

PRAYERPOINTS

A PRAYING PEOPLE IMPACTING A LOST WORLD

Sub-Saharan Africa's UUPG Goal of "55 in 5"

LEADERSHIP IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA SET A FIVE-YEAR GOAL OF ENGAGING 55 UNREACHED UNENGAGED PEOPLE GROUPS (UUPGS) WITH THE GOSPEL. TO REACH THIS GOAL, CALLED "55 IN 5," WE MUST FIRST COMMIT TO PRAYING FOR AND LEARNING ABOUT THESE UUPGS. A PEOPLE GROUP IS UNREACHED AND UNENGAGED BECAUSE CHRIST IS LARGELY UNKNOWN AND THERE IS NO LOCAL CHURCH ABLE TO ENGAGE THEM AND MAKE HIM KNOWN WITHOUT OUTSIDE HELP. INTERCESSION IS THE FIRST STEP TOWARDS ENGAGEMENT. **WILL YOU JOIN US IN PRAYING?**

How God provided workers for the harvest in western Madagascar

by Ben Sprankle, IMB worker

I sat at a table listening to a Malagasy doctor who had been helicoptering into a difficult area, offering medical check-ups and desiring to plant churches. Tears filled my eyes. I was used to hearing missionary stories, yet this story was hitting very close to home. Was he talking about the same area that I once worked? I questioned, already knowing the answer. God was at work.

Years ago, I traveled alongside Malagasy pastors to numerous villages making plans for planting churches, but before the work was complete, the Lord changed my direction and called me to another work. As the Malagasy pastors set goals to keep working, I knew it would be extremely difficult for them to reach certain geographical areas, but I kept praying for God to send more workers.



Children wear traditional sunscreen in the area where the Malagasy doctor visits for church planting and medical clinics.

Now, months later, visiting with this doctor and hearing about his work, God's plan came into focus. Where my plans were cut short, His began. This is not a coincidence – it's how God works. He provides workers for His harvest when we ask Him. As I was leaving the area, God was providing more workers for the harvest field of western Madagascar.

We are praying to engage 55 UUPGs in

the next five years, and three of them are located in eastern Madagascar: Antefasy, Antesaka, and Sihanaka. There are a few known churches in one of these areas but none in the others. These are fields filled with a history of ancestor worship and varying taboos, a region desperately in need of God's truth. God hasn't abandoned them. He is preparing His people. His church is ready to go; we just need to ask them to be sent!

1 UUPGS OF SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA. A few evangelical churches are spreading the truth among the Antefasy, Antesaka, and Sihanaka in Madagascar. Pray that these congregations will have confidence in God's Word, power from His Spirit, victory in spiritual warfare, and success in gospel witness.

2 NORWEGIANS OF NORWAY. Connect Sandefjord is a church plant in Norway. As they gather each Monday, pray that their new rental space will allow for more people to attend weekly church services, for the church to be a blessing to the surrounding community, and for godly fellowship and worship.

3 YOKOHAMA, JAPAN. Frank* had little family to celebrate his 80th birthday, but his missionary neighbors offered treats and gospel materials about God's purpose for his life. Pray that he will believe that it's never too late to turn to Christ. Ask God to open Frank's heart to trust Him.

4 SERBS OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA. Serbs of Bosnia and Herzegovina are one of the least reached people in Europe, with less than 0.1 percent evangelical. Most are culturally Orthodox. Evangelicals are ridiculed as being part of a cult. Pray for the small churches to thrive, even in the face of ridicule.

5 JULA OF COTE D'IVOIRE, BURKINA FASO, AND MALI. The Jula of Burkina Faso carry much influence but remain very resistant to the gospel. Pray for Jula-speaking believers to be bold in their witness and missional in their mindset. Ask God to give them many opportunities to share their faith.

6 IMB MISSIONARIES. Missionaries cannot produce spiritual fruit by themselves. When they try to, pride and frustration can easily take over. Pray that they will keep their eyes on Christ and rely on the work of the Holy Spirit to produce spiritual fruit.



7 TAJIK OF UZBEKISTAN. Believers who recently visited Uzbekistan have found that even after years of persecution, the Tajik church in Uzbekistan has survived and grown. Pray that believers will faithfully take advantage of this open door for the advancement of the gospel.

8 DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO (DRC). There are no known believers among the Salampasu of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The Salampasu live in rural villages and worship ancestors. Pray for Congolese Christians to cross cultural and religious barriers to share the gospel with the Salampasu.

9 PEOPLES OF NORTHERN MALUKU ISLANDS, INDONESIA. Peoples of the northern Maluku Islands in Indonesia are hard to reach, very closed to outsiders, and extremely secretive about their traditional religious practices. They will only be reached via great sacrifice, desperate reliance upon the Lord, and abundant prayer.

