trust in Jesus for their salvation. Ask the Lord to raise up faithful prayer warriors and to send the Holy Spirit to convict the Malaysians in Manchester of their need for a Savior.—JWS

Gujarati Patels in Manchester

Day 22

Acts 16:14, NIV



A Gujarati family

What would Manchester's Rusholme Curry Mile be like without the Gujarati Patels? Would its food be less spicy flavor?

Patels began to arrive in the UK in the late 1950s and early 1960s. Most of them worked in factories 50 years ago; but the Patels over a period of time have become an upwardly mobile community. A large number of the 70 restaurants in the Rusholme Curry Mile are owned and operated by Patels. And what about Manchester's small grocery stores and pharmacies? Many of those are also owned by Patels.

At this point you need to know that the Patels all speak a Gujarati language, but they have their differences. We usually think of them as being from the Hindu merchant castes, but there are Patels in Manchester who are Muslim. The most prominent Muslim group is the Bharuchi Vahora Patels. The pioneer of their community in Manchester is Ismail Kaduji, who was sent from India to the UK in 1960 to study forensic science. This brilliant man was hired the next year by the Irlam Soap factory. He spent a good part of the 1960s finding jobs for other Patels who came to the UK to start businesses.

Today the Patels in Manchester, be they Hindu or Muslim, do not lack financial resources, but they lack the spiritual resources that only Jesus Christ can offer.

Pray that believers will befriend the Patels of Manchester and share the spiritual wealth that Jesus offers all nations and families.—KC

One of those listening was a woman from the city of Thyatira named Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth. She was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul's message.

Most likely Lydia was a wealthy woman from a prominent family. Though she had wealth, she recognized the value of the Risen Christ when she heard the message from Paul. She not only became a believer, but she also showed hospitality to those who spread the gospel (see v. 40). It would have been easy for people to dismiss her as an idol worshipper or one who has too many worldly cares, but Lydia rose above her past. Do we have faith that many from the Patel business community can respond like Lydia?

Pray that Patels will listen with child-like faith when they hear the gospel.

Sylheti Bangladeshis in Manchester

He and all his family were devout and God-fearing; he gave generously to those in need and prayed to God regularly.

Those of us who come from Western cultures often think of individuals coming to Christ instead of entire families. In this chapter, you will see God moving not just one man, but his entire family, to become part of His Kingdom. We often forget that when the head of the household comes to faith, his wife and children will usually do so as well. This way for the gospel to move is well documented by Donald McGavran and other experienced missionaries. Are we willing to act on what we learn?

Pray that the Holy Spirit will move among entire Bangladeshi families and clans, so that the blessings of the Kingdom will be enjoyed by them.



A Bangladeshi

(This story is intended to explain the attitudes and beliefs of the people group.)

“We are looking for a groom for my sister. She is a 31-year-old Muslim Sylheti Bengali. ... We’re located in the North Manchester area, and

she is currently employed with a large UK banking organization in a professional capacity. ... The person we are looking for ... most importantly must be serious with regards to marriage, family, and Muslim values.”

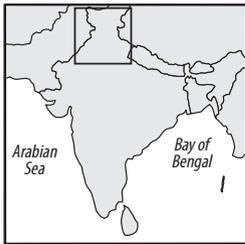
This British Bangladeshi has a good chance of finding a husband for his sister, but she will probably need to move to London. Out of 283,000 Bangladeshis in the UK, only 10,000 of them live in Manchester. The vast majority of them live in London.

But the Bangladeshis in Manchester are high profile, especially in the local colleges. There is a University of Manchester Bangladesh Student’s Society, and it is one of the largest Bangladeshi organizations in the UK.

What language do these Bangladeshis speak? Some speak standard Bangla Bengali, but most of them speak the dialect of Sylheti, a district in northern Bangladesh. As often happens when South Asians come together in foreign lands, they resort to English, a language that all of them learn. No matter what dialect of Bangla they speak, the Bangladeshis in Manchester and other cities of the UK are Sunni Muslim.

Pray that the Bangladeshis in Manchester, London, and other cities of England will have the chance to hear and respond to the gospel. Pray that their hearts will be open to the Savior of the world.—KC

Mirpuri People in Manchester



(This story is intended to explain the attitudes and beliefs of the people group.)

“I don’t know if I have an identity. I am not just Asian and not just British.” These were the words of Shazia, a Mirpuri girl in England. She calls herself a “coconut,” brown on the outside, white on the inside. Though she went to an Islamic madrasah and studied the Qur’an, it had little impact on her. She goes to pubs with both British and Pakistani peers. Her



parents are worried about her.

The Mirpuris in England from the older generations have been there for a long time. Those from the younger generation have either been born in the UK or they are sent there to marry another Mirpuri who lives there.

