



PRAYERPOINTS

A PRAYING PEOPLE IMPACTING A LOST WORLD

South Asian Peoples

THE LOCAL CHURCH IN SOUTH ASIA IS SMALL IN NUMBER, BUT GOD IS WORKING IN AND THROUGH THEM AS THEY WALK IN OBEDIENCE TO HIM. MANY FACE PERSECUTION, BUT THEY PRESS ON WITH JESUS AS THEIR EXAMPLE OF SUFFERING. THEY LABOR HARD SO THAT ALL THE UNREACHED PEOPLE AROUND THEM WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO HEAR THE GOOD NEWS, REPENT, AND BELIEVE, THEN TAKE UP THEIR CROSS AND FOLLOW CHRIST.

Third-Generation Believer Sees God Working (Even in Persecution)

The Apostle Paul exhorted Timothy to share in suffering and to not be ashamed because, regardless of the chains the body might have to endure, the Word of God can never be bound (2 Timothy 2:9). Proclamation of the gospel and persecution go hand in hand in the New Testament and, as God grows His church in South Asia, believers continue to see that this is true.

A South Asian brother, Ravi,* is a third-generation believer. Years ago, Ravi's grandfather left his Hindu idols and came to faith in Christ after hearing the gospel from Europeans whom his family had invited into their home. The family

faced immediate persecution and had to flee their village. Later, Ravi's dad became a pastor, then Ravi also chose to follow Jesus. An IMB worker began to meet with Ravi and teach him how to share the gospel, disciple believers, train leaders, and plant healthy churches.

Now, Ravi labors to take the gospel to those around him who have never heard about Jesus. He says that the work is hard these days because people are suspicious. Local authorities go town to town asking if anyone is gathering to worship Jesus. Ravi said that Christians often fear persecution "because other people want to harm us and force us to deny Jesus. But for those who want to follow Christ and make their stand firm, our Lord helps those people. The situation is hard, but the Lord is doing His work."

Pray for believers in South Asia to "be sober minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist [and] fulfill (their) ministry" (2 Timothy 4:5).



A South Asian pastor leads a Bible study in an apartment building.



1 SOUTH ASIAN PEOPLES. While Islam is the required religion in Maldives, there are a few known Maldivian believers among the approximately 418,000 people. Pray that God will build His church in the Maldives and that believers will boldly witness to others.

2 OSAKA, JAPAN. Sam* is popular in the community and helps the Osaka City Team and the church there, even though he's not a Christian. Pray that God continues to bless this relationship. Pray for Sam and many others in the community to trust in Christ.

3 MIXTECS OF GUERRERO, MEXICO. Pray that the Mixtec believers in Southern Guerrero will grow in their faith and that many new followers of Christ will emerge. Pray for the believers to share their faith in boldness with nonbelieving villagers.

4 SOUTH ASIAN PEOPLES. Praise God that previously unengaged people groups throughout Gujarat, India, have recently had opportunities to hear the gospel! Pray for the Holy Spirit to continue working there as more hear the Good News, repent, and believe in Christ.

5 SHIA OF IRAQ AND BEYOND. Many Iraqi Shia live in war and chaos. Pray that Jesus will be their peace and that He will be exalted in the lives of Iraqis. Pray that God will raise up a multitude of Iraqi believers who love Him and make His name known.

6 SOUTH ASIAN PEOPLES. Despite the challenges that Christians in

Bhutan face, many desire to reach their communities with the gospel. Pray for God to draw the people of Bhutan to Himself and encourage believers to continue to take up their cross and follow Him.

7 TURKS OF GERMANY. Turkish churches in Germany need godly, male leadership. Pray for the ongoing evangelism efforts among Turkish men. Pray, also, for wisdom for these churches as they disciple and train potential leaders to shepherd the flock well.

8 DEAF PEOPLES. Workers visited a province in Southeast Asia, where they met with the local Deaf Association and a Deaf brother in prison. They shared the Good News as they went and met many new Deaf friends who asked them to return! Pray for a Deaf church to be planted there soon.

9 SOUTH ASIAN PEOPLES. The Thammadi are an unengaged, unreached people group in India. Traditionally, they are Hindu priests who worship Shiva. Pray that the Thammadi will hear the gospel and trust in Jesus as their High Priest, who died for them.

10 PARIS, FRANCE. France is home to many people groups, the majority of which are unreached. Pray that the church in Paris will be discipled in relationships then go and make disciples of the millions of people living in Paris and the Ile-de-France region.