10 UUPGS OF SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA. Pray that God will open the eyes of the Antefasy, Antesaka, and Sihanaka people to His truth and remove the ancient strongholds of ancestor worship and fear that hold them in bondage. Pray that they will know Him as their Father (Romans 8:15).

11 VENEZUELAN DIASPORA. Many Venezuelan believers who have left their country are emigrating purposefully to places that are unreached and are planting churches where they land. Pray for fruitfulness. Ask for God's bountiful blessings over them as they seek welcome and favor in new countries.

12 SOUTH ASIAN PEOPLES. Bangladesh is slightly smaller in size than the state of Iowa and is home to 163 million people. Less than 1 percent of them are Christian. Ask God to bring Bangladeshis out of sin and despair by His grace. Pray for believers there who often fear persecution.



13 IMB MISSIONARIES. Computer issues and slow internet are common problems while living overseas, especially for those living in isolated areas. Pray for missionaries to be patient with their circumstances. Ask that they will depend on God's timing and provision, even with technology.

14 JERBA OF TUNISIA. Since the Arab conquest of North Africa over 1,300 years ago, the Jerba of Tunisia have practiced Islam. There are no known efforts to reach them with the gospel, and little is known about the status of believers. Pray that the Jerba will hear the gospel.

15 UUPGS OF SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA. The Suba of Tanzania are fishermen along the shores of Lake Victoria. They maintain their animal totems as a sacred relationship. Pray that God will call out believers to evangelize and disciple the Suba, resulting in multiplying, healthy churches.

16 LAST FRONTIER. Susan,* a refugee, was trapped and sold as a bride twice. She escaped this abuse and met a Christian who shared the gospel with her. She decided to follow Christ, and finally experienced true love, hope, and peace. Pray for Susan and for other vulnerable refugees.

17 DEAF OF TURKMENISTAN. For years, workers have been able to train Deaf leaders from Turkmenistan in Scripture story translation, church planting, and leadership development. The 55,000 Deaf in Turkmenistan often suffer unemployed and discrimination. Pray for their salvation and wellbeing.

18 PEOPLES OF MADAGASCAR. Pray that church leaders in Madagascar will learn more about the God they love and serve so that they can teach others. Give thanks for the few believers there, and pray that more will come to know God. (Psalm 86:9)

19 GERMANY. Four church plants have recently started in Hamburg and Bremen, Germany, where over 6 million people live. Pray that these church plants will reach the 99.2 percent of the culture that is lost and embolden the 0.8 percent that is saved.

20 UUPGS OF SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA. The town of Sokodé, the historic Togolese Islamic capital, is also known as the central location for 438,000 Kotokoli people. Sokodé is a hotbed for political and ethnic violence, which sends ripples throughout the region. Pray for peace and reconciliation.

21 CHINANTEC OF MEXICO. The Chinantec of Mexico have homes of mud or log huts with thatched roofs. They mix traditional beliefs with the worship of spirits, especially those who bring rain and good crops. Ask God to show them that following Him in pure worship is the desire of His heart.



22 UUPGS OF SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA. The dense jungles of Gabon's interior are challenging for those seeking to take the gospel to the unreached peoples living there, such as the Northern Teke. Pray for more workers who will carry the gospel deep into the heart of Gabon and to the Teke people.

23 ISRAELI JEWS OF ISRAEL. Only .5 percent of Israeli Jews believe in Jesus as the Messiah. Even those who question Judaism fear that believing in Him will betray their Jewish identity that their forebearers died to protect. Pray for Israeli Jews, who are so loved by God, to believe the truth.

24 MEBO OF LAOS. The Mebo of Laos often use "spirit houses," which look like ornate birdhouses, to leave gifts of food and drink to appease their ancestors. Pray that the Mebo will hear the gospel and turn to the Holy Spirit who is more powerful than any other spirit that they fear.

25 UUPGS OF SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA. The Fulakunda of Senegal are overwhelmingly Muslim. Pray that the Fulakunda will come to understand the gospel through written Scripture or oral traditions. Pray that the women, who influence the home, will discern truth from false teaching.

26 IMB MISSIONARIES. Thanksgiving is a meaningful time for missionaries to share their gratefulness for God's presence and

provision. Pray that the Lord will open doors through this holiday season, that gospel seeds will be planted, and that God will bring forth growth.

27 SOUTH ASIAN MUSLIM MEDIA OUTREACH. Aqas,* a new believer, was cut off from his believing friends for a while. During that time, God provided Christian television for him. He said that he would watch all night while his family was sleeping. Pray for him to keep growing and to lead his family to Christ!

28 UUPGS OF SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA. Pray for the Lord of the harvest to send workers into His harvest field in Madagascar. Pray that believers will obediently rise up to proclaim the gospel among the Antefasy, Antesaka, and Sihanaka, resulting in many healthy churches (Matthew 9:38).

