



PRAYERPOINTS

A PRAYING PEOPLE IMPACTING A LOST WORLD

Central Asia's Yezidi People

THE YEZIDI OF IRAQ ARE FAMILIAR WITH HOPELESSNESS. THEIR UNIQUE RELIGIOUS BELIEFS PUT THEM AT ODDS WITH THEIR MUSLIM NEIGHBORS AND HAVE DRAWN EXTERNAL ENEMIES THROUGHOUT THEIR LONG HISTORY. ULTIMATELY, YEZIDIS WRESTLE WITH THE UNSEEN ENEMY WHO WORKS TO KEEP THEM TRAPPED IN A HOPELESS RELIGIOUS TRADITION THAT LEADS ONLY TO DEATH. AS YEZIDIS SEEK TRUE HOPE AND FREEDOM, PRAY THAT THEY WILL FIND JESUS.

Yezidis cling to an ancient religion while desperate for hope

If you ask a Yezidi for the significance of the number 74, they will tell you that 74 represents the number of genocides faced by the Yezidi people over the course of their history. The most recent genocide in 2014 by ISIS resulted in the death or abduction of an estimated 10,000 Yezidis.

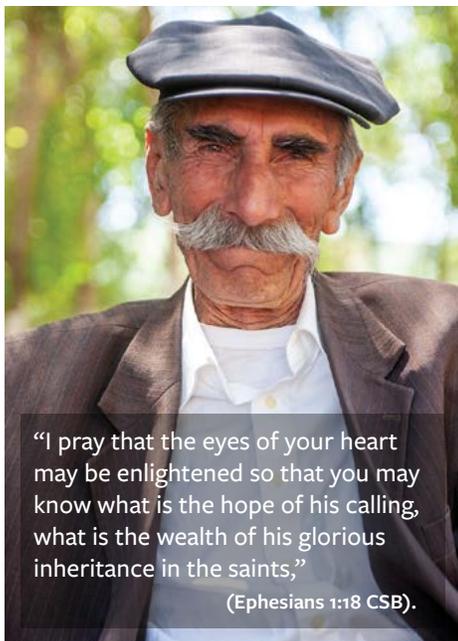
Many Americans became aware of this people group by watching media images of Yezidis stranded on a mountaintop after escaping the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS). Some news outlets mistakenly labelled Yezidis as Christians. However, they are an ancient religious minority group distinguishable from their Iraqi neighbors by their worship of God through a mediator called the Peacock Angel. Their religion reflects elements of both Zoroastrianism and Sufism. The Yezidis' unique belief system has incited persecution and hatred from their Muslim neighbors for hundreds of years. The worldwide population of Yezidis is estimated at 700,000. As they search for peace and healing, many have emigrated to places like Germany, Armenia, Georgia, and Russia. The 2014 genocide resulted in the displacement within Iraq of 400,000 Yezidis. Still today many are living in refugee camps and in unfinished settlements in the Kurdish region of Iraq.

"A lot of people feel hopeless, like there's no hope for Yezidis in Iraq," explains a worker familiar with the situation. But in the last few years, the door for gospel access among Yezidis has opened like never before. Some Yezidis are meeting believers and hearing about the hope of Jesus. Pray for those relationships to deepen. Pray that Yezidis who seek hope will find it in Jesus.



When ISIS attacked Yezidi communities in 2014, many men were killed, and women and girls were sold as slaves. Boys as young as 9 were given military training to serve as ISIS fighters.

1 YEZIDIS. Though ISIS is gone, the Yezidi city of Shingal, Iraq, is plagued with infighting. Pray for a resolution to the political instability so that thousands of displaced people can return. Even more, pray for hearts to have peace with God and one another through Christ.



“I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened so that you may know what is the hope of his calling, what is the wealth of his glorious inheritance in the saints,”

(Ephesians 1:18 CSB).

2 DEAF PEOPLES. Pray for Sean,* a Deaf man in South Asia. Sean is seeking Jesus. Pray that he will seek and find truth. Ask God to protect him against the father of lies (John 8:44) and the cults and false teachers who are like wolves in sheep’s clothing (Matthew 7:15).

3 YEZIDIS. Pray for the political and religious leaders of the Yezidi community. Ask that the Father will save them and their families. Pray that believers with access to them will boldly speak the truth in love to them as they have opportunity.