The Mirpuris are an ethnic group from Pakistan’s section of Kashmir. Most of Kashmir is part of India, but the western edge is part of Pakistan, including the Mirpur District. There is always the danger of armed conflicts between India and Pakistan in this region, so Mirpuris are glad to move out of the area.

Some Mirpuris are faithful to Islam, the religion of their ancestors while others, like Shazia, follow Islam only because they are forced to by their communities. The latter group is sometimes open to finding spiritual answers in other places since they see no value in the rituals of Islam.

Pray that the Mirpuris in Manchester will find answers to their spiritual questions by following Jesus Christ.—KC

“Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.”

One of the many issues addressed in this brief verse is that of identity. The apostles described in the Book of Acts were very determined to identify themselves with Christ, and some like Stephen even died for that Name. In today’s reading we are praying for a people group plagued by a lack of identity. As important as it is to be part of a larger ethnic or language group, we must remember that it is most important that our identity be in Christ. Those who identify with Him will flourish spiritually.

Pray that the Mirpuri people in both England and Pakistan will identify with the Name above all names.

Chitrali People in Manchester

There was no poverty among them, because people who owned land or houses sold them.

1800 dome-topped mosques dot the valleys with minarets. Darkness sets on the impoverished streets where there is not enough money and the people, starving, cling to Allah—wanting food to eat. Where young men gather and get high.

Pray that the Lord would meet the needs of the Chitrali people. Pray that they will soon recognize their provider to be Jehovah Jireh. Pray that the Lord would give them not only daily bread, but the Bread of Life, Jesus Christ. Pray that the youth would leave the gangs and drug use and find true peace and happiness in the freedom and light of the gospel.—VA

(This article is intended to illustrate the attitudes and beliefs of the people group.)

Ahmed stirred half and half into his coffee at a Starbucks in Manchester, hoping that the music would drown out the private conversation he was having with his new British friend, Mick.

Mick asked him a blunt question. “What brought you here to Manchester? Wasn’t life better in northern Pakistan with the rest of your family?” Ahmed almost spit out his coffee when he heard that. He responded, “I am from the Chitrali people, and one thing we want is law and order. All there is in northern Pakistan is bloodshed. I couldn’t wait to leave. You don’t know how lucky you are to live in England. You can even go to any place of worship without someone trying to kill you for it.” Ahmed looked around the room for anyone that looked like they might be Muslim before he continued. Leaning forward, he said, “I heard about Jesus, and I knew He had the answers. If I didn’t keep this from my family, they would have killed me faster than the Taliban. So I had to leave.” Mick did not know what to say. A Pakistani who follows Jesus rather than the Islamic religion?

Pray for Chitrali people in Manchester to find their way into the loving arms of the Good Shepherd. Pray that His ways will penetrate Muslim communities in Pakistan and England.—KC

Kashmiris in Manchester

Create International



A Kashmiri boy

(This story illustrates the beliefs and attitudes of the people group.)

The grey clouds hung low over the rows of brick tenement houses. The light lace

curtains began to blow back and forth, letting in a cool current of wind. Bibi slid to the edge of the bed. She hobbled to the window, dragging her aged feet. She pulled the shutters closed. She caught herself staring out the window at a totally different skyline than the one she first saw in the 1940s. The tall, blackened smokestacks of 70 years ago were all gone. New skyscrapers with shiny windows were seen near the roofs of the tenements.

She was only 17 when she and her husband of two months first arrived in Manchester. The city was bursting at the seams with migrants like themselves. She and her husband first stayed with friends in a small attic. Her husband worked long hours cutting vegetables and helping the cook in a small restaurant. Having soon learned the tricks of the trade, he told Bibi that they should start preparing and selling meals to other immigrants. Soon they had a thriving business. Their eldest son took over the business and their grandchildren attended universities, setting the stage for a bright future.

Like most Kashmiris, Bibi practices Sunni Islam that is influenced by Sufi mystic traditions. Displaced from Kashmir, many have made homes for themselves in the UK.

Pray that the Muslim Kashmiris in Manchester will come to experience the love of God in Christ Jesus.—EJD

Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus, whom the apostles called Barnabas (which means “son of encouragement”), sold a field he owned and brought the money and put it at the apostles’ feet.

Fasting, alms, Meccan treks, perplexed by conflict, relocation—a nation dispersed, ejected, unprotected, finding a new way in a new land. As pioneers they begin to adhere to foreign customs. They arrived in ports full of hope and anxious to fulfill all of their dreams.

Pray that the Muslim doctrine of good works would be done unto the glory of God and not as a means of attempting to acquire salvation. Pray that the believing community in England would reach out to Kashmiri Muslims in truth and love so that they would hear the gospel of Christ and be saved.—VA

Sikhs in Manchester

Love the sojourner, therefore, for you were sojourners in the land of Egypt.

