

Unreached of the Day

JAN–FEB 2022

Note: Scripture references are from the *English Standard Version* (ESV). Images in this guide (marked with an asterisk *) come from the International Mission Board (IMB). We thank the IMB for their exquisite images, taken by workers in the field.

JANUARY

■ 1 Shaikh in Bangladesh

According to one account, the word Shaikh is a general term of courtesy equivalent to the English term of esquire. According to another account, the name is applied to people of pure Arab descent. Much prayer is needed for the Shaikh, as they fear followers of Christ as an invading threat to their families and communities.

Genesis 1:1 | *In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.*

- Pray that this people group will be in awe of the Lord for His creation and realize that He is the only one worthy of worship and devotion.
- Pray that as the Shaikh read the Koran, they will be drawn to Jesus and to the Bible.
- Pray for a movement to Christ among Shaikh families.

■ 2 Japanese in Japan

Racially, culturally, and ethnically, the Japanese are one of the most homogenous people groups in the world. They identify themselves in terms of biological heritage, birth in Japan, a shared culture, and a common language. Shintoism is the native religion of Japan; its many gods or spirits are known as Kami. Today, most Japanese claim to be both Shintoist and Buddhist.

Genesis 1:27 | *So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.*

- Pray that this people group will realize that they were meant to be in God's image, and they need to change their ways to get back to Him.
- Pray the Japanese will increasingly realize their great need for a Savior.
- Pray that material wealth will not satisfy.
- Pray for a spiritual awakening that will result in a movement to Christ.
- Pray for believers to share their faith.

■ 3 Burmese in Myanmar

The Burmese are the political, economic, and religious leaders of Myanmar, formerly known as Burma. Burmese homes often have altars for the spirits, as well as a statue of Buddha. Farmers may spend more in a year on their religion than on education, health, and clothing for their families.

Genesis 12:2-3

And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.

- Pray for many leaders in today's people group to seek and find God's blessings, which He intended to give to them since the beginning of time.
- Pray that the few followers of Christ among the Burmese would live holy lives, being zealous to grow into the image of Christ.
- Pray they would be kind and compassionate to their neighbors, drawing them to the Savior.
- Pray for peace tempered by justice in Myanmar.
- Pray for a Disciple Making Movement among the Burmese.

■ 4 Brahmins in India

Brahmin pride and the perception that Christianity is only for outcast "untouchables" are serious obstacles to Brahmin families and communities' accepting God's blessing for families through Jesus. They also believe that missionaries pay people to become converts to win a cultural and political war with Hinduism.

Genesis 15:5-6

And he brought him outside and said, Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them. Then he said to him, So shall your offspring be. And he believed the LORD, and he counted it to him as righteousness.

- Pray that members of today's people group will understand that they can become part of God's holy family and experience His goodness.
- Pray for Brahmin families and communities to discover and embrace the free gift of life found by trusting in Christ and his finished work.

■ 5 Yadav in India

The Yadav caste group shows great leadership—politically and socio-economically—especially in the two largest states of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. Fear that Christianity aims to turn individuals from their families, communities, and traditions hinders Yadav families and communities from considering the gospel.

Genesis
12:2-3

And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.

The LORD is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation; this is my God, and I will praise him, my father's God, and I will exalt him. Exodus 15:2

- Pray that members of today's people group will look to the Lord alone for strength and victory.
- Pray for a movement of God's blessing to flow through Yadav families so that they can discuss and apply God's Word.

■ 6 Bania in India

"Bania" is something of a generic term, and there are many Bania communities. The Bania trace their history back about 5,000 years, and today we associate them with trade and business.

Exodus
15:11

Who is like you, O LORD, among the gods? Who is like you, majestic in holiness, awesome in glorious deeds, doing wonders?

- Pray that today's people group will understand that glory, holiness and power come only from our Lord and king.
- Pray for discovery Bible studies to spread rapidly and bless Bania families and communities.
- Pray for workers and that a strong movement to Jesus will bring whole Bania families and communities into a rich experience of God's blessing.

