imb ANNUAL STATISTICAL REPORT

Reporting on 2020 Data

A multitude from every nation, tribe, people and language VISION (Rev. 7:9-10)
VISION SSION

Camming out the G knowing and worshiping our Lord Jesus Christ

To serve Southern Baptists in carrying out the Great Commission to make disciples of all nations

STRATEGIC ANCHORS

Advance the missionary task among unreached peoples and places

Advance relationships with Southern Baptists and global partners

Advance efficiency and effectiveness of global operations



Dear Partners,

In Revelation 7:9, the Apostle John describes a vision of a great multitude from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. The IMB exists to serve Southern Baptists as we work together to usher in this beautiful picture of heaven

This Annual Statistical Report (ASR) provides a glimpse of how God was at work through our missionaries during a difficult year. We celebrate with you the new IMB missionaries sent, new believers professing faith in Christ, new churches planted, and leaders trained for the task of carrying out the Great Commission to the ends of the earth. The result of a global research effort, the ASR helps us continually evaluate the opportunities of the harvest fields, as well as the peoples and places where there is still not a witness for Christ.

We thank God for our partners in the USA and around the world who pray, give, send and go for His name's sake. And we ask for your prayers as we make strategic decisions about where to send missionaries and resources to see the Kingdom advanced. Much is at stake since every day, 155,473 souls enter eternity with no hope. For their sake, we work together to see the Revelation 7:9 vision fulfilled.

As you read through this report, join me in praising God for the significant impact your IMB missionaries are making in getting the gospel to the nations. And please prayerfully consider how God is calling you to reach the unreached today.

Paul Chitwood

Global Highlights



18,380
NEW CHURCHES PLANTED





144,322

NEW BELIEVERS



86,587

BAPTISMS



127,155

RECEIVED LEADERSHIP TRAINING



3,552

TOTAL FIELD PERSONNEL



769,494

HEARD GOSPEL WITNESS



576,395

OPPORTUNITIES TO RESPOND

Affinity Table of Contents - Click on the page numbers to jump directly to an Affinity

SOUTH ASIAN PEOPLES



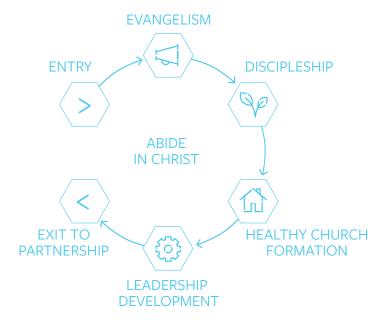
THE FORMAT: This annual statistical report based on 2020 data looks initially at global totals and trends. Then each of the nine global affinities that make up the global totals are examined in greater detail. The report and associated numbers are based upon ministry faithfulness and the resulting impact in the six core components of the missionary task. The numbers and examples provided represent work done by IMB personnel or their baptistic partners as reported by IMB field leaders. Care has been taken to provide accurate numbers that represent IMB's commitment, like the Apostle Paul, not to report on work done outside of the sphere apportioned to us by the Lord (2 Cor 10:12-18).

THE NUMBERS: The large numbers display the 2020 statistic for each category. Approximate population numbers and dying daily numbers are calculated using United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs 2020 World Population Prospects and IMB global population and evangelical Christian estimates. The total personnel number includes all field personnel employed by the IMB plus team associates. Team associates are individuals or couples who are part of an IMB missionary team after being assessed and job-matched, but who are not funded by the IMB.

*Names marked with an asterisk have been changed for security.

Global Progress

Six Components of the Missionary Task





ENTRY

PEOPLE GROUPS

11,947

Trend Analysis - Entry is more than simply getting access to people groups. Plans for entry developed by IMB missionaries and their partners are carefully thought through to help the people groups of the world make progress in the other five components of the missionary task. Since 2020, IMB has collaborated with other evangelical partners on systems to track all activities in the missionary task among each of the world's people groups and places. This ongoing effort to track engagement will soon help Christians see more clearly where the gospel has not penetrated and where the church is not yet.

PEOPLE GROUPS ENGAGED*

7,058

K

EVANGELISM

HEARD WITNESS

769,494

Trend Analysis - In 2020, despite fewer face-to-face opportunities, IMB missionaries and partners found innovative, often virtual, ways to present the gospel. Globally, the number who heard a gospel witness increased 43.7% over the previous year. Our personnel developed virtual processes allowing follow-up and initial discipleship. The Lord clearly moved in the hearts of those who heard as the number of new believers reported increased by 61.6%.

BECAME BELIEVERS

144,322

DISCIPLESHIP

BAPTIZED

86,587

Trend Analysis - With a marked increase in new churches came an increase in disciples in 2020. Both the number of baptisms and the number of individuals studying the Bible have nearly doubled. Several software tools that track progress along the discipleship continuum have helped IMB personnel and partners continue to disciple believers despite the realities of a COVID world.

BIBLE STUDY PARTICIPANTS

353,860



HEALTHY CHURCH FORMATION

NEW GROUPS FORMED

11,333

CHURCH PLANTING

TRAINING

55,304

Trend Analysis - The Lord continues to grow His church across the globe! Healthy church diagramming methodology and software tools assist IMB missionaries and Indigenous partners transition new groups to churches. We rejoice to see how the continued spread of the gospel is leading to healthy Indigenous and autonomous baptistic churches!

NEW CHURCHES STARTED

18,380



LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Trend Analysis - In 2020, the number of individuals who received some form of leadership development training, including advanced theological education, pastoral and church planting trainings has increased. The number of leaders trained increased as discipleship and healthy church formation increased, demonstrating the close link between church health

ADVANCED
THEOLOGICAL TRAINING

51,101



and the equipping of leaders.

AUTONOMOUS Trand Analysis Seeing be

140

BAPTIST CONVENTIONS

WORLDWIDE

Trend Analysis - Seeing healthy autonomous churches move the missionary relationship from mentor to peer is cause for great celebration. Through an intentional effort, the IMB Globalization team recently began consulting with Baptist partners, networks, and conventions to encourage them to expand and embrace their roles in the Great Commission. In 2020, the first 12 Global Missionary Partners* were matched to serve alongside IMB field teams with a goal of 500 GMPs by 2025.

EXIT

PEOPLE GROUPS ENGAGING OTHER PEOPLE GROUPS

130

* Global Missionary Partners (GMPs) are non-US-based Baptist missionaries.

4

^{*}people groups currently engaged by either IMB or Great Commission Partners

Global Realities

From 1700 to 2000 AD,

15.9 billion

people have lived on the earth.

However, we estimate that over

24.9 billion

will live between 2000 and 2100 AD.

This means that 9 billion more people will be alive in the next hundred years than were alive during the previous 300. In this century, the need to sow the gospel abundantly, make obedient disciples, and plant healthy multiplying churches is unparalleled.

We are praying that the Lord would use the present difficulties to open a wider door for the truth... But if the door is opened, who is there to enter it? I fear that we will be compelled to mourn over the sight of populous cities, towns & villages where the Gospel might be preached without much opposition, still left ignorant of Jesus. A mighty harvest dead ripe for eternity, but no laborers to gather it!

- Rosewell Hobart Graves

FMB Missionary to China for 56 years in 19 August 1857 letter to FMB Corresponding Secretary James B. Taylor

Sources: Population Reference Bureau (PRB) and UN Data Population Projections.

GLOBAL POPULATION **7,809,354,098**

155,473 DYING DAILY WITHOUT CHRIST

(2 people every second)



Picture everyone

in Springfield, Massachusetts, and Jackson, Mississippi, dying in one day.

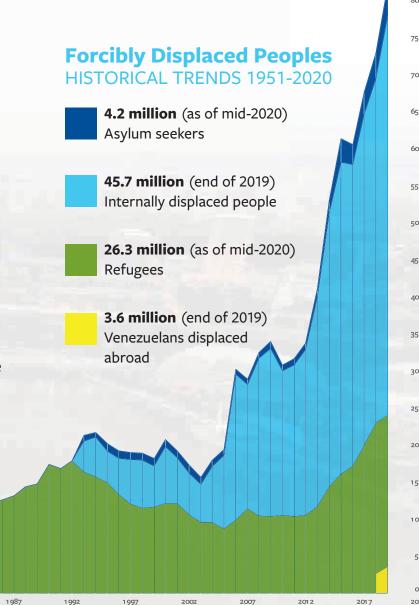
Growth and death rate data from United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2019). World Population Prospects 2019, Online Edition. Rev. 1.

