

“Call to me and I will answer you, and will tell you great and hidden things that you have not known.”
Jeremiah 33:3 ESV

PRAYERPOINTS

CENTRAL ASIAN PEOPLES: THE BALOCH

The story of the Baloch people is one filled with violence, oppression, and hopelessness. Yet recently God’s Spirit has been doing an amazing new work among this people. Within the past 10 years, many Baloch have been coming to faith through God’s Word, miraculous dreams of Jesus, and bold gospel proclamation. These are exciting days for the Baloch as God continues to raise up believers and build His church.

EXTRAORDINARY DAYS UNFOLD AS GOD CALLS THE BALOCH TO THE LIGHT

The Baloch are a Central Asian people group of around 13 million whose homeland, Balochistan, spans parts of Pakistan, Iran, and Afghanistan. Many Baloch live as a diaspora population in Europe and the Arabian Peninsula. Baloch men wear tribal turbans called págs, while the women wear colorful dresses called pashks. Children in Balochistan often have little education, spending their days tending to goats and playing outside.

The situation in Balochistan is marked by tensions. Many Baloch feel their communities are oppressed. While some advocate for independence through peaceful means, others resort to violent actions against Pakistani soldiers. Simultaneously, there are reports of Pakistani authorities engaging in assaults against the Baloch community. It’s a difficult situation with the gospel as the only solution.

Amid such turmoil, most Baloch are Muslims. They pray five times a day, listen to the Quran in Arabic (a language they don’t understand), and seek a god who is silent and unreachable. Most Baloch people will die having never heard the gospel.



Baloch men wearing traditional clothes perform a traditional dance. IMB Photo.

Yet God is doing amazing things. Twenty years ago, there were few Baloch believers. Today, several hundred Baloch people follow Jesus. Within the past 10 years especially, more stories have emerged about Baloch coming to faith through miraculous dreams and access to God’s Word. Astonishingly, it seems some believers have been quietly following Jesus for years. God’s extraordinary work among the Baloch continues to unfold as He calls many out of darkness.

Please join with joyful anticipation in praying for these people. These are the days of the Baloch, and Jesus is truly worthy of their praise.

ANSWER TO YOUR PRAYER

Believers had been witnessing and praying for their friend Molly in the Arab Gulf. She had been visiting a local church and hearing the gospel for a year. Praise God that Molly has come to faith! She repented of her sin, trusted Christ for salvation, and is eager to be baptized and join the church. As far as her friends know, she is the first female believer from the Baloch people group in the area.

1 The Balochi language has many dialects and isn't a standardized written language. Parts of the Bible have been translated into some dialects but not all. Pray for wisdom for those translating the Bible and for more dialects to be added so all Baloch can understand God's Word.

2 The relationship between Pakistan and the Baloch remains fragile. Pray for Baloch families dealing with the disappearance or loss of their loved ones. Pray that Baloch will choose peace and not violence. Above all, pray that Baloch in Pakistan will find freedom in Jesus.

3 In the war-torn country of Afghanistan, many Baloch desperately need food, water, and clothing. They face horrific realities and live in remote areas. Ask God to meet their needs and preserve them. Pray that Afghan Baloch will hear the gospel and find hope in Jesus.

4 Iranian Baloch live in a society full of hopelessness. They face joblessness, drug addiction, and a strict government. In such desperate times, there has been a rise of suicide among the youth. Pray that Iranian Baloch will be rescued by the light of Jesus.



Baloch love to spend time with one another while drinking tea and talking about their families. IMB Photo.

5 Some Baloch tribes live in the country of Turkmenistan. Little is known about the status of these Baloch, but recently, there have been encouraging reports of some Baloch there reading God's Word. Ask God to do an incredible work among the Baloch in Turkmenistan.

6 Some Baloch fled Balochistan as exiles to find asylum elsewhere, while others left to seek a better life. The diaspora have more opportunities to hear the gospel outside their homeland. Pray God will save many diaspora Baloch and send them back to Balochistan as bold witnesses.

7 About 30 years ago, a Baloch boy was drowning and prayed to many names for help. When he prayed to Jesus, he was thrown out of the water. Years later, he and his brother heard and believed the gospel. Pray for these men as they remain bold witnesses today for Jesus.

8 Bert says he is a believer but struggles in his faith because of alcohol abuse and depression. He lives far from his home community but is attending a local church where he lives. Ask God to grant him strength, endurance, peace, and deeper fellowship among believers.