■ 7 Rajput in India

The name Rajput is derived from the Sanskrit word rajputra, meaning son of a ruler. The Rajputra constitutes a class of nobility. The Rajput clans emerged as a dominant community in north and western India in the colonial period. Economic data suggests that the majority of Rajput are landowners.

Exodus
18:11

Now I know that the LORD is greater than all gods, because in this affair they dealt arrogantly with the people.

- Pray that non-believers among this people group will be convinced to follow the Lord because of His miracles.
- Pray for the few Rajput believers to be effective at engaging their families and communities in discussing Bible stories and experiencing God's blessing.
- Pray that a strong movement to Jesus will bring whole Rajput families and communities into a rich experience of God's blessings.

■ 8 Najdi Arabs in Saudi Arabia

Najdi is one of the varieties of the Arabic language spoken by Saudi Arabs. Saudi Arabia is completely off limits to any kind of indigenous Christian presence, and there are almost no followers of Jesus among the Najdi Arabs. However, there are few, and they need outside prayer support.

Exodus 20:3 | *You shall have no other gods before me.*

- Pray for this people group to understand and obey this essential and central command.
- Pray that Najdi Arab believers would learn to live in the power of Christ's Spirit.
- Pray the Najdi Arabs would hunger to know forgiveness of sin, found only through faith in the work of Christ on the cross.
- Pray for a Disciple Making Movement among this Muslim people.



■ 9 Sunda in Indonesia

The Sunda are the largest Indonesian unreached people group. In many areas, Islam is mixed with Sunda traditional customs. They have a legend that God incarnated a little of Himself in the world in order to protect the life of man. Data from the West Java Statistical Department shows a high rate of poverty among the Sunda. There is a need for agricultural investment and modernization and in development of small to medium-sized businesses.

Exodus
23:25-26

You shall serve the LORD your God, and he will bless your bread and your water, and I will take sickness away from among you. None shall miscarry or be barren in your land; I will fulfill the number of your days.

- Pray that many from this people group will serve the Lord and receive His abundant blessings.
- Pray for the Lord to use His children to bless the Sunda financially and spiritually, and that the Sunda will give God praise.

■ 10 Persian in Iran

The government of Iran is strongly opposed to anything they perceive as Western, including the gospel. The government of Iran tries its best to stop the spread of the gospel, but that country has the fastest growing church in the world, largely thanks to their government-dictated form of spirituality. Now is God's time for drawing the Persians to Himself.

- Pray that as members of this people group become part of God's holy family that they will also find His purposes for them.
- Pray for Persian believers to be so filled with the love and joy of having a relationship with Christ that others would take whatever chance they need to belong to Him.
- Pray for the spread of the gospel in Iran to continue to be blessed by multiplying house church movements. Pray for entire families to come under the conviction of the Holy Spirit and understand that Jesus Christ died for them.

■ 11 Uyghur in China

Millions of Uyghurs live in China, a nation that imprisons well over one million Uyghurs in brutal "re-education" camps. Although almost all Uyghurs are Sunni Muslim, they mix their Islam with folk religion. Ask that suffering Uyghurs would experience God's comfort from within re-education camps and broken homes.

Exodus
34:8-9

And Moses quickly bowed his head toward the earth and worshiped. And he said, If now I have found favor in your sight, O Lord, please let the Lord go in the midst of us, for it is a stiff-necked people, and pardon our iniquity and our sin, and take us for your inheritance.

- Pray that members of this people group will soon have as rich an understanding of the need for God's presence as Moses did. A small but growing number of Uyghur believers live in nearby Central Asia.
- Pray that they would be strengthened in their faith and filled with the fruit of the Holy Spirit.
- Ask God to disciple Uyghur believers to start a Disciple Making Movement for Uyghur communities throughout China.

