

been praying for hours encouraging them to keep praying with the words of Galatians 6:9 “do not grow weary in doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.” A persecuted believer shared, “prayer is like air, without it we cannot live.”

In addition to teaching us how to endure our trials with prayer, Jesus emphasized the importance of watching in prayer for others. Matthew and Mark recorded that Jesus brought the disciples to the garden, but separated Peter, James and John to follow Him further as He went to pray. Jesus said to them, “My soul is very sorrowful, even to death. Remain here and watch with me” (Matthew 26:38). He asked those who were closest to Him to be alert and pray. When Jesus found the disciples sleeping, He said to Peter, “Could you not watch with Me one hour?” (Matthew 26:40) Interestingly, the word “could” is *ischuo* in Greek, which conveys exertion of force. The Apostle Paul picked up this image of exerting force as he described Epaphras who “always wrestling in prayer” for the Colossian believers “to stand firm in all the will of God, mature and fully assured” (Colossians 4:12).

The Gospels of Matthew and Mark both recount Jesus’ admonition to Peter to “Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation, for the spirit indeed is willing but the flesh is weak” (Matthew 26:41). Jesus knew Peter’s testing time was at hand and taught His beloved disciple to war against temptation with prayer. Certainly, that warning was not to Peter alone. Peter’s failure reminds us of the need to pray for persecuted saints more fervently, for everyone of us is subject to the frailty of the flesh. Open Doors’ “Standing Strong through the Storm Daily Devotion” recounts the testimony of a Vietnamese pastor imprisoned for his faith for many years. At his lowest point, the pastor cried out to the Lord to take his life because he felt forsaken and did not have the strength to go on. Then, he shared, “the Lord Jesus spoke to me that day saying that He would not take me home in defeat.” As the result of the supernatural encounter, the Vietnamese pastor repented and was used by the Lord to bring many to salvation during his imprisonment.

Praying for persecuted believers will open our sleepy eyes to God’s purpose and kingdom. We learn from their examples that to labor for the advancement of the Gospel is our priority; to be conformed to the image of Christ is our passion; and to bring glory to Jesus’ name is our zeal! 🌐



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Let’s ASK together:

- Why is the church persecuted? *If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you. Remember what I told you: ‘A servant is not greater than his master. If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also. If they obeyed my teaching, they will obey yours also. They will treat you this way because of my name, for they do not know the one who sent me. — John 15:19-21, 1 Peter 4:12-14, 19*
- Why pray for the persecuted church? ... *so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it. — 1 Corinthians 12:25-26, Romans 15:30-32*
- Persecuted church would represent Christ to their persecutors. *But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. — Matthew 5:44-45, Luke 23:34*
- Victory in the situations of persecution. *Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own. — Matthew 6:34, Mark 13:11, 2 Corinthians 4:8-11, 12:9-10* 🌐

ASKing for the Nations



THE HIMALAYAS



Unreached People Group:

KUMAONI OF INDIA

Population: 3,000,000
Primary Religion: Hinduism
Language: Kumaoni

Background

The Kumaoni live in the Kumaon Himalayas in the Indian state of Uttarakhand. Approximately 85% of Kumaonis belong to India's two highest castes, Brahmins (priests/teachers) and Rajputs (warriors). Their religious practice is a mixture of Hinduism, animism and superstition. Kumaonis have a reputation for being good soldiers. They are also subsistence farmers, but men often leave the hills to find better work. Unemployment and alcoholism rates are high in Kumaon.

The Gospel was introduced to the Kumaoni over 150 years ago. The Jesus Film and Scripture portions are available in the Kumaoni language. Although unopposed to Christianity, very few Kumaoni have responded to Christ. That seems to be changing, though. Recently, laborers have reported a new hunger and openness to the Gospel among the Kumaoni. A handful of Kumaoni have embraced Christ and exhibit a growing passion to share their faith with others. After many years of hard labor with little apparent fruit, workers now sense a movement toward Christ about to break forth among the Kumaoni. Because the Kumaoni are culturally high caste, their influence across the spectrum of Indian society is great. A revival among them would have incredible impact for the Gospel throughout India.

ASK... God to increase a hunger for the Gospel among the Kumaoni. Ask that they would encounter Jesus through dreams, visions and testimonies, and that God's kingdom would break forth (Psalm 42:1-2, Isaiah 45:3, Isaiah 64:1, Amos 8:11). Ask God to strengthen the faith of new believers, making them bold witnesses to Christ, and raising them up into their destiny as passionate worshippers of Jesus (Isaiah 42:8-12, Colossians 4:2-3). Ask God to raise up laborers for his harvest among the Kumaoni (Luke 10:2, Romans 1:8-17). 