79.8 million people are forcibly displaced worldwide.

Forcibly displaced peoples are refugees, asylum seekers and internally displaced peoples (IDPs) and are among the estimated one billion migrants on the move today. Unfortunately, the number of forcibly displaced people is expected to increase in the coming decade due to global economic and political realities.

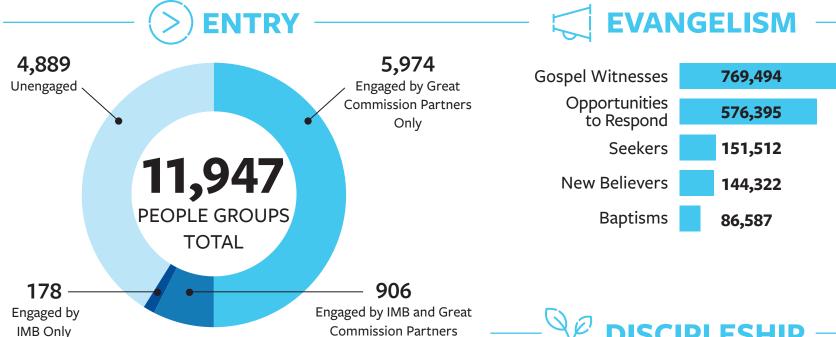
Making up only 8% of the total people on the move worldwide, the forcibly displaced represent the majority of the remaining Unengaged Unreached People Group* (UUPG) population. Forcibly displaced peoples tend to resettle in countries more accessible to missionaries, potentially opening the door for these UUPGs to have access to the gospel for the first time!

Forcibly displaced peoples often move through unsafe informal corridors and require unique ministry approaches. 60% of refugees and 80% of IDPs settle in urban areas. Mission strategies are adjusting to target these groups with the gospel where they have settled and to mobilize any existing believers within the groups to engage their own people.



* UUPGs are people groups who are unreached with less than two percent evangelical Christian population and where there are no active church planting strategies. Data Source: United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Refugee Population Statistics Database (https://www.unhcr.org/refugee-statistics/).

Global Summaries



3,105

Unengaged Unreached People Groups (UUPGs)*

1,400 Indigenous peoples and urban centers engaged

by IMB teams

7,283

Unreached People Groups (UPGs)**

247

New Indigenous engagements of people groups or urban centers

DISCIPLESHIP

353,860

Ongoing Bible Study participants

56,175

Being personally mentored

HEALTHY CHURCH FORMATION

New Groups	11,333
Groups	48,082
New Churches	18,380
1 st Generation	2,432
2 nd Generation	1,529
3 rd Generation and higher	14,419
Total Churches	78,368
1 st Generation	20,635
2 nd Generation	6,637
3 rd Generation and higher	51,096
Baptized Believers Meeting	496,832

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT





IMB ENGAGEMENT IS NO LONGER NECESSARY FOR SUSTAINABLE GROWTH

Indigenous people groups reverted to unengaged status due to loss of engagement

Indigenous people groups are engaging other people groups **inside** their own country

176

Indigenous people groups have self-sustaining ownership in the missionary task

Indigenous people groups are engaging other people groups outside their own country

^{*} UUPGs are people groups who are unreached with less than two percent evangelical Christian population and where there are no active church planting strategies. ** UPGs are people groups with less than two percent evangelical Christian population and where there are ongoing church planting strategies.



Highlights | AMERICAN PEOPLES







70,232
HEARD GOSPEL WITNESS



68,051
OPPORTUNITIES TO RESPOND



17,290NEW BELIEVERS



164

BAPTISMS



1,131
LEADERSHIP TRAININGS



Stories from the field | AMERICAN PEOPLES



Fleeing from devastation in their home country, an estimated 596,000 Venezuelans made their way to Lima, Peru. COVID-19 has wreaked havoc on this vulnerable population. Burdened by the plight of these refugees, IMB missionaries have partnered with Send Relief and local churches to provide food and present the good news of Jesus Christ. Since April 2020, scores of Venezuelans in Lima have come to Christ and now IMB missionaries, partnering with local churches, are starting new discipleship groups. One Peruvian pastor has started a "soon to be church" using Zoom.



EVANGELISM

Dios Te Contesta (God Answers You) is a social media project designed to reach the youth of the Americas with the gospel. Beginning with a pilot project in Guadalajara, Mexico, we have used social media to connect with those who want to know more about Jesus. After engaging in deeper one-onone conversations, many people have come to salvation and we have been able to disciple the new believers. The next steps for the project include targeting multiple cities in the Americas and getting U.S. churches to help in earlier stages of the process with online communication.



Mission trips change lives. Through these volunteers, people hear the gospel message and accept Jesus as Lord and Savior. In addition, trip participants' hearts are often changed and many submit themselves to lives of Kingdom service. This past year, volunteer translators sensed the call of God on their lives and began to seek ways to join the Lord in cross-cultural missions. Other volunteers from the U.S. have now applied for full-time missionary service with the IMB, and students have embraced God's call by signing up for Hands On semester missions, Summer Sojourner trips and the Journeyman program.



HEALTHY CHURCH FORMATION —

Deep in the mountains of Oaxaca, Mexico, a tiny band of believers has not allowed the hardships of COVID-19 to deter them from pursuing the vision of a new church plant in their village. With the uncertainty of U.S. ministry partners' returning, one local believer accepted the responsibility to disciple new believers in his village and to faithfully share the message of hope found in Jesus Christ. This believer has embraced these tasks with enthusiasm and is praying for the day when he can worship, in person, with others from his community as a church.



While on an Americas Connect trip to Costa Rica, members of a church in Nevada learned the components of the missionary task. They participated in entry work, evangelism, prayer walking and beginning discipleship. Because of this experience, the Nevada church is planting another church close to their hometown and they are ready to take their first trip to Paraguay, where they will partner with national believers to plant a church. Americas Connect missionaries work side by side with national believers and U.S. believers, developing them to apply the missionary task where they live and around the world.



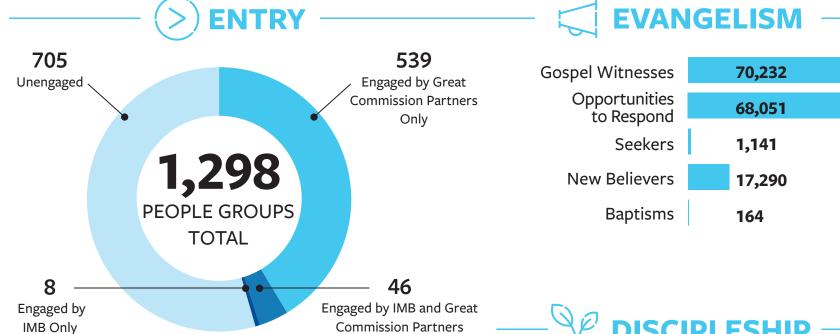
EXIT TO PARTNERSHIP

For years, dedicated IMB missionaries have sought to share the good news with the Kamsa people of Colombia. Seeds have been planted and many have heard; however, the hearts of the people have continued to reject the Truth. As one faithful missionary couple working among this people group moves toward retirement, pray God will raise up more workers to share the gospel with the Kamsa people.

He who goes out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, bringing his sheaves with him.



