



Oral cultures rely on the spoken word to communicate, rather than on writing. Because of this, print-based strategies for evangelism, missions, and discipleship often leave Christians from oral cultures out of the loop. But with strategies like StoryTogether, these Christians are actively included and empowered to minister within their own communities. And as they work together to build new ways of sharing God's Word through spoken language, their communities are being radically transformed by the gospel.

Stories that Heal

"My friend Sandy* had been visiting Syrian refugee women in her town for a few months. As Sandy continued talking to the women, she realized that they had come from very difficult situations. The women were hurting—hurting from losing their homes, their possessions, their way of life, and even some of their family members. Sandy learned to facilitate the trauma healing program *New Hope: Multiplying Healing to Wounded Hearts*. The Bible stories in *New Hope* have opened up conversations with the women that she could not have had otherwise.



Syrian refugee with her kids.

"Now, when the women have problems, they are willing for the believers in the group to pray with them in Jesus' name. Their favorite thing to do, even more than talking about their own lives, is to act out each story. It helps the women form a stronger community. Through the program, about four of them have become believers. The women say that it was the realization that Jesus is always with them, walking with them, that helped them want to follow him."

—Worker in Central Asia

“So faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the message about Christ” (Rom. 10:17 HCSB).

1 EAST ASIA. Workers are being forced to move. Churches are being raided, pastors arrested, and church members threatened. Please pray that God will protect workers and that he will make local Christians courageous to stand firm.

2 SOUTHEAST ASIA. Please pray for the unsung heroes who work behind the scenes in logistics and administration. Currently, they are in great need of much wisdom, discernment, and cultural sensitivity in their interactions with the administrative bureaus.

3 ORAL CULTURES. The StoryTogether project for the majority people in an African nation is near completion! Pray that the team will share the stories boldly and the recorded stories will spread across this country that is closed to the gospel.



StoryTogether projects have been initiated in thirteen languages of the Horn of Africa.

4 BELGIUM. Pray for a young medical student who recently lost a close friend. May she feel the comfort of Christ, and may she know that he is there, waiting with open arms for her to turn to him.

5 ORAL CULTURES. Twenty-four women from four language groups in the Horn of Africa are being transformed by the Word of God. Pray that they will craft more stories as they see their churches and communities healed through the Word.

6 KOLKATA, INDIA. Pray for a Christian woman who's recently been diagnosed with cancer. Pray that God will provide for her and her son through the church.

7 SENEGAL. Pray for Christians living near a school where demonic activity is taking place. Pray that Christ will be proven stronger than all other powers.

8 ORAL CULTURES. In a country torn by civil war, a group of local Christians will learn to bring healing through Bible stories. Pray

for safe spaces to meet with hurting people, and ask that the Holy Spirit will empower them to share with wisdom and courage.

9 NIGER. Pray for peace between the herders and the farmers in this area. Pray especially that Christians will work for peace and understanding

10 ORAL CULTURES. A StoryTogether project began in three minority languages in East Asia in April. Since then, twenty people have given their lives to Christ. Pray that these new Christians will catch a vision for sharing the stories with their friends and family.

11 YEMEN. Pray for an end to war in this country. Pray that the conflicts here will come to a peaceful end.

12 ORAL CULTURES. Pray for teams using a new oral method to translate the Bible into unwritten languages. Pray that the teams will make rapid progress and produce faithful audio translations that will be readily accepted. Pray that God's Word will spread.

13 KAZAKHSTAN. When orphans finally leave the system, they have not learned any life skills. Pray the youth homes and the people trying to help the orphans have good standing in the community and among law-and-order officials.

14 ORAL CULTURES. StoryTogether projects have been initiated in thirteen languages of the Horn of Africa. Of these, eleven have little to no gospel access. Pray that the story crafters in each of these languages will continue to be willing and committed.

15 PERU. Pray for a U.S. church that is just beginning its partnership with a Peruvian church. May they know how to pursue this ministry effectively.

16 ORAL CULTURES. Pray for IMB workers and partners who use mobile apps to deliver Scripture resources in audio and video formats along with print. Pray that they'll grasp the culture and the digital landscape, and that government censorship won't block them.

17 BANGLADESH. Pray for the pastors of Dhaka, that God will provide for them and their families. Ask that they will be unified with one another as well as with their local church body.

18 THAILAND. Pray for a Thai Christian with a passion to reach his community. Pray that he will find favor with the families in his neighborhood.

19 ORAL CULTURES. Pray for the development of a StoryTogether project in Syrian Arabic. Pray for willing and committed local people to serve as story crafters. Pray that they will experience great joy in telling these Bible stories.

20 JAPAN. The Lord continues to show his faithfulness in opening doors of opportunity for workers to partner with local churches and local Christians. Pray that workers will be faithful in making the most of these opportunities.

21 ORAL CULTURES. Pray for missionaries who are adapting pastoral training programs and seminary courses to better serve students from oral cultures. Pray that seminary students will learn to serve effectively in oral cultures.

22 DEAF PEOPLES. Pray for a Deaf Christian in Southeast Asia whose family has thrown him out of the house for following Christ. Pray for his faith to remain strong and for his family's hearts to soften.



The Lord is opening doors of opportunity for workers in Japan.

23 ORAL CULTURES. Pray that Christians in the Philippines will use the Bible stories being developed to evangelize and disciple several Muslim communities. Pray that hearers will connect with the stories at a heart level.

24 ROHINGYA REFUGEES. Pray for successful community development in the refugee camps and cooperation among the leaders, the government officials, the host communities, and the Rohingya refugees.

25 SOUTH KOREA. Pray for South Korea's Christians to reach their society with the gospel, and ask that non-Christians will tire of materialism's empty promises.

26 ORAL CULTURES. Pray for a partnership in South Asia between IMB, a translation organization, and a local organization as they work together to develop sets of oral Bible stories in nine languages.

27 BRAZIL. Lift up the Botafogo section of Rio de Janeiro. The goal is to establish a healthy church in an area with more than 70,000 people, of which less than 1 percent are evangelical Christian.

28 ORAL CULTURES. Pray for the completion of a women's training initiative that is equipping Christian women to minister to wives working on local farms. Teams of South Asian women are developing sets of Bible stories in six languages to address rural women's life issues.

29 DEAF. Pray for a Christian whose single life is strange to the Muslim women where she lives. Pray that awkward questions will lead to gospel conversations.

30 SRI LANKA. Lift up the training opportunities on the field and at the Bible college in the city of Colombo, asking for continued growth for the kingdom.



Young man from Central Asia.

Stories that Reveal

From a worker in Central Asia:

The enthusiastic young man sat across from me in the circle. His story crafting group had just come back from sharing the story of the bleeding woman whom Jesus healed (Mk. 5). He was eager to report.

The day before, his group had discussed whether in a different story they should state that the man possessed by evil spirits had said, "Jesus, son of God." In his community, saying that Jesus is the son of God causes huge controversy. His story crafting group had not been sure if they should include that phrase in one of the first Bible stories they told or wait until they had told several other Bible stories before explicitly introducing that concept. My co-leader and I had assured the group that whatever they decided, telling these Bible stories would soon show the Truth, and there was no need to be afraid of the Truth.

Now, one day later, I wondered what he and his story crafting group would report. When their turn came, he said, awestruck, "I told the story of when Jesus healed the woman who was bleeding. After I told it, the listener said to me, 'From this story, it sounds like Jesus is God.' "

**Names changed*

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