Punjabi soldiers strolling down urban streets; beards, karas, turbans identify these Sikhs who worship, pray, and read from their holy book, The Granth Sahib. They, who despite being cast down 'neath religious rankings and frowns, left their homes to work and strive; to keep their joy and hope alive.

Pray for the Father to send harvesters into the fields of Manchester—faithful teachers of the gospel who will preach the truth in love and lead Punjabi Sikhs to the Savior. May they see that true peace and joy come to man through sitting at the feet of Jesus.



A Sikh man

Fireworks lit up the night sky while men and women danced to the sound of festive Indian music. The music played so loud that the ground seemed to shake. The aroma of freshly made roti bread and lentils filled the air. The Sikhs of Manchester were celebrating the opening of a new *gurdwara* (temple). It had taken them several years and two million British pounds to build, but it was worth the effort.

According to the General Secretary of the *gurdwara*, “The Sikh community has grown considerably over that period from 500 families to 2,500 families.” Manchester is home to 15,000 Sikhs, and the figure is fast increasing. In addition to being a place of worship, the *gurdwara* will also house an educational and cultural center.

The Sikh community originated from Punjab in the Indian subcontinent. They practice Sikhism, a monotheistic religion founded during the 15th century by Guru Nanak. It is one of the world’s largest organized religion with approximately 30 million adherents. Followers of Sikhism are known as Sikhs.

Pray that believers in Manchester will soon share the love of Jesus Christ with the many Sikhs they meet. Pray that the Sikh believers in Manchester will share their spiritual wealth with their friends and relatives in other parts of the world such as India. Pray for a spiritual openness to the claims of Christ.—EJD

Maldivians in Manchester

The tropical Maldivian Islands are literally half way around the globe from Manchester! It consists of 1,192 coral islands in the Indian Ocean off the southeastern coast of India.

The Maldivians are concerned about global warming since their island home sits less than five feet above sea level. Former Maldivian President Nasheed has said, "If carbon emissions continue at the rate they are climbing today, my country will be under water in seven years." This forecast does not offer much hope to the people.

In August 2013 for the first time Maldivian students were allowed to apply for visas in Male, the Maldivian capital rather than Colombo, nearby Sri Lanka's capital. The British High Commissioner said he was delighted with the availability of this service for those who have been accepted at universities in the UK. Manchester is the destination for most of these Maldivian students.

The Maldivian Islands are very hostile to any spiritual belief that contradicts their form of folk Islam. Those caught bringing Christian literature into the country have been blacklisted and banned. Even Nasheed has been accused of weakening the Islamic faith by trying to show tolerance to other religions.

Pray for the Holy Spirit to prepare the hearts of Maldivian students in Manchester to receive the good news of Jesus.

Pray that believers in Manchester will befriend these students and share the gospel with them.—JS

Lord, do not hold this sin against them.

It is a great testimony of the work of the Holy Spirit for someone to pray for those who are brutally killing him! Stephen could have prayed for God to judge his murderers. Instead, he prayed for God's mercy, just as Christ did on the cross. In the Maldivian Islands forgiveness and mercy are in short supply. Imagine how much light some godly directed forgiveness would provide in this dark nation!

Pray for the Lord to introduce loving and forgiving believers to Maldivians in Manchester, Sri Lanka, and even the Maldivian Islands themselves.

Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak Your Word with great boldness. . . .

Like those who minister the gospel in places like Nepal, Peter and John were in danger of losing their lives. Powerful people often do not want anything to interfere with their religious system. So how did the believers pray? They didn't pray for protection, but for boldness! And the Holy Spirit gave them boldness, and the signs and wonders to go along with it; then the Kingdom of God expanded even further.

Pray for boldness for the missionaries on your prayer list. Pray for boldness for the believers in Nepal.

Nepalis in Manchester



Morris

Hearing the name Nepal brings to mind colorful images of Gurkhas, Sherpas, and towering Himalayan peaks. The Gurkhas were the fierce soldiers

so important to the British Empire during its colonial occupation of India and Nepal. The Sherpas are the guides for mountaineering expeditions climbing Mt. Everest and other peaks. Both are icons for Nepal whose people mainly embrace Hinduism and also Buddhism. It is not uncommon for Nepalis in the UK to participate in both religions. Both groups would be considered “Nepalis” in other lands.

Like other South Asian nations, Nepal has its share of immigrants who have settled in the UK and in Manchester in particular. They are a hard-working people. But they seem to be having a problem finding sustainable employment. The Nepalis are one of the fastest growing ethnic minorities in the UK. About 80,000 are in Britain; but only about 150 of these are in highly globalized Manchester. The Manchester Festival showcases many of its ethnic minorities, and the Nepalis have welcomed the opportunity to participate.