AMERICAN PEOPLES



Unengaged Unreached People Groups (UUPGs)*

Indigenous peoples and urban centers engaged by IMB teams

358

Unreached People Groups (UPGs)**

New Indigenous engagements of people groups or urban centers

4,189

Ongoing Bible Study participants

Being personally mentored

HEALTHY CHURCH FORMATION

New Groups	40
Groups	126
New Churches	9
1 st Generation	8
2 nd Generation	1
3 rd Generation and higher	0
Total Churches	88
1 st Generation	81
2 nd Generation	7
3 rd Generation and higher	0
Baptized Believers Meeting	3,405

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Pastoral Training **261** Church Planting Training 433 Advanced Training 437 Other Training 7,225



IMB ENGAGEMENT IS NO LONGER NECESSARY FOR SUSTAINABLE GROWTH

Indigenous people groups reverted to unengaged status due to loss of engagement

Indigenous people groups are engaging other people groups **inside** their own country

Indigenous people groups have self-sustaining ownership in the missionary task

Indigenous people groups are engaging other people groups **outside** their own country

EVANGELISM ABIDE IN CHRIST HEALTHY CHURCH FORMATION EXIT TO PARTNERSHIP LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT **CENTRAL ASIAN PEOPLES**

Highlights | CENTRAL ASIAN PEOPLES







39,663
HEARD GOSPEL WITNESS



16,191
OPPORTUNITIES TO RESPOND



2,009NEW BELIEVERS



762BAPTISMS



1,208
LEADERSHIP TRAININGS



Stories from the field | CENTRAL ASIAN PEOPLES



For a number of years, church planting teams have tried to make inroads into one particularly closed region with little success. This year, after being denied entry to the region twice and deciding to try again, an IMB worker stood at the border and told his local friend that God alone is in charge of their comings and goings. The man replied that he better pray, because the government officials were saying "no" yet again. The worker immediately prayed out loud in Jesus' name asking for God's favor. When the local friend asked border guards for permission one last time, he was surprised to hear the word "yes". God is opening doors in Central Asia.



A church planting team received a list of people requesting New Testaments as a result of digital outreach efforts. Before anyone on the team could follow up, a man on the list showed up at a worship time, thanks to the invitation of a local believer —evidence that God was pursuing him through a variety of ways and people. Some workers met up with him a few days later and shared the gospel with him. Within a few weeks he stopped drinking, repented of his sins and began following Christ. He said, "I used to think that I was free, but I was blind.... Through you, the Lord reached me and opened my eyes."



Central Asians understand intuitively the value of life-on-life discipleship. During a COVID-19 lockdown in his town, a pastor welcomed a family from another people group to live in the same house as his family for the purpose of ministry and starting a new house church. A single woman and her children, representing yet another unreached people, also moved in at the same time. Initially an unbeliever, she soon put her faith in Jesus and followed Him in baptism. Every evening the group gathered to read Scripture and pray together, and others from the community began to join them.



Five years ago IMB workers took a vision trip to the heartland of an unreached people group where only a few believers were known to live and no church existed. Since then, three churches have been planted and a number of people have been baptized. One of those new believers tells of reading the Bible online and then having dreams that he couldn't understand. God sent him a friend who was able to explain the dreams. That same friend baptized him in the presence of a number of other believers gathered from the young churches.



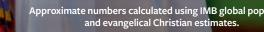
SO LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT —

At a leadership training camp a woman stood to teach a short lesson, supported by other women praying for her. She said, "This is the first time I have ever taught in front of a group." Six years before, this woman had raged against her husband's salvation. Married at 13, her difficult life was not made easier by her husband's decision to follow Jesus. However, God softened her heart and she chose to follow Jesus. She has grown into a woman of the Word and of prayer.



Many Central Asian peoples spent much of 2020 under government quarantine due to COVID-19. Despite this, in an effort led by local believers to bless and evangelize their own people, one unreached group saw more than 13 people come to faith. Several believers who had been out of fellowship returned to church. Over 67 families received food, and more than 30 received copies of Scripture. According to IMB workers, the growth among this group exceeded that of any three month period in years.

And He ordered us to preach to the people, and solemnly to testify that this is the One who has been appointed by God as Judge of the living and the dead.



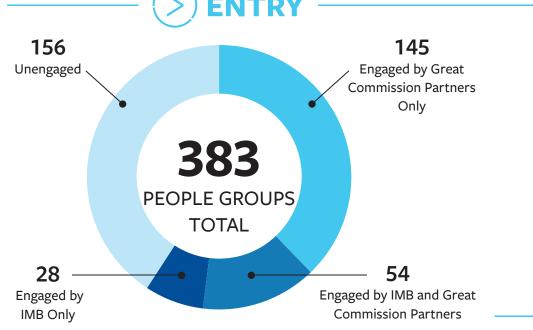
6,627

DYING DAILY

WITHOUT CHRIST

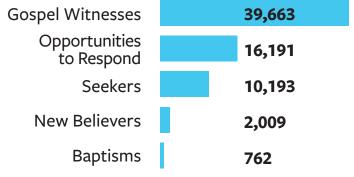
POPULATION **381,851,650**

CENTRAL ASIAN PEOPLES





EVANGELISM





156

Unengaged Unreached People Groups (UUPGs)*

Indigenous peoples and urban centers engaged by IMB teams

378

Unreached People Groups (UPGs)**

New Indigenous engagements of people groups or urban centers 8,243

Ongoing Bible Study participants

661

Being personally mentored

HEALTHY CHURCH FORMATION

New Groups	155
Groups	403
New Churches	30
1 st Generation	26
2 nd Generation	4
3 rd Generation and higher	0
Total Churches	851
1 st Generation	488
2 nd Generation	185
3 rd Generation and higher	178
Baptized Believers Meeting	21,301

Pastoral Training	245
Church Planting Training	564
Advanced Training	399
Other Training	1,393



IMB ENGAGEMENT IS NO LONGER NECESSARY FOR SUSTAINABLE GROWTH

Indigenous people group reverted to unengaged status due to loss of engagement

Indigenous people groups are engaging other people groups **inside** their own country

Indigenous people group has self-sustaining ownership in the missionary task

Indigenous people groups are engaging other people groups outside their own country



Highlights DEAF PEOPLES







4,429
HEARD GOSPEL WITNESS



2,925
OPPORTUNITIES TO RESPOND



189 NEW BELIEVERS



135
BAPTISMS



31
LEADERSHIP TRAININGS



Stories from the field | DEAF PEOPLES

DYING DAILY

VITHOUT CHRIST

POPULATION 69,559,5



C* and Y* were our Deaf partners taking the lead every time we targeted the Deaf community of a previously unengaged city in East Asia. They had established networks and open doors for leading our personnel into places where barriers often existed. They introduced us to the political leader for their area and because of their strong standing within the Deaf community we were able to reach out to over 20 lost Deaf people within days. Soon thereafter the political leader came to faith himself.



S* and B* were fresh off the plane after receiving 6 months of theological training at the Deaf Theological Training Center in the USA. Part of their training involved the translation of Scripture stories into their heart sign language which they quickly took into their Deaf Southeast Asian community to test for naturalness. Within days the stories they shared led to several Deaf in their people group professing Christ and forming a new church in a previously unengaged Deaf community.



Deaf Affinity missionaries in Mexico led Diego* (Deaf) to faith in Christ after many years trapped in the homosexual lifestyle. He had come to many Bible studies and participated in the activities of a local Deaf Christian group that met weekly. It was actually the training that he began to embrace and follow as a disciple that brought him to saving faith and, ultimately, to become a true disciple of Christ.



HEALTHY CHURCH FORMATION —

Martin* and David* are two of our Deaf partners in Eastern Europe. Both had come to faith years earlier because of the witness of IMB missionaries and both had participated in house churches led by Deaf believers. After learning the story set associated with healthy church formation, they began teaching these stories in Czech Sign Language to several of the leaders of other Deaf churches. The impact of these additional passages from the Bible has led each church to be strengthened in practice and vision.

After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands...



LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT —

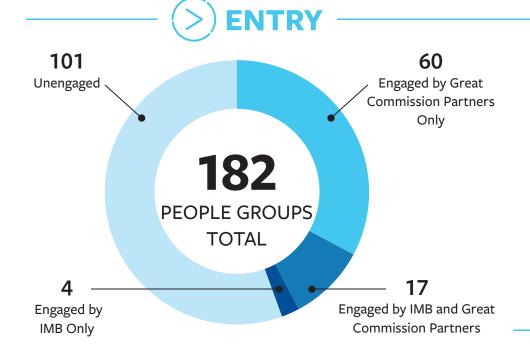
Each year the Deaf Affinity trains up to 6 Deaf international students at the Deaf Theological Center, a partnership between IMB, Brentwood Baptist Church, and Union University, in Brentwood, Tennessee. These Deaf leaders receive the training and tools for church planting that are Deaf-centric, taught in sign language, and provided in a setting for interaction with other Deaf partners. In just a few years nearly 100 Deaf leaders have been trained from 11 different countries around the globe.



EXIT TO PARTNERSHIP

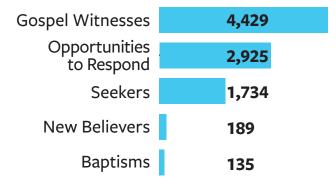
Currently there is no complete Bible in any of the sign languages around the world and efforts toward accomplishing such a task are years down the road. There is a goal to complete 300 Scripture stories in at least 200 sign languages over the next 5-10 years. This number of stories provides a solid foundation for the Deaf of any nation to evangelize, disciple, plant churches, train leaders and send out their own missionaries. Before exit can happen there must be a corpus of Scripture for Deaf churches to follow. The effort to initiate this work has already started in West Africa with KD* and Augustine*, two Deaf believers.

DEAF PEOPLES



1

EVANGELISM





DISCIPLESHIP

101

Unengaged Unreached People Groups (UUPGs)*

21

Indigenous peoples and urban centers engaged by IMB teams

180

Unreached People Groups (UPGs)**

0

New Indigenous engagements of people groups or urban centers

1,738

Ongoing Bible Study participants

94

Being personally mentored

HEALTHY CHURCH FORMATION

New Groups	26
Groups	37
New Churches	10
1 st Generation	10
2 nd Generation	0
3 rd Generation and higher	0
Total Churches	190
1 st Generation	173
2 nd Generation	17
3 rd Generation and higher	0
Baptized Believers Meeting	2,451

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Pastoral Training 13

Church Planting Training 12

Advanced Training 6

Other Training 34



IMB ENGAGEMENT IS NO LONGER NECESSARY FOR SUSTAINABLE GROWTH

0

Indigenous people groups reverted to unengaged status due to loss of engagement

0

Indigenous people groups are engaging other people groups **inside** their own country

0

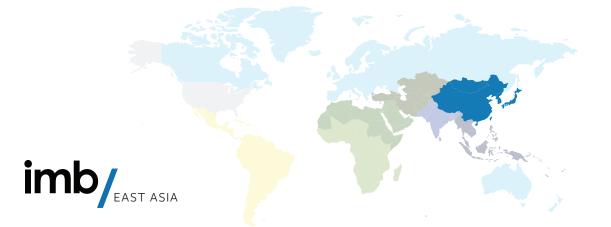
Indigenous people groups have self-sustaining ownership in the missionary task

7

Indigenous people groups are engaging other people groups **outside** their own country



Highlights | EAST ASIAN PEOPLES







26,603
HEARD GOSPEL WITNESS



26,596
OPPORTUNITIES TO RESPOND



6,656NEW BELIEVERS



3,270BAPTISMS



2,907
LEADERSHIP TRAININGS



Stories from the field | EAST ASIAN PEOPLES

DYING DAILY

POPULATION 1,685,145,265

and evangelical Christian estimate

WITHOUT CHRIST



Some local believers partnered with a volunteer team from the U.S. to look for new villages of an Unreached People Group (UPG). They looked for hours without success. Unsure of where to go next, they stopped and prayed. As they travelled down a dirt road, they saw a young woman wearing a bright yellow shirt from the volunteer team's state. They stopped to talk with her and learned she was from the people group they were seeking. Not only that, her husband was the village leader and invited them into the village, where they spent the rest of the day making new friends and sharing the gospel.



One worker's favorite activity is hosting evangelism parties herself or with partners. She often hosts gatherings around holidays and cultural events, creating a fun and relaxed environment to learn about Jesus. At a Christmas outreach party she and her family baked over 400 cookies, which they used to share the gospel message using colored icing. Her family shared with dozens of other families and trained local believers who then shared with hundreds more.



Using storytelling to teach the Bible to grandmothers who are new believers has been a very effective way of nurturing East Asian Christians. The grandmothers bring their friends with them, eat snacks, learn the Bible using stories, and participate in small groups that incorporate worship and dance. Because the meetings are tailored to the grandmothers through fun games, facial massages, and hours of listening to stories, the grandmothers always look forward to the weekly meetings.



| HEALTHY CHURCH FORMATION -

The Osaka Team has a vision to plant churches and engage Osaka's five most densely populated areas – roughly 20% of the city's population – within the next five years. Though this seemed a daunting goal, God used a non-believing restaurant owner to open the doors of a coffee shop and allow the first of these church plants. They held a baptism service there this past Easter. In addition, another church has now been planted in the largest of the five areas.

rust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

Proverbs 3:5-6



LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT —

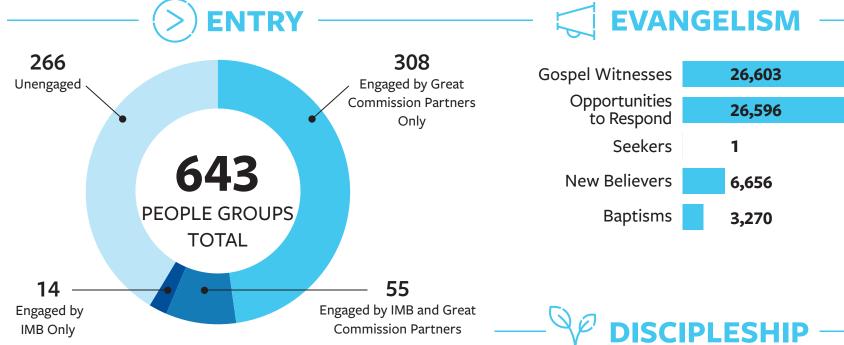
The Compass is a framework for guiding churches in becoming healthy, reproducing, sending churches. In the past year, Compass training sites were established in four different cities to invite Baptist partner churches to regularly receive training and collaborate in God's work. Personnel are beginning to see breakthroughs as pastors and ministry leaders re-assess ministry paradigms, develop strategic plans to reach the lost, and evaluate how they do discipleship. Churches throughout the region are regaining a passion for evangelism, and church planting is once again becoming a goal for Baptist churches.



EXIT TO PARTNERSHIP

Baptists have worked in this East Asian country for over 70 years. This year an agency was formed in partnership with the IMB and adopted as the official sending agency of one Baptist convention. This agency has a vision to facilitate a global movement of ethnic East Asians taking the gospel to the nations. Some of these missionaries have already completed their training and now serve in the field.

EAST ASIAN PEOPLES



Unengaged Unreached People Groups (UUPGs)*

155

Indigenous peoples and urban centers engaged by IMB teams

488

Unreached People Groups (UPGs)**

New Indigenous engagements of people groups or urban centers

11,151

Ongoing Bible Study participants

1,430

Being personally mentored

HEALTHY CHURCH FORMATION

New Groups	236
Groups	1
New Churches	230
1 st Generation	140
2 nd Generation	85
3 rd Generation and higher	5
Total Churches	2,914
1 st Generation	1,831
2 nd Generation	752
3 rd Generation and higher	331
Baptized Believers Meeting	67,744

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Pastoral Training 1,098 Church Planting Training 787 Advanced Training **1,022** Other Training 9,858



IMB ENGAGEMENT IS NO LONGER NECESSARY FOR SUSTAINABLE GROWTH

Indigenous people groups reverted to unengaged status due to loss of engagement

Indigenous people groups are engaging other people groups **inside** their own country

Indigenous people groups have self-sustaining ownership in the missionary task

Indigenous people groups are engaging other people groups outside their own country



Highlights | EUROPEAN PEOPLES







104,983
HEARD GOSPEL WITNESS



74,023
OPPORTUNITIES TO RESPOND



950 NEW BELIEVERS



419

BAPTISMS

£0,

3,563
LEADERSHIP TRAININGS



Stories from the field **EUROPEAN PEOPLES**



For years, IMB workers have been praying for and ministering to women who work in the infamous red-light district in Amsterdam, Netherlands. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, much of the district was closed, leaving thousands of prostitutes out of work and without an income. IMB missionaries, alongside local believers, began assisting these women with grocery assistance, job training, and encouraging notes with Bible verses. Through this ministry, many women have discovered



The COVID-19 pandemic caused a course shift in evangelism and discipleship that has been surprisingly effective. Since meeting face-to-face was not an option, the Balkan team began a website called Bold Balkan Believers where local believers could share their testimonies. They also offered Bibles and conversation to anyone who was interested. Since August 2020, more than 4.8 million people have seen ads for the website and nearly 18,000 people have commented, liked, or shared social media posts about the site. More importantly, 14 people have come to Christ and another 56 are being discipled by local believers. Praise God for the new receptiveness.