■ 12 Daasanach in South Sudan

The Daasanach, who are sometimes called the Marille, are a people with fairly recent history. Known for their fighting prowess, these exiles from other groups have come together to survive against the rough environment they live in. The Daasanach are very hard to reach due to their wariness of outside people and their lack of technology.

Exodus
40:34-35

Then the cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. And Moses was not able to enter the tent of meeting because the cloud settled on it, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle.

- Pray for many from this people group to experience the glory of the Lord and allow Him to transform them forever.
- Pray for the Daasanach to have all the food and resources they need.
- Pray for them to have peace in their lives and with each other.
- Pray for the few believers to stay strong and live their lives by example to others.
- Pray for a powerful movement to Christ among them this decade.

■ 13 Arabic-speaking Algerians in Algeria

People groups change through the centuries. The Romans conquered Algeria and the Berber peoples who lived there. In the seventh century, the Arab Empire was in full swing, and they conquered and settled that same land. Though Algeria is culturally Arab, their form of Arabic has borrowed a number of words from the earlier Berbers. Thus, the nations of North Africa have their own forms of Arabic.

Leviticus 19:1-2 *And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, Speak to all the congregation of the people of Israel and say to them, You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy.*

- Pray that new believers among this people group will seek holiness by allowing the Holy Spirit to transform them from the inside out. Pray that the uncertainties of life would open Algerian Arab Muslims to seek Jesus as the answer. Pray that the JESUS Film and audio materials would be used effectively among them.

■ 14 Arabic-speaking Moroccans in Morocco

In 670, Umayyads of Damascus completed the first Islamic conquest of the North African coastal plain, settling in what is now Morocco. Arabs have ruled this region ever since, which includes the original Berber tribal groups of North Africa, some of whom were Christians before the Arab invasion. This cultural mix resulted in scholarly advances in science, mathematics, astronomy, geography and medicine.

Numbers 6:24-26 *The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.*

- Pray this blessing on today's people group.
- Pray that a strong movement to Jesus would bring whole Moroccan Arab families and communities into a rich experience of God's blessing.

■ 15 Nigerian Fulani in Nigeria

Scattered mostly in Nigeria and Cameroon, these semi-nomadic people fiercely reject anything they perceive contrary to their lifestyle of roaming with their cattle herds. This includes education and permanent homes. One businessman and member of a ruling party has established two large cattle ranches, forcing the Fulani tribal people from their historic grazing land. They were given no compensation.

Deuteronomy 10:21 *He is your praise. He is your God, who has done for you these great and terrifying things that your eyes have seen.*

- Pray that many from this people group will make the Lord their only God, and thank Him for His miracles.
- Pray the Fulani would be able to care adequately for their families, better prepared for the rapidly changing conditions of the 21st century.
- Pray they would see the need to make schooling a priority for their children.

■ 16 Mushunguli in Somalia

The Mushunguli people are said to have descended from fugitive slaves who escaped from their Somali masters in northeast Tanzania around 1840. Many migrated to Somalia in search of security from the slave-trade, and mainstream Somalis look down upon them because of their slave origins. Somalia is not a hospitable place for Christian outsiders to live and work.

Joshua 1:8 *This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.*

- Pray that many from this people group will not only study but apply what God teaches through His word.
- Pray these people would be able to care for their families, living in safety and peace.



■ 17 Tunisian Arabs in Tunisia

In the first few centuries after Christ, a strong church was established in present-day Tunisia despite intense persecution from the Romans. Disunity, factions and a failure to translate the Bible into the local languages weakened the church. When Arab invaders arrived in the 7th century, Islam spread rapidly and Christian roots were forgotten.

Joshua 4:24 | *So that all the peoples of the earth may know that the hand of the LORD is mighty, that you may fear the LORD your God forever.*

- Pray that the "nation" we are praying for today will know that the Lord's hand is powerful and will give Him praise.
- Pray for Tunisian Arabs to become aware of their spiritual bankruptcy before God.
- Pray for dreams and visions that would open Arab eyes and show them that Jesus is the only way to God.