4 ANGOLA. Most of the unreached people groups of Angola are nomadic peoples who live in the southern part of the country. Pray for the Angolan Team as they seek to find these people groups and introduce to them the God who desires to be their shepherd and guide.

5 BANGKOK, THAILAND. Praise God that a man told the Bangkok Media Outreach Team that he’d like to learn more

about Jesus. Pray that he will read the Word and meet with believers for discipleship. Ask that many others will respond to the team’s social media ads and follow Jesus.

6 YEZIDIS. Pray that a group of Yezidi-background believers will form into a healthy church as they meet to study the Bible. Pray for a young man who has been leading this group to persevere in hope despite increased pressure from the local authorities and others.

7 SOUTH ASIAN UNENGAGED PEOPLES. The Kohistani are farmers and shepherds who migrate seasonally around Pakistan. Most are Muslim and also fear demons and gods. Pray that the Kohistani will hear the gospel during their migration times, and that more Bible resources will be available in their language.

8 BRITISH OF ENGLAND. An IMB missionary and some local believers “had a long gospel conversation with a spiritualist,” the missionary said. “We then saw two guys outside the fish and chip shop and shared extensively with them from John 1:12.” Pray for spiritual fruit from these conversations.

9 YEZIDIS. Pray for Yezidis living in refugee camps who face the lack of work, opportunities, education, and resources for mental health. As suicide rates continue to climb, pray for rampant hopeless. Pray for women who spend their days in their tents.

10 EMIRATI ARABS OF THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES. Believers from all over the world work in the United Arab Emirates. This has led to many opportunities for believers to form relationships with Emirati Arabs and with Muslims from other countries. Pray that Emirati Arabs will have soft hearts and come to faith in Jesus.

11 PEOPLES OF ACEH, SUMATRA, INDONESIA. The Simeulue are simple people who live communally on

a lush island. Most are Muslim and hold animistic beliefs. Only a handful follow Jesus. Ask God to call out laborers to this area. Pray that believers there will grow in their faith and gather as a church.

12 AMERICAN PEOPLES. Pray for a mentoring ministry that involves over 40 new Brazilian Home Mission Board missionaries. IMB missionaries and Brazilian missionaries are working to train them in a wide range of topics, disciplines, and skills to help prepare them for effective service.

13 YEZIDIS. COVID-19 often closed schools in camps, leaving Yezidi children to wander around aimlessly each day. Pray for wisdom for parents and teachers. Pray that Yezidi orphans who lost their parents in the 2014 genocide will know their heavenly Father’s love and care for them.

14 NAGOYA, JAPAN. Pray for Hannah* to understand her need for the Lord. She met with a Christian friend who pointed her to God’s Word, but Hannah shut down and turned away from it. Pray for the strongholds in Hannah’s life to be broken down. Ask that she will cry out to God.

15 PEOPLES OF KAVERI BANKS, TAMIL NADU, INDIA. Tamil Nadu is known as one of the strongest Christian areas in South Asia, but 99% of the people who hear a clear gospel presentation say that they have never heard it before. Pray that local churches will preach from the Word and engage in the Great Commission task.

16 NORTHERN AFRICAN AND MIDDLE EASTERN UNENGAGED PEOPLES. The Mararet of eastern Chad settled near good sources of water, but few Mararet have heard of the Living Water. There are believers in a local market town. Pray that on market days, men and women from this unreached people will meet believers and hear the gospel.

17 YEZIDIS. Pray for Yezidi teens who are sent to work in factories with difficult work environments at an early age on behalf of their family. Pray that their families will find the means to live and support their family without sending their children to work.

18 MADRID, SPAIN. Hope* is a university student who participated in a local church's Bible study and recently began studying the Bible with two IMB representatives. Pray that Hope will see her need for Christ and come to faith in Him. Pray that she will love God's Word more and more.



19 YEZIDIS. Pray for the Yezidis who receive help from nonprofit organizations. Pray that their physical needs of food, water, shelter, and clothing will be provided. Ultimately, pray that people in organizations serving Yezidis will share eternal hope with them.

20 CITY OF SOLDIERS, CHINA. As tensions grow and the gospel is being opposed, Silas* continues to lead a small church and his family. His days are busy and full of many activities. Ask God to lead Silas and help him prioritize his days so that he will accomplish all that God has planned for him.