DISCIPLESHIP

In the course of 2020, there have been multiple challenges due to the COVID-19 virus and the limitations it has necessitated. In Malta, the new push to stream services online has increased the amount of people hearing the Word. People who might never attend a church service in person will click on a website to hear the gospel. There have also been some encouraging moves toward small groups meeting to study God's Word. These small steps, forced by COVID restrictions, may result in a growing group of disciples in every Maltese village.



HEALTHY CHURCH FORMATION

In Canada, four years ago, local partners made the decision to move their church plant from Calgary to just outside the city, partly because that is where nearly all the members lived. Because the vision had always been to reproduce churches in Calgary, this felt like a bit of a retreat. But God was working. A church-planting network launched with the goal of planting three churches in five years. Within two years, there were already four churches planted, and the first 2nd generation church is currently planning on launching soon. Through God's provision and guidance, the relocation to outside the city allowed the church plant to become a healthy, multiplying church.



C LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT —

An IMB worker and his Czech partner are training pastors with social distancing restrictions to lead without sacrificing theological standards. The trainers were able to purchase materials in Czech and Russian. Currently they are training 10 men; seven Czechs and three Russian speakers. The men are not able to go to seminary, and have appreciated this local training, which prepares them for church leadership where they are.

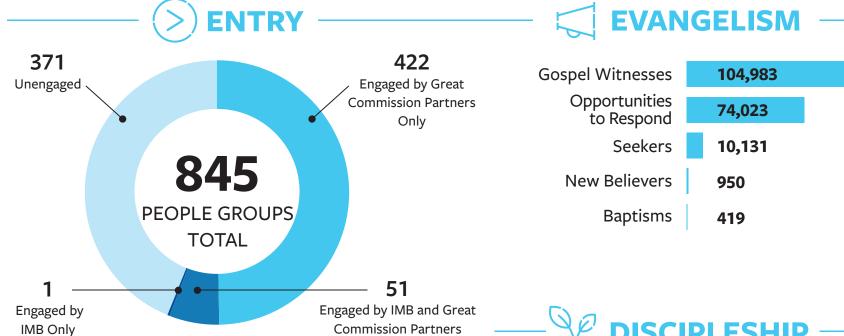


IMB workers and Portuguese believers are committed to a sustainable partnership for the sake of the gospel. The local IMB team and their national partners have submitted themselves to prayer, fasting and studying Scripture. They have made this their priority and have been completely committed to God's work, God's way, God's timing. Local believers have taken ownership of the mission to bring the gospel to unreached people in their city; not in their own strength or wisdom, or clever marketing or strategy, but through the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Our hope is that, as your faith continues to grow, our sphere of activity among you will greatly expand, so that we can preach the gospel in the regions beyond you.

— 2 Corinthians 10:15-16

Summaries **EUROPEAN PEOPLES**



295

Unengaged Unreached People Groups (UUPGs)*

109

Indigenous peoples and urban centers engaged by IMB teams

666

Unreached People Groups (UPGs)**

New Indigenous engagements of people groups or urban centers

7,303

Ongoing Bible Study participants

1,242

Being personally mentored

HEALTHY CHURCH FORMATION

New Groups	97
Groups	180
New Churches	78
1 st Generation	39
2 nd Generation	31
3 rd Generation and higher	8
Total Churches	197
1 st Generation	133
2 nd Generation	56
3 rd Generation and higher	8
Baptized Believers Meeting	10,865

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Pastoral Training 895 **Church Planting Training** 1,533 **Advanced Training** 1,135 Other Training 3,780



IMB ENGAGEMENT IS NO LONGER NECESSARY FOR SUSTAINABLE GROWTH

Indigenous people group reverted to unengaged status due to loss of engagement

Indigenous people groups are engaging other people groups **inside** their own country

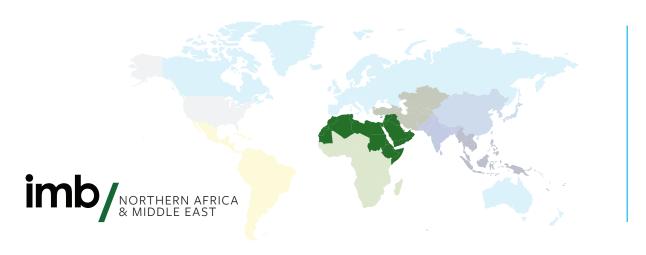
Indigenous people groups have self-sustaining ownership in the missionary task

Indigenous people groups are engaging other people groups outside their own country

EVANGELISM ENTRY DISCIPLESHIP ABIDE IN CHRIST HEALTHY CHURCH FORMATION EXIT TO PARTNERSHIP LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT NORTHERN AFRICAN AND MIDDLE EASTERN PEOPLES

Highlights

NORTHERN AFRICAN AND MIDDLE EASTERN PEOPLES







8,887
HEARD GOSPEL WITNESS



5,229
OPPORTUNITIES TO RESPOND



1,097NEW BELIEVERS



218BAPTISMS



276
LEADERSHIP TRAININGS



Stories from the field

DYING DAILY WITHOUT CHRIST POPULATION **561,856,275** and evangelical Christian estimates.

NORTHERN AFRICAN AND MIDDLE EASTERN PEOPLES



Medical professionals among a hard-to-reach people group in NAME are grieving the loss of a physician to COVID-19 after the oxygen supply in his ambulance was exhausted. A Christian worker obtained funds to buy oxygen compressors for the public hospital where they live. In this area where physicians and staff are overworked and frustrated, many are leaving their posts, as they have lost faith in the hospital system. Praise God that this worker was able to provide these compressors to help alleviate the situation, allowing them to build trust within their community.



EVANGELISM

In the Middle East, a young man named Ahmed* was not content with the religion that he was raised to believe. Seeking truth online, he used social media to find someone to talk with. He found what he was looking for when he connected with a Christian worker who was living nearby in his city. For the first time in his life, Ahmed heard the gospel clearly explained in his heart language. Ahmed is just one of many that are searching online for the truth.

I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel.

— Philippians 1:12



Majeed,* a Syrian refugee living in Northern Africa and the Middle East, was the first in his family to follow Christ. After leading many family members to follow, Majeed still faithfully shares with friends and others in his community. Last year when Majeed asked a Christian worker if a seeking friend of his could come to their regular Bible study, the worker encouraged Majeed to be the one to share the stories they were studying with his friend. Through this process, the seeking friend eventually came to faith. Recently, as the two men studied the Bible together, a third unbelieving man joined them and the new brother boldly shared about Jesus, his Savior.



FI HEALTHY CHURCH FORMATION -

Over the past six months, many families have been provided with much needed food aid. Through this access, Christian workers began meeting with ten families and groups to study the Word together. Some are believers who have never been discipled and others are hearing the Word for the first time. The groups study the Word together in simple ways they can use themselves or in other groups. Each group is encouraged to invite friends and family. The desire is to see a biblical example of multiplying churches being planted and reproduced.