■ 18 Shuwa Arabs in Chad

Populated with independent adventuresome nomads, Chad lies at the crossroads of a major trans-Saharan trade route and Africa's second largest wetland, Lake Chad. For years, various tribes and terrorist factions have fought for control of this region. The Shuwa Arabs of Chad are mostly nomadic, but some live in the villages and towns. Shuwa Arabs play a minor role in Chad's political arena. Many missionaries have left Chad because of the numerous conflicts, political upheavals, and harsh living conditions.

Ruth 2:12 | *The LORD repay you for what you have done, and a full reward be given you by the LORD, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge!*

- Pray for today's people group to seek and find refuge with the Lord and be rewarded.
- Pray that they would be able to provide adequately for the needs of their families.
- Pray for a Christ-ward movement that will bless the Arabs of Chad.

■ 19 Muslim Jats in Canada

After 1858, under the British Raj, the Jats were known for their service in the Indian Army, being categorized as a "martial race" by the British. Today the Jat peoples are one of the most prosperous groups in India on a per capita basis. As a general rule, it's the more prosperous and well-educated peoples from South Asia who are allowed to immigrate to Canada. Jat farmers are also known to be experts at producing a high yield, so these people are also welcome in other parts of the world.

1 Samuel 2:2 | *There is none holy like the LORD: for there is none besides you; there is no rock like our God.*

- Pray for influential members of this people group to understand that there is no solid rock like our God!
- Pray for a movement of Jesus to heal and strengthen Jat communities.

■ 20 Karapoto in Brazil

Though many Brazilian tribes are still undiscovered by the outside world, some have been in contact with the Portuguese speaking majority for a long time. Among these are the Karapoto people, who are somewhat assimilated. They have their own language, which is being replaced by Portuguese. They are sedentary farmers and herders. In their minds, they think that another way of worship (Christianity) disconnects them from their traditions, ethnicity and society. Many have not had contact with those who put Christ's teachings into practice.

1 Samuel 5:4 | *But when they rose early on the next morning, behold, Dagon had fallen face downward on the ground before the ark of the LORD, and the head of Dagon and both his hands were lying cut off on the threshold. Only the trunk of Dagon was left to him.*

- Pray that many from this people group will understand that their gods have failed them, but God never fails!
- Pray for an unstoppable Disciple Making Movement among the Karapoto people.



■ 21 Sarnami Hindi in Curacao

This people group originated in the Indian states of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar before they went as indentured servants to Curacao, just north of South America, to work in salt mines and plantations. Oil, shipping, and tourism are important industries in Curacao, and most likely, the Sarnami Hindi people are involved in these industries. The majority of the Sarnami Hindi people in Curacao are Hindu, and only about one percent of them are Christian of any kind.

1 Samuel
17:45

Then David said to the Philistine, You come to me with a sword and with a spear and with a javelin, but I come to you in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied.

- Pray that the nations will know that they cannot defy the Lord.
- Pray for spiritual receptivity among these Hindus. Pray for a Disciple Making Movement to emerge among the Sarnami Hindi people.

■ 22 South Ucayali Asheninka in Peru

The South Ucayali Asheninka live in the central jungle areas of the Peruvian Amazon. They have suffered greatly at the hands of outsiders and terrorist groups. They are subsistence farmers, and the men go hunting and fishing in the evenings. They have an animistic worldview, and they rely on shamans to appease wicked spirits. There may be few true believers in this people group.

1 Kings 18:21

And Elijah came near to all the people and said, How long will you go limping between two different opinions? If the LORD is God, follow him; but if Baal, then follow him. And the people did not answer him a word.

- Pray that today's people group will indeed see the vast difference between the Lord and any other deity.
- Pray that they will follow Him.
- Pray for their growth and the courage to share Christ with their families and communities.
- Pray for those trying to improve the lifestyle of the Asheninka group to make great strides in the 2020s, resulting in a people movement to Christ.