9 Matt has been growing as a believer for several years. However, he recently married a Muslim woman after pressure from his family. Pray that Matt will grow in boldness and obedience to Jesus, and that he will share his faith with his wife and family.

10 When Zach fled from Balochistan, he had rejected God. But after he met loving believers who told him the gospel, he trusted in Jesus as Lord. Pray for strength, peace, and wisdom for Zach. Pray for his wife and children as he leads them toward Jesus.

11 Zach's elderly mother, Robin, still lives in Balochistan and has never heard the gospel. Zach doesn't feel safe sharing with her over the phone. Please pray for their reunion and for his mother to hear the gospel and believe.

12 Gary has been a follower of Jesus for several years, but seems to have forgotten the joy of his salvation. Ask God to stir his heart in conviction, drawing him into deeper relationship with his Father. Pray that Gary will hunger for God's Word, seek genuine fellowship with other believers, and lead his family well.

13 At first Daphne was angry at her father's new faith, but after she read the Bible, she too believed in Jesus. Pray for endurance and peace as she faces trials as a young believer. Pray that she will flee from sin and seek deep biblical community.

14 Luther believed after encountering Jesus in dreams and watching a gospel film. He has experienced persecution and suffering because of his love for Jesus. Pray for Luther's endurance and boldness. Pray that he will fight fear and idolatry and be a godly husband and father.

15 Pray for Luther's wife, children, and nieces, who are regularly hearing about Jesus. Though at first opposed to Luther's faith, they are now more open.

Please ask God to draw their hearts and open their eyes, and that they will reject Islam to follow Jesus.

16 Dan and Tom from the back page article are young believers and bold witnesses for Jesus. Pray that they will be soft, humble, and eager to seek wisdom and accountability from the Spirit, God's Word, and more mature believers.

17 Pray for a Baloch family that God is drawing to Himself. The father is reading Scripture, one sister is studying Bible stories, and another sister is having dreams of Jesus. Pray that God will continue to speak to them and that the entire family will be saved.

18 When Polly first heard the gospel, she didn't think she needed a savior. Over time, the Spirit opened her eyes to see her need. Last year, she confessed her sin and trusted in Jesus. Pray that Polly will grow in her faith and have courage to share it with her family.

19 Pray for Alton, an older Baloch believer who has been secretly following Jesus for many years. Alton lives in fear of others knowing that he is a believer. Pray that his heart will be encouraged and emboldened, and that the good news will spread throughout his family.

20 Katy is a Baloch woman who has been reading the Word and considering the truth. Pray for the Spirit to open her eyes and give her faith in the Son, whatever the cost.

21 Rachel has experienced brokenness in her life and family. Recently she has read the Word and heard about Jesus. Pray that the Spirit will open Rachel's

eyes and give her faith. Pray that she will encounter the peace and freedom of Jesus in the midst of her sorrow.

22 Faith is a South Asian Christian, but her husband is a Baloch Muslim. Their children also follow Islam. Please pray for courage for Faith as she loves her family and shares truth with them. Pray that her husband will hear the Bible in his language and be saved.

23 Olivia is the matriarch of a large Baloch family. When she heard the Christmas story, she was fascinated by it. Since then, she has listened to it two more times. Pray that she will seek more stories about Jesus, and that she and her whole family will believe in Christ.

24 Haley is a Baloch woman whose alcoholic husband often beats her and her children. Baloch women in these situations have few rights and options. Ask God to rescue Haley and her children and the many others like them. Pray that they will know the love of Jesus.

25 Amanda is a believer who wants to be bolder with her family. Last year when she told one sister that she was a Christian, that sister said, "I know." The change in Amanda is obvious! Pray Amanda will continue to share with her family and that they will follow Jesus.

26 Landon is a believer who is eager to share with his family. Recently his father has begun reading the Bible. Please pray that Landon will continue to be bold and courageous, and that his father's eyes will be opened as he reads God's Word.



Baloch women love to show off the brilliant colors and intricate patterns of their dresses, called pashks. IMB Photo.

27 Pray for a multicultural church that now includes three Baloch believers. Ask God to use their fellowship to draw more Baloch into His light and that a new Baloch church would be established!

28 Pray for Baloch believers across the world who are afraid of confessing Jesus openly in fear of being ostracized, beaten, or even killed. Pray that the Spirit will empower them. Pray that they will be filled with the peace of Jesus and will be bold witnesses.