SO LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT —

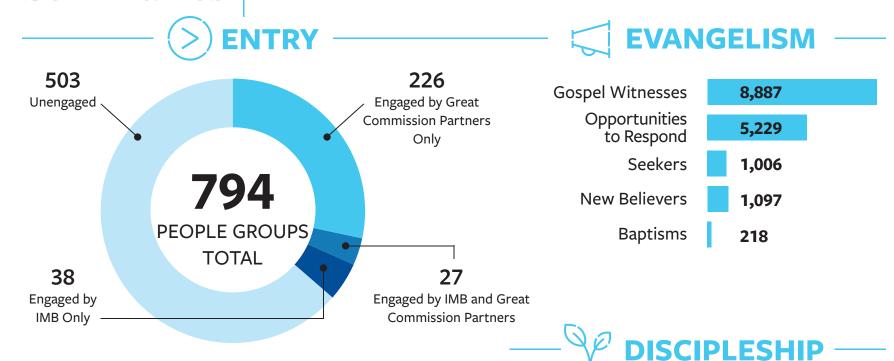
The main challenge to church formation in the Middle East is rooted in the cultural, but unbiblical, understanding of what leadership means. The leadership model of a suffering servant or a gentle and humble leader stands in opposition to the tribal culture, which typically involves using position and power for personal gain or security. Some church leaders in the region have stopped using the word "leader" and have replaced it with "shepherd" in order to communicate a more accurate picture of biblical leadership. Those leaders have also begun to formulate a leadership discipleship set that they hope will impact how new and old shepherds alike are serving and helping form new churches.



EXIT TO PARTNERSHIP

Many times, due to circumstances outside of their control, Christian workers do not get to decide when they exit one field and enter a new field of work. The Lord answered this prayer recently as one network of believers crossed a geographical and cultural barrier to take the gospel to a UUPG in another part of the country. Through some miraculous encounters, support of Christian workers in helping local partners gain access, and a lot of hard work, a church was planted and is growing among this people group.

NORTHERN AFRICAN AND MIDDLE EASTERN PEOPLES



482

Unengaged Unreached People Groups (UUPGs)*

88

Indigenous peoples and urban centers engaged by IMB teams

739

Unreached People Groups (UPGs)**

8

New Indigenous engagements of people groups or urban centers

3,091

Ongoing Bible Study participants

314

Being personally mentored

HEALTHY CHURCH FORMATION

New Groups	59
Groups	157
New Churches	61
1 st Generation	52
2 nd Generation	3
3 rd Generation and higher	6
Total Churches	238
1 st Generation	139
2 nd Generation	44
3 rd Generation and higher	55
Baptized Believers Meeting	1,844

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Pastoral Training 147
Church Planting Training 128
Advanced Training 1
Other Training 522



IMB ENGAGEMENT IS NO LONGER NECESSARY FOR SUSTAINABLE GROWTH

2

Indigenous people groups reverted to unengaged status due to loss of engagement

9

Indigenous people groups are engaging other people groups **inside** their own country

4

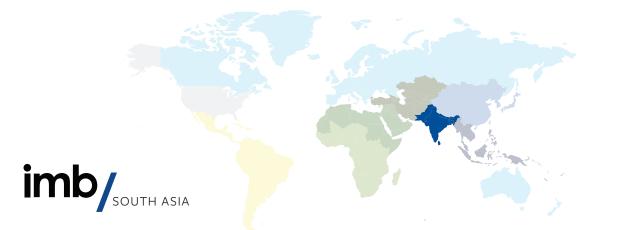
Indigenous people groups have self-sustaining ownership in the missionary task

3

Indigenous people groups are engaging other people groups **outside** their own country



Highlights | SOUTH ASIAN PEOPLES







338,907
HEARD GOSPEL WITNESS



292,524
OPPORTUNITIES TO RESPOND



100,566
NEW BELIEVERS



76,904BAPTISMS



109,075
LEADERSHIP TRAININGS



Stories from the field | SOUTH ASIAN PEOPLES



When the COVID-19 lockdown started, many Muslims in our area were out of work and in need of food. Southern Baptists generously provided food for those in need. Local evangelists then had the joy of going house-to-house in Muslim communities providing food and sharing the gospel. Now, there are dozens of Muslim homes where these evangelists continue to be welcomed, as they share the gospel and make



disciples.

After hearing the gospel for the first time, Padma* asked the women who had shared with her, "How can I believe in God?" Her decision to follow Christ soon led to her being kicked out of her home and her husband threatening to abandon her. Perseverance in the face of persecution, and continued focus on sharing the gospel, led to three family members including her husband, coming to faith. Their home is now a light for the gospel in their community.

It has always been my ambition to preach the gospel where Christ was not known, so that I would not be building on someone else's foundation.

— Romans 15:20



In 2019, lay believers experienced the joy of walking in obedience to the Lord by sharing the gospel boldly and broadly among hundreds of villages in this South Asian country. The Lord opened many hearts and a few thousand professed faith in Christ. However, the baptism numbers were incongruent with the reported new believers. Many were not able to come to church buildings but did gather in homes for prayer. After months of being coached in simple biblical discipleship patterns, these same lay believers began implementing basic discipleship in small groups throughout many villages. Consequently, in the last three months of 2019, the baptism numbers increased. In the first six months of 2020, despite limitations due to COVID-19, an additional 574 new believers have chosen baptism!



HEALTHY CHURCH FORMATION

In a state of four million, few believers or churches existed among the largest people group. Starting with one family and a single young man, a new church for the majority people group was formed. The young man has continued to share the gospel and has started three new churches among other groups in the last three years. The church is growing, and new Christians are sharing the gospel in their communities.



SO LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT —

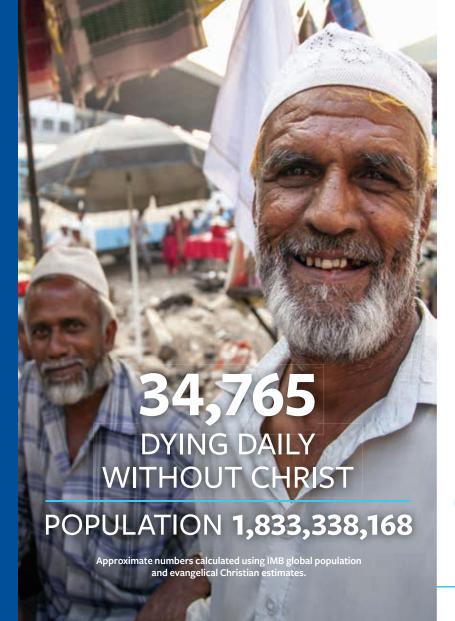
In the heart of the continent, several independent pastors and faithful laborers are working among unreached peoples and places. As these faithful workers reach new places, the need for pioneer leadership and theological training for new leaders has become evident. Several leadership development training groups have been initiated. These trainings have given leaders confidence in shepherding their churches and equipping them to walk in obedience to the faith. Consistent training sessions have provided opportunity to grow in greater understanding of the extent of God's work among UUPGs and UPGs for continued tracking and coaching.



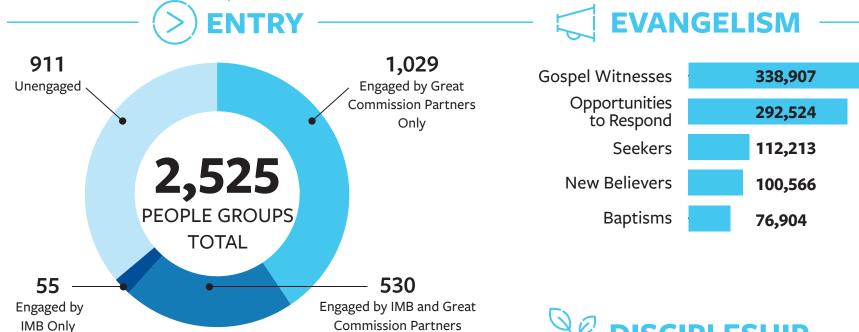
EXIT TO PARTNERSHIP

After ten years of investment, one network of new churches has launched an emphasis to see generations of new church starts in every district of their state. Out of 22 districts, this network now has multiple church starts in each district and multiple generations of church starts in 19. They are actively engaging every formerly unengaged people group in the district. Not only are people coming to faith and following Jesus, this network is also equipping pastors with seminary level training to ensure that healthy doctrine is being preached in every church. God is at work as IMB missionaries "exit" this area and refocus efforts in other areas!