■ 23 Hindi in the US

Hindi is the language of India's densely populated and highly unreached northern states. Almost all Hindi speakers in the US hold high-paying positions and they come from the prestigious castes that are bypassed by the gospel in India. Wealth is an obstacle to the knowledge that one has spiritual needs.

1 Kings 18:39

And when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces and said, The LORD, he is God; the LORD, he is God.

- Pray that today's people group will understand the vast power and goodness of the Lord.
- Pray for Hindi speakers to overcome spiritual barriers and accept Jesus' finished work on the cross as the only payment for sin.
- Pray that North America would be fertile ground for a movement to Christ among Hindi speakers.

■ 24 Kogi in Colombia

The Kogi people have lived in the mountains of Colombia for hundreds of years. They wear white, homespun, plant-based clothes. Living in round huts made with stone, mud and palm leaves, they bar outsiders from their ancestral lands. "Aluna" or "The Great Mother" is the creator goddess they worship. Colombian believers can take Christ to the Kogi people, but they will need to take precautions to ensure they are not introducing new diseases. The Kogi tribe must make necessary changes to cope in modern society.

2 Chronicles
7:1-2

As soon as Solomon finished his prayer, fire came down from heaven and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices, and the glory of the LORD filled the temple. And the priests could not enter the house of the LORD, because the glory of the LORD filled the LORD's house.

- Pray for today's people group to be in absolute awe of the Lord when they hear of His glorious presence.
- Pray the youth would learn to read and gain valuable skills.
- Pray the tribe would not be exploited by those inclined to take advantage of them.

■ 25 Tajik in Uzbekistan

Tajiks are one of the major people groups of Central Asia. Tajiks have repeatedly been invaded and conquered throughout their history. The armies of Alexander the Great, the Arabs in the seventh century, Genghis Khan, the Turks, the British, and the Russian empire have all had a profound impact on these people.

2 Chronicles
7:15

Now my eyes will be open and my ears attentive to the prayer that is made in this place.

- Pray that you will be encouraged to pray, knowing that the Lord will hear your prayers that are in accordance with His will.
- Pray for a spiritual hunger among the Tajiks in Uzbekistan.
- Pray that many among these hospitable people would receive Christ's ambassadors as well as the Lord's blessings.
- Pray for a movement of Tajik households to study the Bible and accept the blessings of Christ.

■ 26 Northern Thai in Thailand

The Northern Thai community has followed Buddhism for 1,000 years, and like other Theravada Buddhists, they mix their beliefs with numerous animistic rituals. Protestant missionaries have worked in northern Thailand for about 150 years, but response from the Northern Thai has been painstakingly slow. Their understanding of sin is very different than that of Christ followers.

Nehemiah
1:6

Let your ear be attentive and your eyes open, to hear the prayer of your servant that I now pray before you day and night for the people of Israel your servants, confessing the sins of the people of Israel, which we have sinned against you. Even I and my father's house have sinned.

- Pray for the Lord to raise up believers from among today's people group that will faithfully and fervently pray for their people.
- Pray for Thai families to be drawn to Jesus and to the Bible to find out more about Jesus.
- Pray the Thai would increasingly desire a solution for their sin problem.
- Pray they would desire a Savior, someone who can provide forgiveness for sin and power to live this life victoriously.

■ 27 Azeri Turks in Iran

In Iran, this people group is known formally as Azeri. Informally, the Azeris and other Turkic speaking Iranian groups are commonly referred to as "Tork" (Turk). Despite conflict in the past, the Azeri are now well represented at all levels of the government and military, as well as in the religious community. The living conditions of Azeris in Iran closely resemble that of Persians.

Nehemiah
2:4

Then the king said to me, What are you requesting? So I prayed to the God of heaven.

- Pray that you will not pass up the chance for short, but effective prayers when you intercede for the nations.
- God is moving in Iran; pray that God will lead Azeri families and communities into a movement to Christ.
- Pray that the Azeri families of Iran will increasingly be drawn to Isa al-Masih (the name Muslims use to refer to Jesus) and to God's Word.