29 It is unknown if there has ever been a healthy, authentic Baloch church worshipping in the Balochi language. Baloch believers face great risk if they meet together as Christians. Pray God will gather Baloch together to form a church despite the danger.

30 God is doing a great work among the 13 million Baloch. Pray that Jesus will continue to spread His gospel among them. Pray that in the years to come, there will be many more Baloch believers and that the darkness in Balochistan will be shattered by the light of Jesus.

FAMILY SECRETS DISCLOSED SPARK SPIRITUAL AWAKENING WITHIN A BALOCH HOUSEHOLD

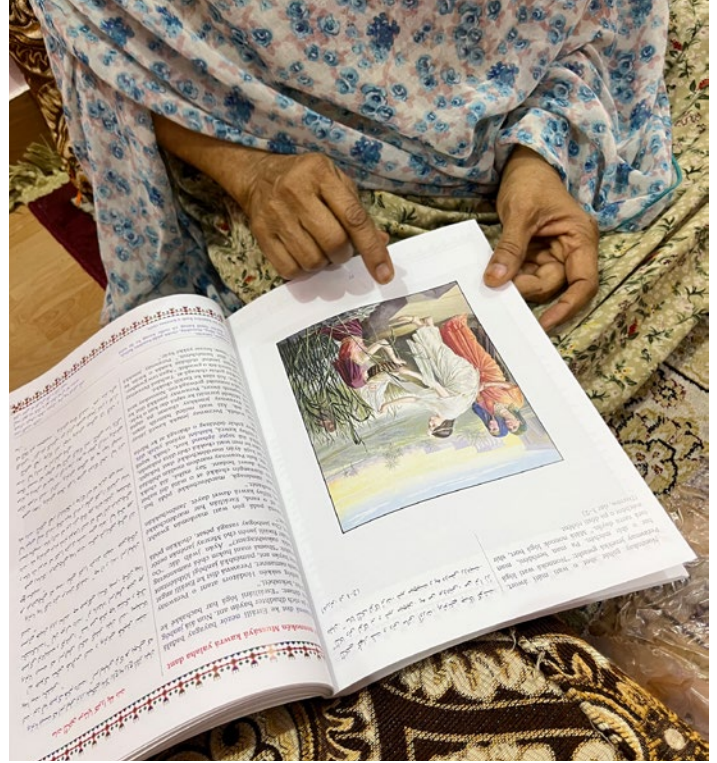
Dan and Tom are two Baloch brothers who are followers of Jesus and bold witnesses of the gospel. For a while, however, their family didn't know about their faith.

Last year, their parents pressured Tom to marry a Muslim girl. Tom prayed and felt it was time to tell them about his faith. The next time his parents brought it up, he bravely stated, "I cannot marry this girl because I am a Christian!"

The family stared at Tom in shock. His brother Dan shared how he and Tom left Islam to follow Jesus. While he was explaining, their mother stood up and declared, "I also believe in Jesus and have been keeping it secret!"

In the subsequent days, the mother's full story came out. She had cried out to God 25 years ago during an emotional breakdown. In that moment, she remembered a Bible she had received decades earlier. She then found it, read the story of Jesus' birth, and felt tremendous peace. That night, she dreamed that Jesus told her not to worry, that He had a plan for her offspring, and that His hand will be upon them.

Over two decades later, she finally understood what her dream meant. As she and her two adult sons stood before the family, she declared with them, "I too have faith in Jesus!"



A Baloch woman looks at the photos in this storybook Bible published in Balochi. This might be the only book she has ever seen in her language. IMB Photo.

Dan and Tom's father was angry, but their mother defended them. Since then, she has grown in her understanding of the gospel and is still following Jesus. Their sister has also heard the full gospel and has given her life to Jesus in faith.

Praise God for His incredible ways. Pray that He will continue to work in this family.



Most Central Asian believers are 1st generation Christians. Only a handful have known Jesus for more than 30 years.



Nearly 400 million Central Asians comprise 386 people groups. 39% of these groups do not have church-planting efforts among them.



Central Asians are experiencing deep grief and suffering as a result of war, repressive laws and natural disasters.

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Some names may have been changed for security reasons. BI 14.5M 4/24 P7701-6

**REACHING
THE NATIONS,
TOGETHER.**