29 DEAF PEOPLES. A worker attended the Buddhist funeral of a Deaf man's father. In that culture, having an elaborate funeral and paying respects can help a person reach heaven. Pray for Deaf Buddhists to see the futility of their funeral rituals and trust in Christ alone for salvation.

30 UUPGS OF SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA. The Tswa of Zimbabwe live with great pressure to follow their traditional African religion. Pray that the Tswa will know their need for Jesus as their Savior, trusting in Him instead of trusting in spirits. Pray for faith in God that will bring about true heart change.

African believers finally met people of a UUPG they'd been praying for

by Parker Phillips, IMB worker

The Trucker Team is a group of believers who are passionate for reaching the truck driver community across West Africa with the gospel. The team in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso has been diligently praying for the Kotokoli, an unengaged unreached people group from a neighboring country, Togo. Recently, a text came across the team members' phones: "Look everyone! I found a bunch of Kotokoli!"

This team understands that when a gospel seed is planted in a trucker's heart, especially one from another country, the seed can grow and bear fruit among peoples and places they can't reach on their own. That is why they go back



"Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."

(Matthew 9:38, ESV)

The Trucker Team in Burkina Faso shares the gospel with a group of Kotokoli men at a truck stop in the capital, Ouagadougou.

week after week to share stories from God's Word with truck drivers. After praying for a chance to share with the Kotokoli, the team rejoiced that they were not only able to find one person from this people group, but an entire group sitting together! Pray for the Trucker Team to have many opportunities to share the gospel with the Kotokoli!

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN PEOPLES

1 BILLION PEOPLE

PRIMARY RELIGIONS



23% MUSLIM

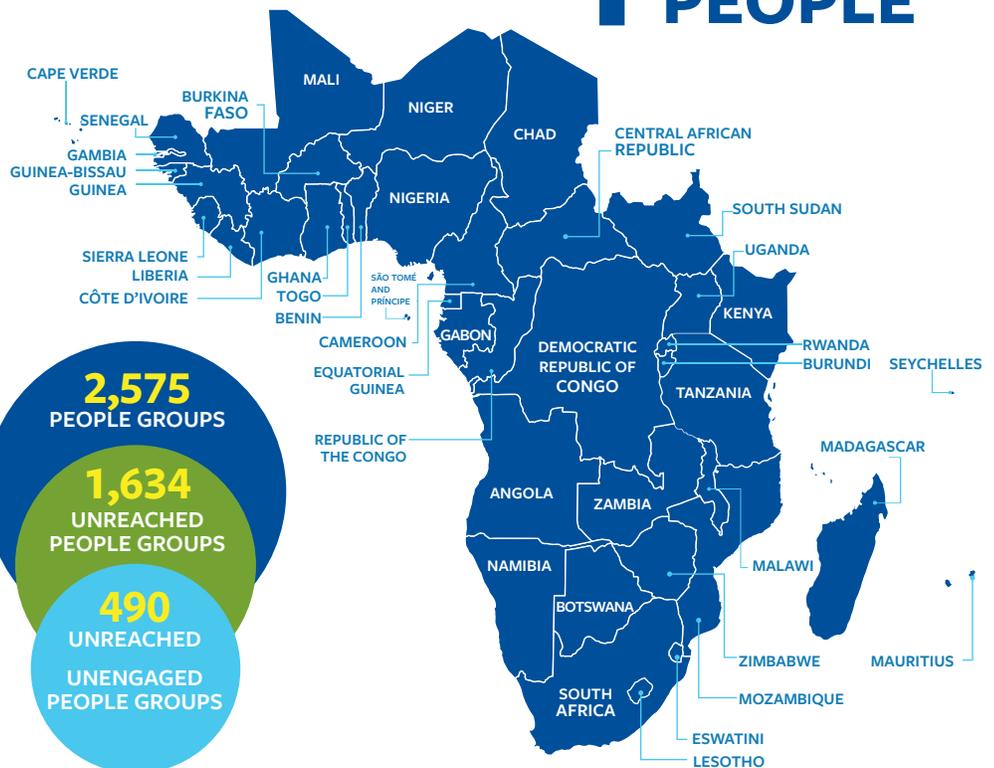
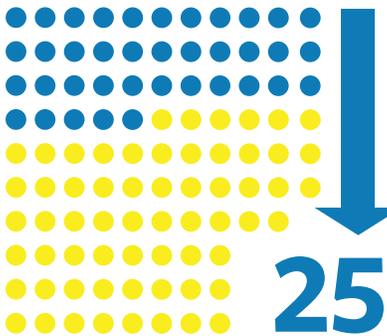


47% CHRISTIAN



30% ANIMIST

62% OF THE POPULATION IS UNDER THE AGE OF



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*Names changed CG 16M 9/20 P7422-11