■ 28 Vietnamese in Cambodia

The Vietnamese living in Cambodia today are a people without a country. They are not citizens of Cambodia. They are not allowed to take jobs that could be filled by a Cambodian. Buddhism and animism are deeply ingrained in the Vietnamese and Cambodian cultures. If a Vietnamese person becomes a believer, he or she risks being alienated by his or her family and neighbors.

Nehemiah
8:5-6

And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was above all the people, and as he opened it all the people stood. And Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God, and all the people answered, Amen, Amen, lifting up their hands. And they bowed their heads and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground.

- May this people group have Holy Spirit reverence for the Lord when they hear His word.
- Pray that Cambodian Vietnamese believers would grow strong in the faith and be able to meet the needs of their families.
- Pray that God raises up a Disciple Making Movement among this people in this decade.



■ 29 Hui in Malaysia

The Muslim Hui people who live in Malaysia originally lived in China. Many left China to establish businesses in Malaysia or to escape religious persecution after the communist takeover in 1949. Even though they share the Muslim faith of the majority of the Malaysians, the Hui are not seen as Malaysians because their family language and ancestry are Chinese.

Nehemiah 8:1

And all the people gathered as one man into the square before the Water Gate. And they told Ezra the scribe to bring the Book of the Law of Moses that the LORD had commanded Israel.

- Pray for an eagerness to hear and heed God's word among this people group.
- Pray that each Hui in Malaysia would have the opportunity to hear the gospel.
- Pray that the Lord would raise up a Disciple Making Movement among the Hui in Malaysia in this decade.

■ 30 Tai Lue in Laos

The Tai Lue dwell in villages near rivers. Most make their living growing and selling wet rice and other crops. Other Tai Lue fish and make jewelry from silver, and their women are expert weavers and embroiderers. The JESUS Film and God's Story video are both available in the Lu language. The Tai Lue are primarily an oral culture, so these would be good resources for them.

Nehemiah 8:8

They read from the book, from the Law of God, clearly, and they gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.

- Pray for this people group to understand God's word when they hear it.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to soften the hearts of the Tai Lue so that they will be receptive to the gospel.
- Pray that the gospel will spread rapidly throughout the Tai Lue people and that Christ will be glorified.

■ 31 Vanniyan in India

Does your ancestry include royalty? The Vanniyan believe theirs does. They claim to be descendants of medieval kings who ruled South India. Today Vanniyan are the most politically mobilized and well-informed caste in the Indian state of Tamil Nadu. Their main language is Tamil. Most Vanniyan engage in agriculture and animal husbandry for a living while educated Vanniyan are politicians, engineers, administrators, scientists, and university professors.

Nehemiah 9:3

And they stood up in their place and read from the Book of the Law of the LORD their God for a quarter of the day; for another quarter of it they made confession and worshiped the LORD their God.

- Pray that hearing the word will lead to deep repentance.
- Ask the Lord to enable Indian believers to share Christ with the Vanniyan and help them begin their own Disciple Making Movement.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to soften their hearts of the Vanniyan towards Jesus.

FEBRUARY

■ 1 Kist in Georgia

In the 18th century, ethnic Chechens came from Chechnya to settle in Pankisi Gorge. These Chechens were named "Kist" by the Georgians. Over time, the Kist people have adopted Georgian last names and Georgian as their secondary language.

Nehemiah 9:6

You are the LORD, you alone. You have made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth and all that is on it, the seas and all that is in them; and you preserve all of them; and the host of heaven worships you.

- May the hearing of God's word lead to this people group understanding who God is and the fact that He gave them life.
- Pray that the Holy Spirit would guide the Kist people into a movement to Christ.
- Pray that they would understand the gospel, that Jesus saves us by grace through faith in him and that salvation is not based on good deeds.
- Pray for the few believing Kists.
- Pray that the Lord would give them strength, courage and love to share the gospel with those around them.