

ASKING POINT

Network

*He is the Rock, His works are perfect, and all His ways are just.
A faithful God who does no wrong, upright and just is He. Deut. 32:4*

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Unreached People Groups - The Least, the Lost, the Last

“After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. And they cried out in a loud voice: ‘Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.’” Revelation 7:9-10

Revelation 7 gives us a glimpse of the complete Bride of Christ gathered around the throne from every “nation, tribe, people and language,” worshiping the Lamb and acknowledging the salvation that “belongs” to Him. This ownership of salvation is one of the main characteristics that makes Jesus unique among the gods of every other world religion. Revelation 7 is a picture of our hope yet to come; a vision that can inspire and motivate us as we pursue one of the main activities of discipleship - partnering with Christ as He draws nations to Himself.

Jesus’ last words to his disciples in Matthew 28:19 included the commission to, “Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations.” The word for “nations” here from the Greek is *ethne*, and refers to ethnolinguistic groups (people groups, tribes, tongues) rather than geopolitical boundaries. The Joshua Project* has identified 16,689 different people groups on the earth today. Two thousand years after Jesus issued the Great Commission, 6,898 people groups are still considered unreached. This means that approximately 2.8 billion people (41.5% of the earth’s population) currently have little or no access to the gospel message! The majority of unreached people groups live in the 10/40 window. This window also contains 85% of the world’s “poorest of the poor,” as well as 43 of the top 50 countries that persecute Christians.

ASK for Unreached People Groups:

- Pray for laborers to reach the unreached.
- Pray that Scripture translations may be completed in the heart language of every people group.
- Pray for indigenous leaders to be raised up in every people group who would skillfully disciple their own communities with cultural sensitivity.
- Pray for the Word of God to run swiftly across the earth.

Scriptures to consider while you pray:

<i>Revelation 7:9-17</i>	<i>Isaiah 65:1</i>
<i>Isaiah 25:6-9</i>	<i>Haggai 2:6-9</i>
<i>Psalms 67</i>	<i>Matthew 9:35-38</i>
<i>Psalms 107:1-9</i>	<i>2 Thessalonians 3:1-5</i>
<i>Isaiah 43:8-13</i>	

*See www.joshuaproject.net for more information on unreached people groups.

...receive from Him
anything we ask, because we obey
His commands and do what pleases Him...

1 John 3:22



Hope of the Nations: INDIA

"In His name the nations will put their hope." Matthew 12:21



India is an ancient nation with modern technology. She has a place in the history of the World and Bible, whether as part of the kingdom Ahasuerus ruled one time (Esther 1:1), or as a country where one of the Apostles of Jesus Christ, Thomas, went to preach the gospel and was martyred. Once known for mathematical skills, today India is known for technological expertise and spiritually, she has been known for her religious zeal and for worship of idols. Imbedded in Hindu religious culture, an immovable caste system, and over population (1.2 billion people), India finds herself in a predicament of social and linguistic disunity, corruption, and economic depravity and poverty. Statistics show that 36% of the country's population lives below the poverty line, 35% of the population (400 million people) are categorized as downtrodden 'Dalits,' 80% of women are anaemic, and 53% of the children (60 million children) are malnourished.

It is believed that almost 2,000 years ago, right after Christianity originated in Palestine and emerged in Europe, that Thomas, the Apostle of Jesus Christ, arrived in Kerala, India and converted Indians to Christianity. There are about 30 million Christians in India and the majority of them live in Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Goa, Manipur and Mizoram. There is either no or little presence of Christianity in other parts of India. While Christian maturity and leadership are strong, there is a lack of unity and national evangelistic efforts to reach the whole of India.

ASK for India:

- **Pray that India will find the true righteousness of God.** As India is a very religious country, the best way to pray is as the Apostle Paul prayed for the Jewish people in *Romans 10:1-3*.
- **Pray against idolatry.** Idolatry is a flagrant violation of the first four commandments of the Jehovah God. Please pray that India will turn from idols and serve the living and true God. *1 Thessalonians 1:9-10*
- **Pray for boldness in the midst of persecution.** *Acts 4:29-31*
- **Pray that the Church will grow like in the first century, bringing their "Poojaris" (priests) to the Lord.** *Acts 6:7*
- **Pray for the "unreachable majority."** The recent Hindu religious militancy and anti-Christian laws prohibit open evangelism and public meetings for Christians. As a result, an estimated 65% of the general population has no opportunity to hear the gospel. Please pray that the Lord will help Christians to find innovative ways to share the gospel, such as tent making and market place evangelism.
- **Pray for the many people groups.** There are 953 people groups (over 10,000 people) and 150 mega people groups (over 1 million people) that have no significant movement of Christian ministry. The 150 mega people groups are politically, economically, and culturally strategic and influential. Please pray for the 364 people groups who have no witnessing at all.
- **Pray that the Bible will be translated into many languages.** There are 15 major languages and 256 dialects in India. Out of the 222 languages with a population of more than 10,000 speakers, 71 of them do not have any portion of Scripture in their language. The entire Bible is translated in 52 Languages. Please pray for the New Testament translation project being undertaken in 93 languages.
- **Pray for the children of India.** It is estimated that at least 40% of the population of India is under the age of 14. According to an international survey, at least 21 million school-age children don't go to school and many of them are malnourished. Many Christian organizations are working with children. Please pray that the Lord will save the children of India.
- **Pray that the Lord will allow Christians and India as a whole to experience some of the characteristics of the early church ministry.** The church preached Christ crucified (*1 Corinthians 2:2*), they preached under persecution (*Acts 17:1-9*), and they preached in the demonstration of the Holy Spirit for supernatural growth (*1 Corinthians 2:4-5*).