



GLOBAL OUTREACH | 2026

PRAYER GUIDE

MCLEAN BIBLE CHURCH



A NOTE FROM PASTOR DAVID PLATT

Dear Church Family,

The progress of the gospel in the world is dependent upon the prayers of God's people in the church. God Himself has designed it this way. Jesus told us, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore, pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest" (Matthew 9:37-38). This prayer guide is intended to help our church family obey this command from Jesus. I encourage you not only to take one, but to use it daily and weekly. Use it alone, with your family, or with your Church Group.

As you use it to guide your prayers, I want to encourage you: Pray with faith! Pray with confidence that God is not only listening to you but also that you are participating with Him in the accomplishment of His purposes in the world. What a thought! What a privilege! Let us take full advantage of this opportunity we have been given to be a part of the spread of God's glory in the world, particularly among people and places where Jesus is not yet known, from our knees.

For His Glory,

David Platt

A NOTE FROM GLOBAL OUTREACH

Global Outreach serves MBC by equipping and mobilizing church members to make disciples of Jesus Christ and multiply churches among all nations. One of the ways we accomplish this mission is through prayer. Prayer is the foundational work of missions because God is the author of salvation and the head of the Church. Through prayer, the Church participates in God's work to advance the gospel to the ends of the earth, and we prayerfully depend on Him. As Samuel Zwemer (1867-1952), a pioneer missionary to the Middle East, once said, "The history of missions is the history of answered prayer." We invite our MBC Church family to pray with us this year for our missionaries, our partners, and the countries where the gospel is growing or has yet to take root!

HOW TO USE THIS PRAYER GUIDE

This prayer guide is organized into 52 weeks. The guide includes:

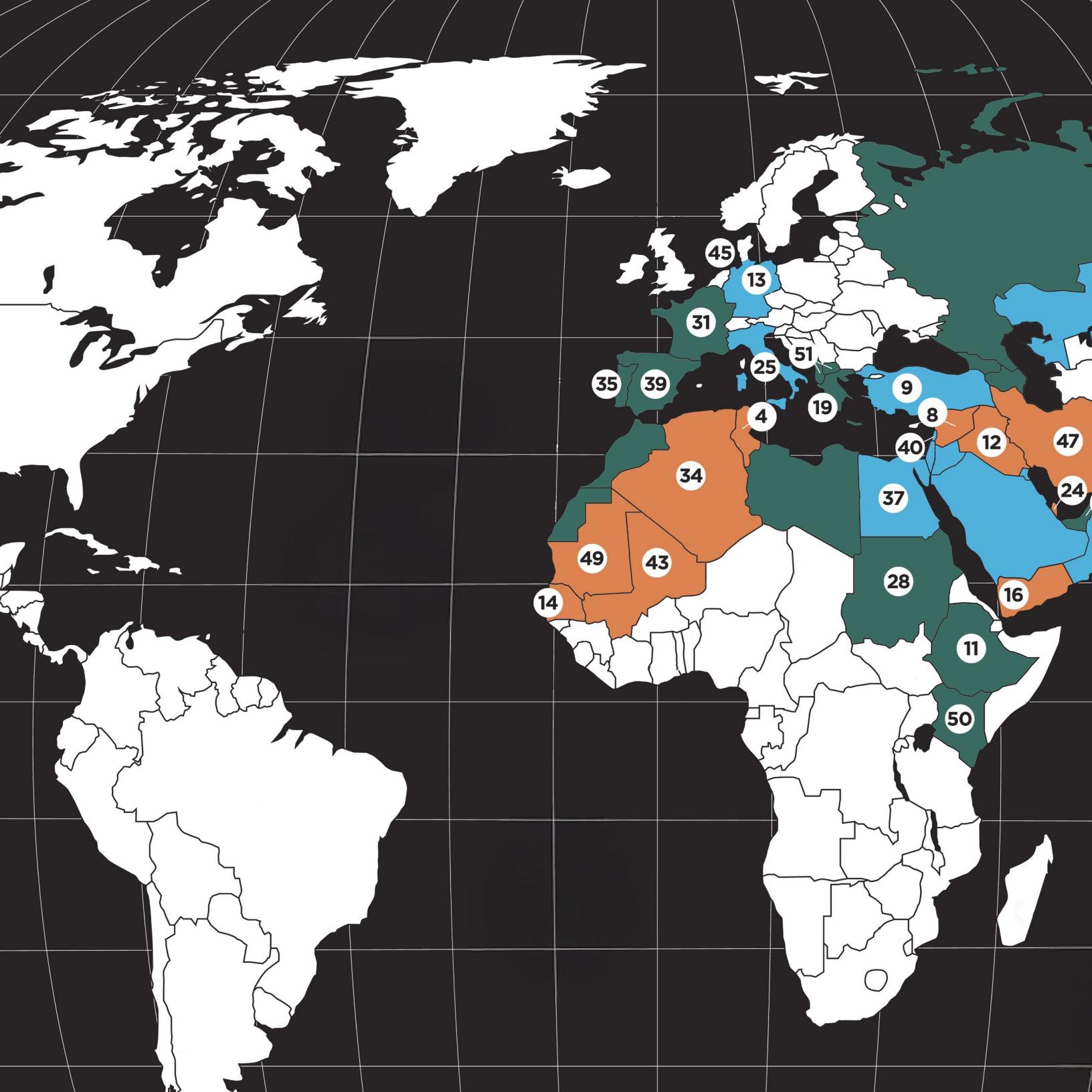
- A prayer entry for each MBC missionary.
- Prayer entries for MBC partner organizations and the people or region they serve.
- Prayer entries for the top unreached nations of the world, based on joshuaproject.net.