11 EAST ASIAN UNENGAGED PEOPLES. The Dzalakha (zah-lah-cah) people of Bhutan worship lifeless idols with no guarantee of receiving eternal forgiveness. Pray that they will hear and understand that Jesus offers what they are seeking, turn to Him, and be saved.

12 BAPTIST CONVENTIONS OF THE CENTRAL SAHEL (WEST AFRICA). Terrorist groups have attacked local churches, leaving survivors in fear of the next attack. Pray for the area's

Baptist convention to support their churches and pastors. Pray for churches to live strong in their faith rather than in fear.

13 SOUTH ASIAN PEOPLES. The Byangsi of Nepal are a small people group in the northwestern region of the Himalayas. There are still no known believers among them, and they are very closed to the gospel. Pray that God will soften their hearts to receive the gospel.

14 TAJIKS OF AFGHANISTAN. A Tajik family have had the gospel present in their lives for over 10 years. Pray that the seeds that have been planted in that family's lives will take root, grow, and produce fruit. Ask that they will surrender their lives to Christ.

15 RUSSIAN-SPEAKING JEWS OF RUSSIA, ISRAEL AND BEYOND. A local believer boldly shared his faith with Sasha,* who began to attend church and study the Bible with him. Months later, Sasha trusted Jesus and was baptized! Pray for Sasha to grow in the Lord and for him to be a light to others.



16 YANGON, MYANMAR. Many don't have access to clean water in rural Yangon. Recently, dozens of people received clean water filters and heard the gospel. Pray that they will think about what they heard, and ask that God will open their hearts to His truth.

17 SOUTH ASIAN PEOPLES. Pray for the church in Pakistan to go and share the gospel. Ask that those who hear and believe will be taught early to abide in Christ through prayer, time in the Word, and fellowship with believers. Pray for a great harvest in Pakistan!

18 EUROPEAN DIASPORA OF SOUTH AMERICA. There are 45 million Italian Brazilians who need to hear the gospel. Pray for a missionary team and local Baptist churches to be active in evangelism and disciple-making. Ask that many Italian Brazilians will hear and believe the gospel.

19 SOUTH ASIAN PEOPLES. Sri Lanka is a beautiful island nation gripped by the enemy through idolatry. Pray that the church in Sri Lanka will go and share the gospel with the millions of lost people around them, despite the threat of persecution.

20 DEAF PEOPLES. Pray that three women in Central Asia will accept the Savior into their hearts. They know about the gospel, but they are still holding on to worldly things. They are like lost sheep trying to find the Shepherd.

21 SOUTH ASIAN PEOPLES. Believers living in rural South Asia tend to face more intense persecution than those living in cities. People more easily notice when typical forms of community worship are not followed. Pray that God will give believers peace and wisdom.

22 PERSIAN PEOPLES OF THE WESTERN DIASPORA. A group of Persian new believers in northern

Europe gather weekly to study the Word, worship, and pray as a church. However, the church is experiencing conflict. Pray for these new believers as they learn biblical conflict resolution.

witnesses for the Lord. Pray for healthy churches to be planted across that land.

27 GLOBAL CROSSROADS, AMERICAN PEOPLES. A Baptist representative team and a local believer



23 ANGOLA. God's Word has been translated into many languages spoken in Angola. But IMB personnel discovered that Bibles are hard to find in parts of the country. Pray for wisdom in knowing how to buy and distribute Bibles where they are most needed.

24 SOUTH ASIAN PEOPLES. Pray for the remote people groups scattered across the Andaman and Lakshadweep islands off the coast of India. Ask God to call out laborers to reach them and share the Word with them so that they can hear and read the truth of the gospel.

25 EAST ASIAN PEOPLES. Pray for God to help East Asian Christian immigrants bridge the language and culture gap between their children and themselves so that the children can be discipled by their parents and learn how to live for Christ, even in a new country.

26 SOUTH ASIAN PEOPLES. Despite being a Muslim-majority nation, Bangladesh still has opportunities for the gospel to go forth. Ask that believers in Bangladesh will be bold

plan to start teaching English classes in Getafe, Spain. Pray that relationships will form among the team and the families that participate. Pray for open doors to share the gospel.

28 SOUTHERN YEMENI ARABS OF YEMEN. Mountain women in southern Yemen are known for making and selling delicious goat cheese and for not veiling their faces as the city women do. Pray that they will hear about Jesus, accept Him as Savior, and spread the gospel across Yemen.