SOUTH ASIAN PEOPLES



909

Unengaged Unreached People Groups (UUPGs)*

611

Indigenous peoples and urban centers engaged by IMB teams

2,211

Unreached People Groups (UPGs)**

216

New Indigenous engagements of people groups or urban centers

Je.

DISCIPLESHIP

256,930

Ongoing Bible Study participants

48,198

Being personally mentored

HEALTHY CHURCH FORMATION

New Groups	9,936
Groups	40,400
New Churches	17,772
1 st Generation	2,103
2 nd Generation	1,354
3 rd Generation and higher	14,315
Total Churches	66,457
1 st Generation	16,085
2 nd Generation	4,955
3 rd Generation and higher	45,417
Baptized Believers Meeting	284,098

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Pastoral Training 13,774

Church Planting Training 48,062

Advanced Training 47,239

Other Training 48,826



IMB ENGAGEMENT IS NO LONGER NECESSARY FOR SUSTAINABLE GROWTH

0

Indigenous people groups reverted to unengaged status due to loss of engagement

2

Indigenous people groups are engaging other people groups **inside** their own country

63

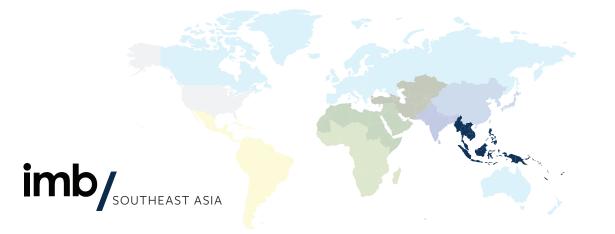
Indigenous people groups have self-sustaining ownership in the missionary task

0

Indigenous people groups are engaging other people groups **outside** their own country



Highlights | SOUTHEAST ASIAN PEOPLES







53,604
HEARD GOSPEL WITNESS



28,482
OPPORTUNITIES TO RESPOND



4,165NEW BELIEVERS



3,097
BAPTISMS



5,448
LEADERSHIP TRAININGS



Stories from the field | SOUTHEAST ASIAN PEOPLES



After returning from a summer serving among a Muslim among them. However, Lynn's mother wanted her to finish her degree and be a teacher. Out of respect for her mother, people group whenever possible. In God's providence, she people to whom God had called her. Now she is welcomed in the community as a teacher, can naturally go into homes to visit her students, and is fully supported by her teaching profession.



In the heart of Java the Lord called five men to work alongside IMB missionaries to reach their fellow Indonesians for the Kingdom. Despite hardships and persecution, their desire to share the good news grew stronger over time. The Lord used the COVID-19 crisis to open doors allowing them to minister to both physical and spiritual needs in the community. Through this witness, the good news was shared with over 250 people and over 80 people trusted Christ as their Savior!



people group, Lynn* sensed God's calling to work full-time Lynn taught for a year, but continued to work with this was recently sent to a new school located among the very





A girl from our college ministry recently shared, "Every single session of Global Project has been impactful. It led me to ask questions I never would've thought to ask, to really pray to God for the bigger things, and to be intentional in reaching out to the world. It has helped me remove my purpose and plans for my life and replace it with the future and plans that God has for me; to go and make disciples. During these months of quarantine, God has led me to reach out and disciple several of my friends. Two of these friends have since started leading weekly devotions in our friend group. Today, my friends and I continue to meet weekly to study the Bible despite our busy schedules."



II HEALTHY CHURCH FORMATION

For several years, we have seen God's Spirit move among rural peoples here. New churches have been planted, with many of them planting churches in other villages. It is a joy to see our national partners' passion and vision to start new churches. Pray for us as we train church leaders to plant and grow healthy churches in villages throughout their provinces.

When they had preached the gospel to that city and had made many disciples, they returned to Lystra and to Iconium and to Antioch, strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith... — Acts 14:21-22



CE LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT —

As part of our community development training project, Nathaniel*, a national partner, faithfully shared the gospel with many young people. Several received Christ as their Lord and Savior and were discipled and trained as leaders. Over the past year these leaders have been instrumental in starting and leading ministry outreaches on their island. Recently, Nathaniel said he was crying tears of joy because God answered our prayers of raising up leaders.



EXIT TO PARTNERSHIP

Jesus said, "The harvest is great, but the workers are few, so pray to the Lord who is in charge of the harvest; ask him to send more workers into his fields." The Philippine mission field is yielding a mighty mission force. For the last 15 years, over 1,200 youth participated with Nehemiah Teams sharing the gospel with the unreached. In 2019, a covenant between IMB and the One Sending Body, the sending entity of the Southern Baptist conventions in the Philippines, forged a partnership for training and teaming. The harvest is still great; we thank God for the many Filipino harvesters!

Approximate numbers calculated using IMB global population and evangelical Christian estimates

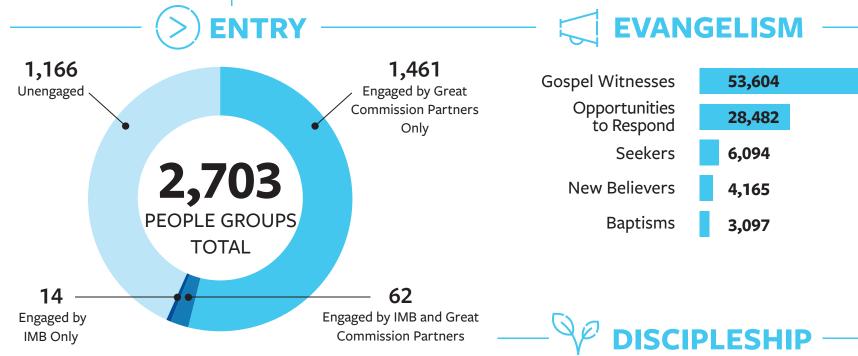
11,054

DYING DAILY

WITHOUT CHRIST

POPULATION **630,660,930**

SOUTHEAST ASIAN PEOPLES



285

Unengaged Unreached People Groups (UUPGs)*

113

Indigenous peoples and urban centers engaged by IMB teams

630

Unreached People Groups (UPGs)**

1

New Indigenous engagement of people groups or urban centers

25,315

Ongoing Bible Study participants

2,837

Being personally mentored

HEALTHY CHURCH FORMATION

New Groups	390
Groups	5,688
New Churches	105
1 st Generation	24
2 nd Generation	4
3 rd Generation and higher	77
Total Churches	5,698
1 st Generation	533
2 nd Generation	330
3 rd Generation and higher	4,835
Baptized Believers Meeting	42,802