21 ISOLATED PEOPLES OF THE AMAZON BASIN. Pray for a new village church as it grows and matures. The women in that village have recently heard Bible stories from a team who visited them. Pray that the seeds sown during that time will yield a bountiful harvest.

22 YEZIDIS. Pray for Yezidi diaspora communities scattered across many countries, including the United States. Pray that churches and Christian neighbors will befriend and boldly share the good news of Jesus with Yezidis.

23 CONAKRY, GUINEA. A local house church is still praying and searching for someone called by God to be their pastor. Pray that God will grow His church in that neighborhood and that He will provide someone who will faithfully lead them each week.

24 EUROPEAN UNENGAGED PEOPLES. A large group of Albanians arrived in Belgium in the 1990s and have had trouble integrating due to lack of language skills and education. Most have settled in Brussels and claim Islam. Pray for believers to declare the glory of Jesus among the Albanians in Belgium.

25 STUDENTS & YOUNG PROFESSIONALS, SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA. Recently, missionaries had a significant gospel conversation with Daeyoung* about the difference between the compassionate, sacrificially loving God and other gods. Pray for them to have more gospel conversations, and that Daeyoung will come to know Jesus.

26 TEA RIVER PEOPLE OF SOUTH ASIA. The complete audio Bible is newly available to Bangla-speaking oral learners! Pray for distribution partners as they distribute the audio files. Pray for the salvation of the local technician who has heard the gospel and has asked questions during the recording process.

27 YEZIDIS. Pray that the Lord will save and raise up many faithful Yezidi men who will be able to serve as pastors in future churches.

28 COFFEE PEOPLE OF SOUTHEAST ASIA. Among the Coffee People, who are 0.17% evangelical, a new one-year Bible program is equipping lay people to be pastors and sent-out ones. Ask God to provide all that is needed for the program. May that entire area of Southeast Asia be reached with the gospel!

29 NORTHERN AFRICAN AND MIDDLE EASTERN UNENGAGED PEOPLES. Over 95% of the 200,000 Argobba people in Ethiopia are Muslim. The few known believers are isolated from one another and not gathered into groups for discipleship and outreach. Pray for believers to go to the Argobba to share the gospel and provide discipleship.

30 YEZIDIS. Many groups of believers from varying theological perspectives are focused on reaching the Yezidi people. Pray for unity and coordination in ministry as they partner to reach and train Yezidi believers.

Workers use Scripture to shine light on a dark belief system

The Yezidis are “very nice people... but their religion is very deep and dark;” explains one worker in Central Asia. In the Yezidi belief system, Satan is a repentant angel, and Yezidis consider him to be good.

One Yezidi man studied Genesis with a believer for eight weeks. The believer asked him at the end of the study, “What do you think of the serpent?” The man responded, “He must be bad.” The believer followed up by showing him Revelation 20:2 (CSB) which talks about “that ancient serpent who is the Devil and Satan.” This man later put his faith in Jesus.

Another Yezidi man, upon hearing Christianity’s claim of Satan being evil, seemed ready to walk away from faith in Jesus. Then he had a dream about a serpent being crushed. A local believer was able to explain the meaning of the dream and show how Jesus has won victory over sin and death.

Pray for more Yezidis to long for truth and reject evil. Pray they will search for more than earthly security, and set their hearts on true hope found in Christ.



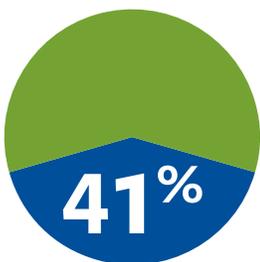
Yezidis pass down their religious beliefs through oral tradition. One way they preserve and guard their traditions is by forbidding intermarriage with non-Yezidis.

CENTRAL ASIAN PEOPLES



384
MILLION
PEOPLE

383
PEOPLE
GROUPS



41% OF CENTRAL ASIAN PEOPLE GROUPS DO NOT HAVE CHURCH PLANTING EFFORTS.

2.7 MILLION
REFUGEES BEING
HOSTED IN TURKEY

2.5 MILLION
REFUGEES FLEEING
FROM AFGHANISTAN



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