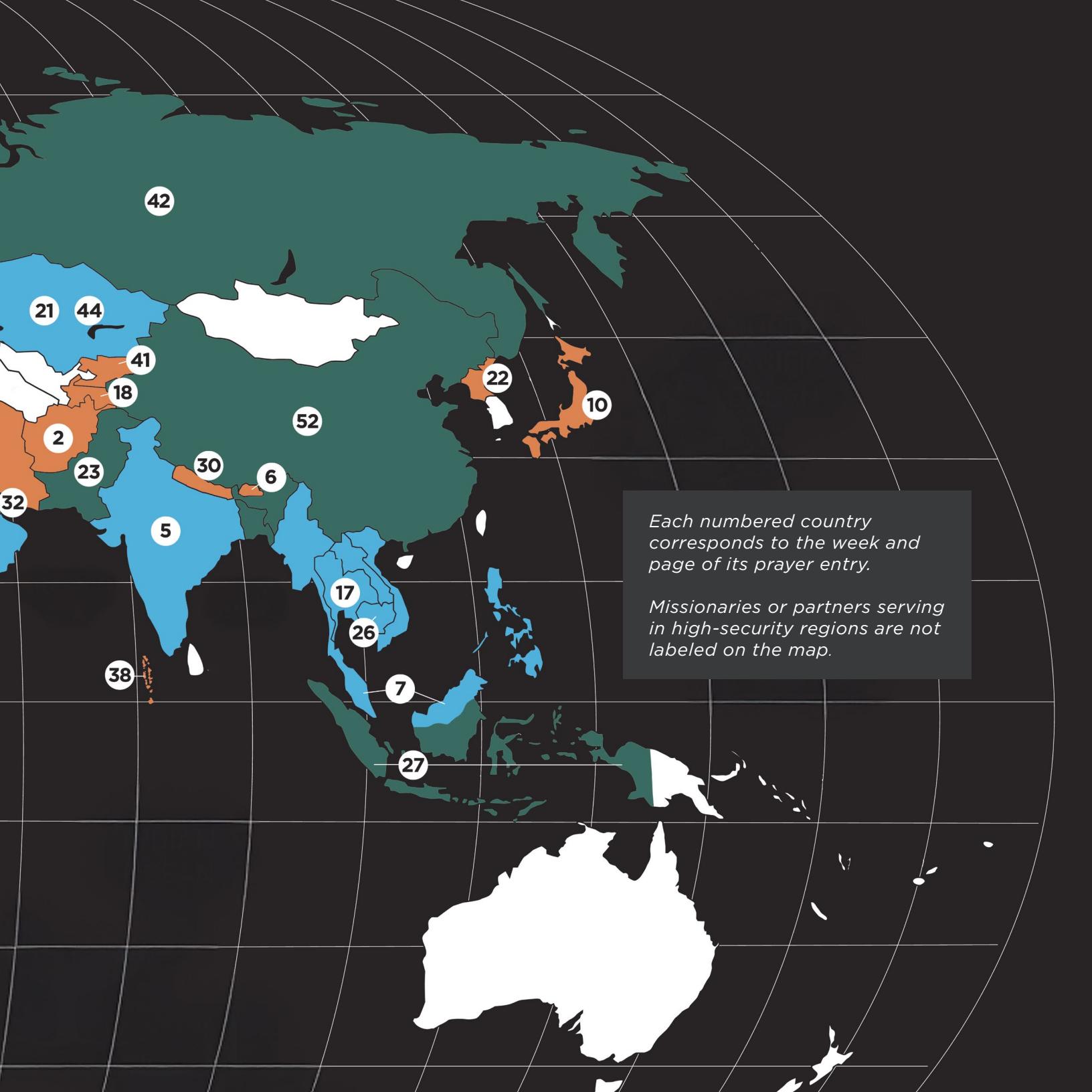
We encourage you to use these entries as you pray personally during your daily devotions, together as a family or with your housemates, and weekly as you gather with your Church Group. While we may not physically join with these gospel workers in their church-planting efforts, we can faithfully support them through prayer for the places and people God loves. Let's commit to this and celebrate the answers God will provide in 2026!