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Pastoral Training 2,306

Church Planting Training 2,617

Advanced Training 525

Other Training 17,901



IMB ENGAGEMENT IS NO LONGER NECESSARY FOR SUSTAINABLE GROWTH

2

Indigenous people groups reverted to unengaged status due to loss of engagement

5

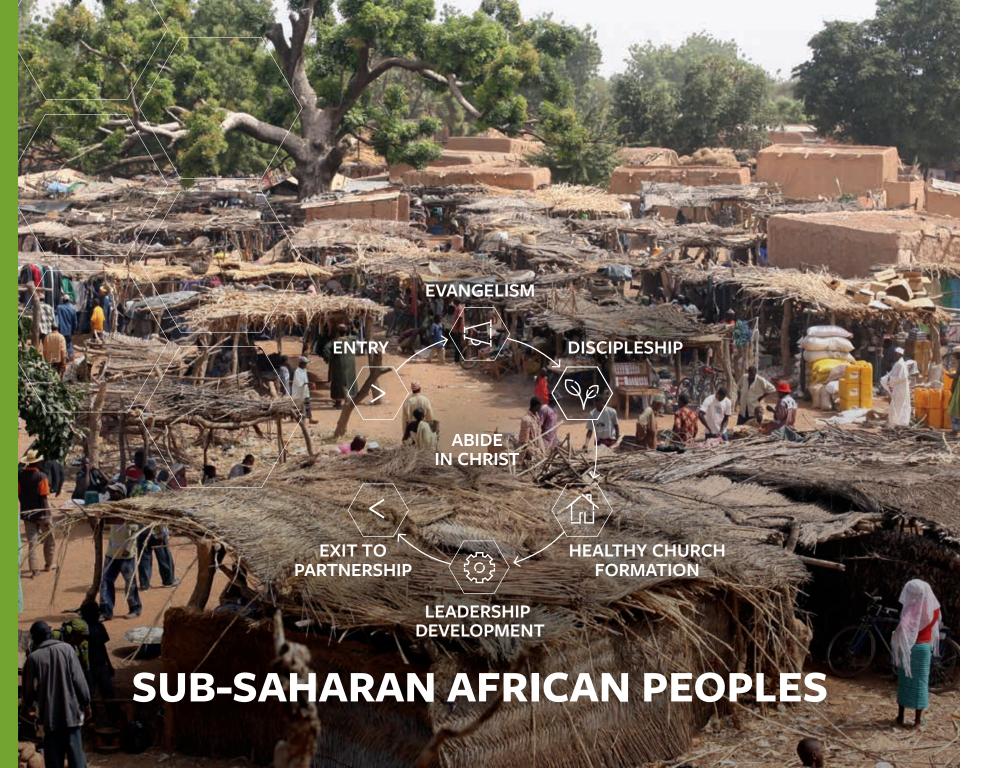
Indigenous people groups are engaging other people groups **inside** their own country

4

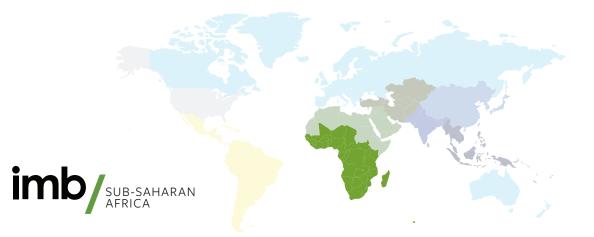
Indigenous people groups have self-sustaining ownership in the missionary task

0

Indigenous people groups are engaging other people groups **outside** their own country



Highlights | SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN PEOPLES







122,186 **HEARD GOSPEL WITNESS**



62,374 OPPORTUNITIES TO RESPOND



11,400 **NEW BELIEVERS**



1,618 **BAPTISMS**



3,516 LEADERSHIP TRAININGS



Stories from the field

HOUT CHRIST

POPULATION 899,598,805

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN PEOPLES



Our team relocated from the bush last year. We saw people spending a lot more time on their phones and prayed about using social media as an outreach tool. When COVID-19 hit and we were relocated, it was the time to try social media. This summer, we had a virtual social media team of college students who really helped us to get things started. Our page has been up for a month and has over 2,200 followers with 75 direct conversations and chats sharing Scripture with people in locations that we would never be able to visit. God's Word goes forth even during COVID-19.



After repairing a water well and building homes for refugees with special needs in the Resettlement Camp, our team developed a reputation of Christian charity and a willingness to help those in need. Later when fighting broke out in the settlement and several people were killed, the team was positioned to provide Bible-based trauma healing training to those affected by this tragedy. Our team helped people turn to God in their time of need and find purpose in the suffering and trauma that they had experienced. They learned about Joseph and how God used his trials to save others and bring glory to God. A humanitarian entry strategy allowed this team to enter and opened the doors for them to move into evangelism and discipleship. Three churches were planted out of this tragedy.



COVID-19 required us to stay in one place, so we gathered people to tell stories from God's Word. We videoed the stories and learned as we went. Eventually, we completed a 23 panorama story set of the whole Bible that is now being broadcast on a regional satellite TV station. The exciting part of the process was one of the participants who listened to all the stories. His entire demeanor changed as time went on. So much so, that his family noticed the change. His personal growth through this discipleship of understanding God's Word was worth the journey.



As we completed videoing the 23 story panorama, the idea formed to use these same stories with church members. We worked with the local association of 16 churches to train representatives from many of these churches to do the same training in their churches. It's exciting to see their engagement and desire to return each week. Most recently, another missionary visited one of the churches and commented on how the stories were being used to revive and improve the Sunday School program through teaching God's Word.

he who abides in Me, and I in him, he bears much fruit: for apart from Me you can do nothing. — John 15:5



LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT —

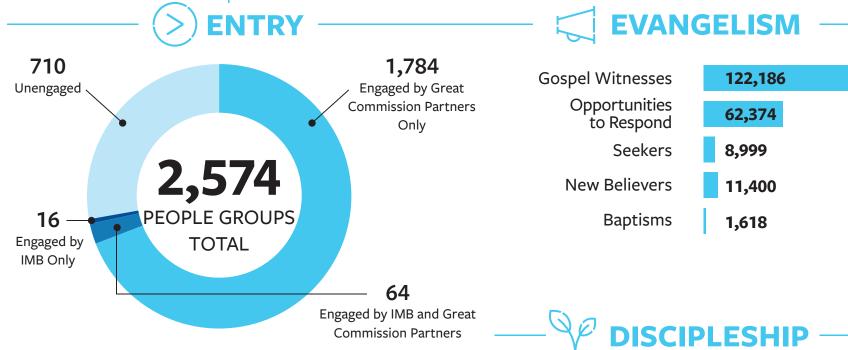
The coronavirus presented quite a challenge to seminaries and Bible schools in Africa who are dependent on face-toface instruction. The closure of almost every school has forced theological educators to get creative and find ways to continue their work through other means. It has been encouraging to see schools, educators and students rise to the occasion on a continent where data is expensive and online options are often more challenging than any other place in the world.



EXIT TO PARTNERSHIP

In a casual visit with the convention president, we discussed his vision for evangelism for the Baptist Union. He had an evangelism conference on his heart just before COVID-19. As we discussed it more, we came up with a plan to involve those who participated in an internationalization conference in this evangelism training. We are now to have an evangelism conference. The goal is to launch the vision of missions led by these West African churches. The vision is there, and we will continue to partner and walk alongside as they launch and execute their vision.

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN PEOPLES



Unengaged Unreached People Groups (UUPGs)*

Indigenous peoples and urban centers engaged by IMB teams

1,633

Unreached People Groups (UPGs)**

New Indigenous engagement of people groups or urban centers

35,900

Ongoing Bible Study participants

946

Being personally mentored

HEALTHY CHURCH FORMATION

New Groups	394
Groups	1,090
New Churches	85
1 st Generation	30
2 nd Generation	47
3 rd Generation and higher	8
Total Churches	1,735
1 st Generation	1,172
2 nd Generation	291
3 rd Generation and higher	272
Baptized Believers Meeting	62,322

EADERSHIP

Pastoral Training	2,011
Church Planting Training	1,168
Advanced Training	337
Other Training	2,075



IMB ENGAGEMENT IS NO LONGER NECESSARY FOR SUSTAINABLE GROWTH

Indigenous people groups reverted to unengaged status due to loss of engagement

Indigenous people groups are engaging other people groups **inside** their own country

Indigenous people groups have self-sustaining ownership in the missionary task

Indigenous people groups are engaging other people groups outside their own country

2025 Targets

to engage unreached peoples and places

— ONE —

Send an additional 500 missionaries

— TWO —

Mobilize 500 global missionary partners on IMB teams

— THREE —

Engage 75 global cities with comprehensive strategies

— FOUR —

Mobilize 75% of Southern Baptist churches to prayerfully and financially support the IMB

— FIVE —

Increase giving to the IMB by 6% annually

TARGET ONE



TARGET THREE

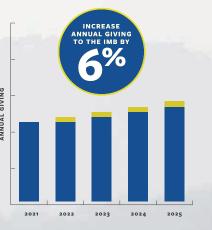




TARGET **TWO**



TARGET **FIVE**



TARGET FOUR



