



PRAYERPOINTS

A PRAYING PEOPLE IMPACTING A LOST WORLD

Prayer Breakthroughs among *South Asian Peoples*

THE GREATEST CONCENTRATION OF LOSTNESS ON THE PLANET IS IN SOUTH ASIA. EACH WEEK 232,000 SOUTH ASIANS ENTER ETERNITY WITHOUT CHRIST. IMB WORKERS AMONG SOUTH ASIAN PEOPLES SEE BREAKTHROUGHS AS GOD'S PEOPLE BATTLE IN PRAYER. GOD CALLS HIS CHURCH TO PRAY, AND HE WORKS IN AND THROUGH THE PRAYERS OF HIS PEOPLE. THERE IS WORK THAT EVERY BELIEVER CAN DO, REGARDLESS OF THEIR GEOGRAPHY BECAUSE EVERY BELIEVER CAN PRAY.

Believers prayed for Jesus' name to be exalted in a brothel; God answered

In a brothel in one of South Asia's largest cities, dark steps lead up narrow passageways to multiple dank rooms full of cots and women. Hopelessness, despair, and resignation are palpable. The walls are covered in stickers of idols and scribbled names, maybe by bored women or clients desiring to mark their territory. For years, Keelie* had labored to see the women here reached with the good news. God later raised up Nidhi,* another women from her church, with a similar passion. One night Nidhi woke up with a racing heart after a dream where she saw the scribbled walls of the brothel and heard a voice say, "There is no room for the name of Jesus here." Nidhi and Keelie prayed and mobilized others to pray for God's name to be lifted high in this place. As God granted them access to go weekly to the brothel, they went. They met Jasmine* a prostitute who had married one of her clients only to be beaten and left nearly crippled from a hip injury. Broken and



A woman in South Asia holds a Bible.

dejected, she returned to the only life she knew. As Jasmine heard stories of Jesus each week, she began to have hope. Over time, her hip pain became debilitating, and she needed surgery. Nidhi and Keelie organized a church-wide bake sale to raise money for the surgery. The church rallied together, collecting the exact amount that was needed! Jasmine had

the operation and, during her time in the hospital, she gave her life to Jesus. These days, Jasmine freely goes to the brothel to visit the women who are still there. She walks up the stairs, full of joy and good news, and shares about Jesus. It turns out there is a place for the name of Jesus to be lifted high, even in a brothel.

1 SOUTH ASIAN PEOPLES. Pray for the Hijra of India. They are a eunuch community and considered outcasts in their culture. Pray that the brokenness of the Hijra people will be healed by the gospel and that the church will be started among them.

2 SWAHILI-SPEAKING ARABS OF EAST AFRICA. For the Swahili-speaking Arabs of East Africa, the cost to follow Jesus is great. Committing to Him can cost them family, jobs, and a place in society. Many believers struggle to continue placing Jesus first day after day. Ask God to strengthen and encourage them.

3 DEAF PEOPLES. Folk Islam is a common belief among the Deaf of West Africa who seek spiritual power to meet their tangible needs. Pray that the Deaf will realize Jesus' power, especially regarding the spiritual realm. Ask that they will recognize Jesus as the only way to God.

4 SOUTH ASIAN PEOPLES. During the global pandemic, many are using virtual methods to disciple and mentor others. God is working, allowing the core missionary task to move forward even from a distance. Ask God to continue to bless these discipleship efforts.

5 AMERICAN PEOPLES. Pray for the continued efforts of IMB missionaries and their indigenous partners as they see God's powerful hand moving in remote areas of Panama. Pray for people to understand the gospel as they hear it. May they truly consider it and make Jesus Lord of their lives.

6 EUROPEAN UNENGAGED PEOPLES. Over 200,000 Komi-Zyrian people live in northeast Russia. Their harsh climate keeps them isolated, which is one of the reasons that they are unreached with the gospel. Pray for open doors for believers to share the gospel with the Komi-Zyrian people of Russia.

7 SOUTH ASIAN PEOPLES. Ghaziabad is one of the fastest growing cities in the world. Pray that as fast as the population grows, the gospel will spread faster, and disciples will be made. Pray that God will raise up laborers who will take ownership of the core missionary task in their city.

8 CENTRAL ASIAN PEOPLES. Muslim Central Asians like Mehmet* are taught in the mosque to believe that the Bible has been changed and is not trustworthy. Pray that the Father will break down this barrier in Mehmet's heart as well as in the hearts of millions of Muslims around the globe.



A commuter train in South Asia full of people who need Jesus.

9 HO CHI MINH CITY, VIETNAM. As COVID-19 cases rise in Vietnam, most people stay home in fear of getting sick and sent to a quarantine facility. Pray that these challenges will lead Vietnamese people to find peace in Jesus. Pray for churches to still have opportunities to be salt and light.