29 SOUTH ASIAN PEOPLES. Many South Asians have made their homes around the world where Christians live. Pray for the church to actively share the love of Christ and the message of the cross with their South Asian neighbors. Ask that many will follow Him as Lord.

30 MALONG OF THE PHILIPPINES. A lost Malong couple works abroad in a country that is closed to the gospel, but they've been responding positively to the Word. Ask God to bring local believers to them to answer their questions. Ask that they will bravely follow Christ.

Church Planters in India Try to Find the Unseen Chhattisgarhi-Speaking Badhai

The 807,000 Chhattisgarhi-speaking Badhai are distinct among the diverse people groups of India. Traditionally, they are craftsmen who claim lineage from a Hindu deity. But while the Indian authority's records confirm the existence of Chhattisgarhi-speaking Badhai people across the state of Chhattisgarh, the Badhai remain invisible.

During a recent push to initiate work among this people group, local believers were not able to locate or identify any Badhai. They are still considered to be an unengaged, unreached people with no known believers. There is not even a church planting strategy to reach them. How can they believe in the one of



Believers often gather in homes in South Asia.

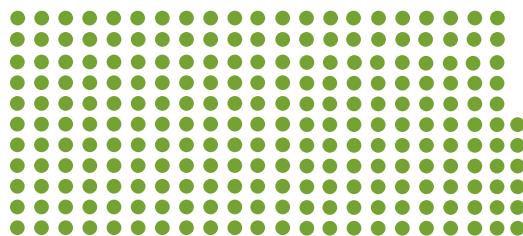
whom they have never heard? How can they hear if their existence is not noticed? Pray that Indian believers will locate and have meaningful interactions with Chhattisgarhi-speaking Badhai. Pray for Indian leaders and workers as they implement a church-planting strategy among them. Ask the Lord for His gospel to spread until every unseen Badhai is found.

*Names changed

SOUTH ASIAN PEOPLES

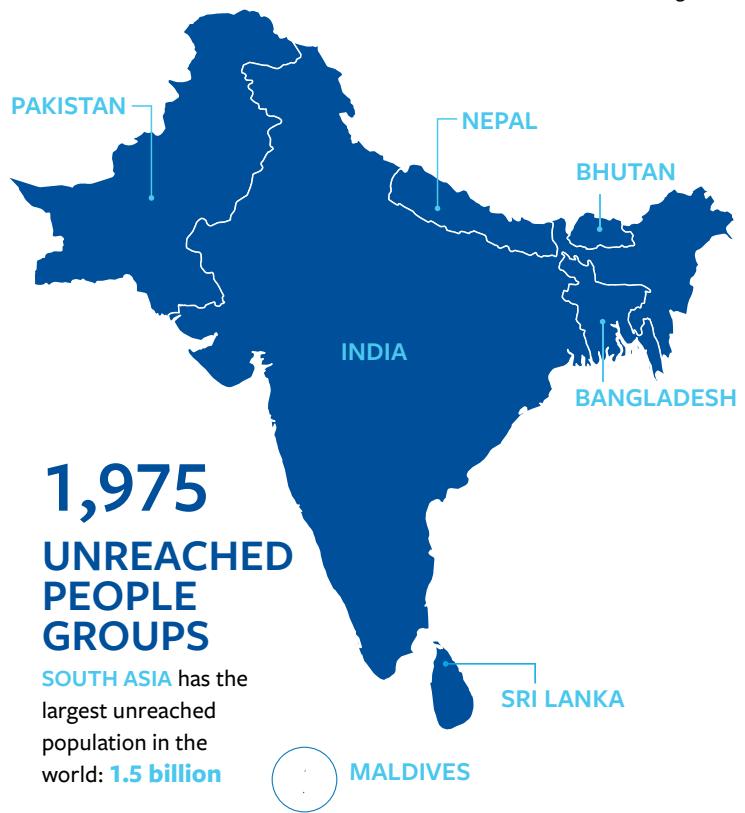
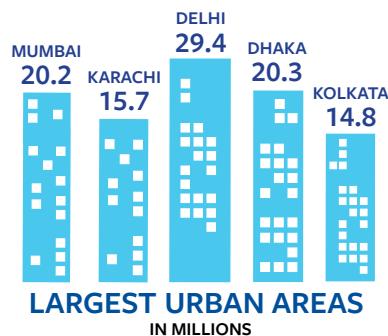
EVERY WEEK

237,000 people in South Asia die without Christ.



ONE DOT = 1,000 PEOPLE

1.7 BILLION PEOPLE



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