Pray for churches and aid societies to help the Nepalis in Manchester find suitable employment. May the loving concern of Christ's followers draw Nepali hearts toward Jesus. Pray for Nepali hearts to be open to the joy, hope, and faith that awaits those who are willing to give Jesus a chance to transform their lives.—JS

South Asian Concern (SAC) Work in the UK

Day 30
Acts 1:8, NIV



Kevin Wren, Director of South Asia Concern (SAC), says, “We want people to know that they can follow Jesus and stay culturally South Asian.” SAC’s aim is to encourage, equip, and support followers of Christ so that they can

be more effective in engaging South Asians, enabling them to follow Jesus and remain South Asian. They want to share the good news of Jesus Christ with them in ways that are relevant and meaningful in their culture, so that they can become His disciples and fruitful members of His body, the Church.

SAC tries to overcome barriers and build bridges to South Asians so that they will have respect as believers without losing the diversity of language, dress, food or traditions. SAC reaches out to South Asians wherever they are in the UK, South Asia, and in the wider diaspora. Wren’s dream is, “We want to enable churches to reflect Revelation 7:9 where people from all nations, tribes, and tongues worship the Lord together!”

Wren is asking us to pray for God’s guidance in terms of advocacy, and for SAC to be more effective in raising the profile of persecution of believers in South Asia. Pray that they will be more effective in stimulating change. Pray that the South Asians who come in contact with SAC workers will understand that they can follow Jesus without becoming Western.—JS

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

The believers in Manchester have a great opportunity to be His witnesses in their own “Jerusalem.” Pray that the rest of us will do as well. Is it necessary to go to the “ends of the earth” to reach the nations? Yes, absolutely! But what an opportunity God has provided for those who can and will reach out in their own cities!

Pray for organizations like South Asian Concern that are taking the opportunity to reach out to those in their own Jerusalem.

Take the Next Step Towards Completing the Great Commission!

You are already praying each day for a people group that does not have a gospel witness, so you are among the most committed! But did you know that there are various tasks that need to be done in the Global Prayer Digest (GPD) office that could greatly help this worldwide prayer movement to expand? Specifically, we need volunteers with the following skills. If you or someone you know can help, contact Keith at the editorial desk: keith.carey@uscwm.org

We need:

1. International network managers (supporting relationships in Korea and Latin America by sending them GPD files, making sure they have what they need, and getting prayer requests from their contacts for all GPD intercessors. Must be fluent in writing for either Korean or Spanish, though we hope to add other languages as God provides. Two hours a month commitment)
2. Web page, email assistant (We provide the training. Two hours a month near the end of each month.)
3. Marketing and advertising assistants (Four hours a month)
4. Prayer network manager (Developing small group resources to serve houses of prayer and local churches. Four hours a month)
5. Online radio programmer (Producing daily programs that discuss prayer related ideas, issues, ideas, insights)
6. Graphic artist to do layout for the print edition (five hours a month)
7. Researchers for information on specific unreached people groups (Three hours a month)
8. Proofreaders (Three hours a month)

Keep in mind that this will be the result of your prayers!

After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could count, from every nation and all tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, and palm branches were in their hands; and they cry out with a loud voice, saying, "Salvation to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb."

(Revelation 7:9-10, NASB)

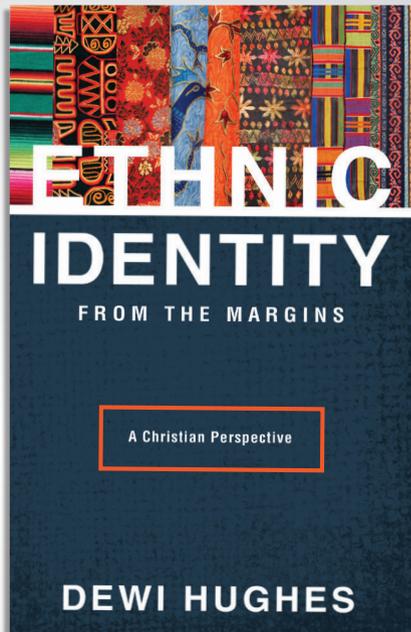
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NEW BOOK

Ethnic Identity From the Margins

A Christian Perspective

In most people's minds "ethnic" or "ethnicity" are terms associated with conflict, cleansing, or even genocide. This book explores—from three perspectives—the significance of ethnic communities beyond these popular conceptions. The first perspective is the reality of the author's own experience as a member of the Welsh ethnic identity. The Welsh are a small people whose whole existence has been overshadowed by the more powerful English. This is the "margin" from which the author speaks. The second perspective is the Bible and evangelical mission and the third is the unprecedented movement and mixing of ethnic identities in our globalizing world. The book ends with the section on ethnicity in the Lausanne Commitment that, hopefully, marks the beginning of serious consideration by the evangelical missions community of this issue that deeply impacts the lives of many millions.



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