10 TONGA OF ZAMBIA. Many believing Zambians are first-generation Christians. Pray that they will disciple their children to become strong followers of the Lord who will pass down their faith to the next generations. Ask God to move in these children's hearts so that they will turn to Him.

11 SOUTH ASIAN PEOPLES. IMB workers among South Asians are asking God to raise up at least 500,000 people who will pray daily in strategic and informed ways for the 1.8 billion South Asian peoples. Ask God to call many to be passionate intercessors and advocates for South Asians.

12 NORTHERN AFRICAN AND MIDDLE EASTERN UNENGAGED PEOPLES. The Massalat people of 108,000 live in eastern Chad and adhere to Sunni Islam. Pray for the rural Massalat people to have access to God's Word. Pray that it will water their souls and bear rich fruit for the glory of God and the growth of His church among them.

13 PAMIRIS OF CENTRAL ASIA. Please pray for the Afghan Pamiris seeking refuge in Tajikistan, asking that they will hear and experience God's love and truth during this time.

14 PEOPLES OF NORTHEAST BRAZIL. A young pastor is leading his congregation to study the Bible together, and they are excited. Many of them did not own a Bible until recently. Pray for them to hunger and thirst for God's Word and that they will share what they learn with others.

15 SOUTH ASIAN PEOPLES. Praise God for Arkansas Baptist State Convention's prayer partnership with South Asia. Pray that this partnership will bear much fruit. Pray specifically for prayer

adoptions of South Asia's unengaged, unreached people groups and for gospel engagement of each one.

16 ICELANDERS OF ICELAND. Pray for a Christian Student Fellowship at the University of Iceland. They meet on campus for Bible studies. Pray for the leaders as for those who will join them, asking that God will draw students to Himself and build up the leaders.

17 SOUTH ASIAN PEOPLES. Pray for God to call out laborers for the work among South Asians. The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Pray that He will raise up believers from every corner of the world to give their lives so that many South Asians would worship the one, true, God.

18 CENTRAL ASIAN UNENGAGED PEOPLES. Pashayi people live in northeastern Afghanistan and speak at least four different languages with many dialects. Some believers have made inroads into their communities that are usually closed to outsiders. Pray that many Pashayi will hear the gospel and trust in Jesus.

19 SOUTH ASIAN PEOPLES. Ask God to raise up pastors and leaders for new churches that form among South Asians. Pray that these leaders will abide in Christ deeply, learning to walk by the Spirit and lead their congregations with humility.

20 HAUSA OF WEST AFRICA. Across northern Nigeria, bandit attacks and kidnappings occur almost daily. Farmers can't go out to their farms, children can't go to school, churches have closed, and people struggle to survive. Ask God to bring peace to this area and provide for people's daily needs.

21 SOUTH ASIAN PEOPLES. Pray for the jungle land of Palamu District in the Northern part of the Indian state of Jharkhand. Out of its 2 million people, less than 0.4% are followers of Jesus. Pray for believers as they share the gospel and train others in discipleship and church planting.

22 DEAF PEOPLES. COVID-19 cases and lockdowns have recently increased in Southeast Asia. Pray that the body of Christ will continue to be strong and meet regularly in person or virtually. Pray that many Deaf will have opportunities to learn God's stories and be drawn to the Father.

23 KATIO OF URABA, COLOMBIA. Please pray for Katio women who are starting a class on trauma healing that teaches Bible stories in its curriculum. May this class be a blessing to Katio women in the community where it is being held.

24 SOUTH ASIAN PEOPLES. Please pray for Matthew* in Chennai, India. He has a heart to reach out to Muslims and to share the gospel with them, but he does not have many others who will join him in this task. Pray for encouragement for Matthew, and for partners to join him.

25 TIHAMA YEMENI ARABS OF YEMEN. Pray that Tihami Arab believers will cherish and obey God's Word. As they live out their faith by seeking justice and helping widows and orphans, ask that others will trust in Jesus. Pray that God will move mightily in this region and transform their whole society.

26 SOUTH ASIAN PEOPLES. In two South Asian villages, national partners are meeting with two small groups of believers. They are teaching them a 35-lesson biblical overview that they will then teach to others. Praise God for these believers! Pray that they will be faithful followers of God.

27 DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO (DRC). Pray against the heresy of the prosperity gospel that is running rampant in the DRC, as it is in all of Sub-Saharan Africa. People who are desperately sick and poor cling to these false promises and miss out on the eternal hope found only in a relationship with Jesus.



A pastor's wife prays during a training session taught by cross-cultural workers and a national pastor.

“Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”
(Philippians 2:9-11 ESV)

28 HONG KONG AND MACAU, CHINA. Living under persecution isn't new for the church in mainland China. They have often even thrived as they persevere for Christ. As churches in Hong Kong begin to experience watchful eyes, pray for Baptist leaders to have wisdom. Ask that God's kingdom will be built up.