Introduction

The Himalayas, literally meaning "abode of snow," are the mountains connecting Tibet and Nepal to India's Hindu Kush region, as well as to parts of Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Bhutan. This mountain range, the youngest on earth, is home to nine of the ten highest peaks on earth, including the highest — Mount Everest. It is also the source of three of the world's major rivers (the Indus, the Ganges and the Brahmaputra).

Known by many as the "Roof of the World," the Himalayas have profoundly shaped the cultures of South Asia. Religions and philosophies born in this region have circumvented the world, making the Himalayas one of the most influential places on earth. In this wild and storm-ridden land, there are 426 unreached people groups practicing Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam, or tribal spirit worship. Although this snowcapped region has awed mankind for centuries, the stunning beauty of the land completely masks the spiritual darkness that imprisons its residents.

Abode of the Gods

The Himalayas are the spiritual birthplace of Hinduism and Buddhism. Missiologists have identified the Himalayas as the location where the world's major "principalities and powers" reside. Hindus believe the Himalayas are the domestic dwelling place of the gods. They are also home to the Dalai Lama and thousands of Buddhist monasteries. Mt. Kailash is a spiritual epicenter and ultimate pilgrimage destination for Hindu, Buddhist, Jain and Bon religions.

Desperate for Good News

In the midst of such fervent pursuit of spiritual encounter, the spiritual battle over the Himalayas is profound, often translating into great affliction in the physical realm for the people of the Himalayas. Earthquakes, extreme poverty, jihadism, war, conflict, road fatalities, political turmoil and ritual abuse of children in temples and monasteries are all common parts of life in the Himalayas. People are desperately hungry for the kind of peace that can only be found in Christ.

ASKing for the Nations



The Blood of Martyrs

Laborers work diligently to proclaim Christ in the Himalayas, often at great cost. Persecution of Christians is common in the Himalayas. A Kashmiri church planter was martyred last July, but not before sharing his vision to see as many believers in the Kashmir Valley as the number of stars in the sky. Ask that the blood of the martyrs would be the seed of the Church (Tertullian; Matthew 5:10, John 12:24-26). Also ask God to protect new believers and fill them with courage to share their faith (Romans 8:35-39).



The Hummus Trail

Allured by India's easy access to drugs and the hope of spiritual renewal, 40,000 young Israelis travel the "Hummus Trail" to India each year following their discharge from required military service. Ask God to redeem the affection Israelis have for India, that the transformational experience they seek would be found in Christ (Genesis 12:2-3, Genesis 50:20, Isaiah 40:3-5). Also ask God to stir the hearts of Indian believers to bring the Gospel to the Jews (Zephaniah 3:14-17).



Global Impact

The Himalayas have influence across the globe — through the steady stream of internationals who visit the region each year in search of a spiritual experience, or the exportation of yoga, new age philosophies and westernized Buddhist practices. What happens in the Himalayas affects the whole world. Imagine the global repercussions of revival, transformation and Christ-glorifying breakthrough in these high places!

The Smell of Rain is in the Air

It is time to ASK for the Himalayas! Church planters say, "the smell of rain is in the air," breakthrough is near. The time is ripe to amplify asking prayer and worship over the region, helping give thrust to God's plans and purposes. Let our asking be bold, that God's kingdom would come with transformative power to the Himalayas (Ephesians 3:20-21)!

ASK Points:

- Ask for a decisive end to the spiritual power struggle over the Himalayas, that Jesus would be magnified as King of king and Lord of lords (Psalm 89:5-7, Psalm 103:19, Isaiah 44:24-25, Isaiah 62:10-11, Philippians 2:9-11).
- Ask that Jesus would be revealed throughout the Himalayas as the true Light of the World, that false and seductive lights in the high places would be extinguished by the wind of God's Spirit (John 1:1-18, 1 John 1:5-7, 2 Corinthians 4:4-6).
- Ask that evil forces be bound and that waves of healing, signs, wonders and dreams be dispatched in Jesus' name (Matthew 18:18-20, Romans 8:38-39).
- Ask that spiritual leaders in the high places would have radical encounters with Christ and be transformed into his likeness (Isaiah 42:16, 2 Corinthians 3:16-18, Ephesians 1:17-23, 1 Timothy 2:1-5, Hebrews 9:27-28).
- Ask God to prepare "good soil" in the hearts of all who hear the Gospel, that faith in Christ would grow deep (Matthew 13:18-23, Colossians 2:6-15).
- Ask God to encourage and empower church planters to bring the Gospel to the Himalayas with creativity and precision (Exodus 4:10-12, Isaiah 52:7, Jeremiah 3:15, Hebrews 13:20-21).

Visit www.highplacesprayer.com for daily prayers, an interactive map, regional prayer and worship slideshows and more. 