29 HUNGARIANS OF EASTERN HUNGARY. IMB personnel in Hungary have been meeting with potential partners to launch a new church plant in the Debrecen area. Ask God to bring the details together according to His will, and that He will grant clarity of vision to those who will be working in this new ministry.

30 SOUTH ASIAN PEOPLES. Pray for the believers in Paro, Bhutan to be united in love for one another. Pray that God will provide the training and equipping they need in the core missionary task as well as the boldness to go out and share with those in need of truth, hope, and life.

Men knew of Jesus' name but wept when they learned what He did for them

For years, the Thakkar people group of over 800,000 has remained unengaged and unreached with the gospel. Keith and Morgan Rawlings* have been mobilizing prayer adoptions for the Thakkar, and God has been opening doors like only He can. During the COVID-19 pandemic, South Asian believers assembled "Hope Packages" that would feed a family for a week through funds generously provided through Send Relief and Southern Baptist churches. In addition to meeting physical needs, news of the lasting hope available only through a relationship with Christ went out as well. One of the recipients of these packages was a group of men displaced by COVID-19 travel restrictions. After hearing the gospel, they began to weep. They said they had heard the name of



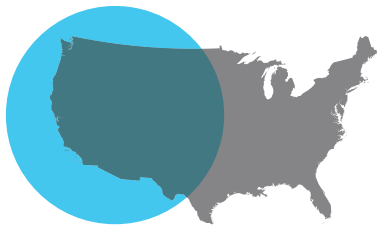
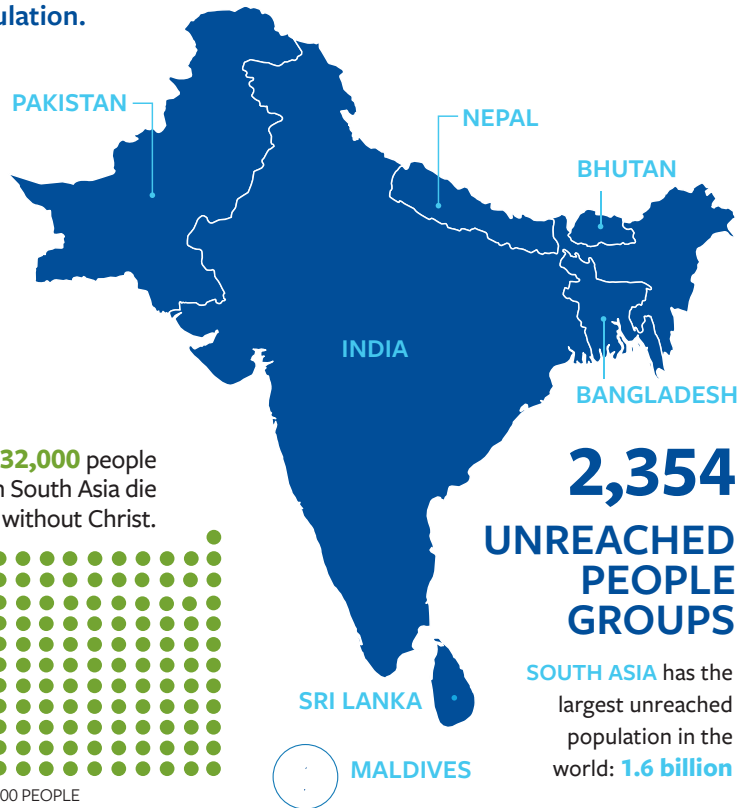
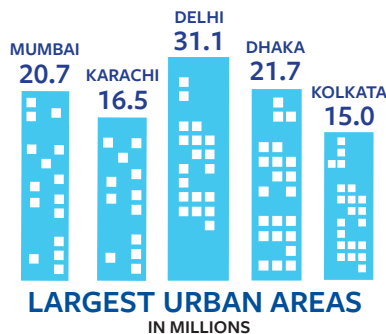
Men in a market in India.

Jesus but had never known what He had done for them. These men are Thakkar, and that day they chose to follow Christ! Pray for God to call out laborers to take the gospel to the unengaged and unreached in South Asia who do not know that Jesus is much more than a name.

South Asian Peoples

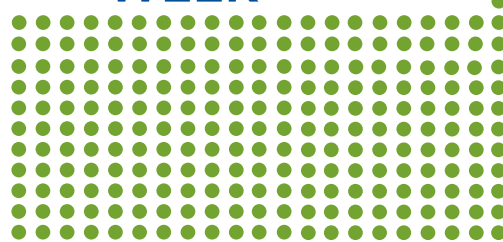
South Asia is the birthplace of Hinduism, Buddhism, Sikhism, Jainism and is home to nearly 1/3 of the world's Muslim population.

1.8
BILLION
PEOPLE



The **1.8 billion** people of South Asia are concentrated in an area **less than half** the size of the USA.

EVERY WEEK **232,000** people in South Asia die without Christ.



2,354
UNREACHED
PEOPLE
GROUPS

SOUTH ASIA has the largest unreached population in the world: **1.6 billion**

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