*To safeguard missionaries and partners serving in high-security regions, pseudonyms, regional references, and general statistics are used.

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JAMES & GRACE

SERVING IN THE ARABIAN PENINSULA
SINCE 2024

| | |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| Major Religion: | Islam |
| Joshua Project Status: | Minimally reached |
| Percent Evangelical: | 1.5% (1 in 67) |

James and Grace began attending MBC Montgomery County in 2018 after moving to the DMV area from the Midwest. James worked as a physician, and Grace taught the Bible to women while working part-time as a researcher. As members of MBC, they served as Church Group leaders and as volunteers in the church nursery along with their two sons.

Their interest in serving among the unreached in the Middle East began over eight years ago. Grace was serving on their church's global outreach volunteer team, and in 2016, they attended a missions conference for health care workers. At that conference, as James puts it, "God hit me over the head" with the prospect of serving the unreached in countries that are typically closed to missionaries but open to professionals. Since that pivotal moment, their family continued to pursue the possibility of serving God overseas.

James and Grace chose to attend MBC in part because of its focus on missions and its desire to make disciples of all nations. Through the church, they were further equipped for ministry, and in late 2023, God opened the door for them to move to the Arabian Peninsula through James's occupation. They have since become members at a healthy church and have transitioned to life abroad as they seek to proclaim Christ in a Muslim-majority context.

Pray

- That God would grant grace and wisdom to their family as their older son began attending college in the US last fall, and that He would help their younger son adjust to life as an only child at home.
- That God would help their older son get rooted in a new church home in DC and find deep Christian community.
- That God would guide James and Grace as they reach out to nonbelievers in their spheres of influence.
- That God would bless and grow their local church, increasing their gospel witness.

ENCOURAGEMENTS FROM 2025

In 2025, a classmate of their eldest son attended church for the first time and continued participating in more church activities throughout the summer. The church ordained five new elders, hired an associate pastor, and celebrated many baptisms, including seven in one Sunday. The church also launched a thriving Friday night ministry for teens and young adults. James and other members actively connected with nonbelievers, including his coworker and coworker's wife, who began attending weekly church activities and Bible studies.



AFGHANISTAN

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----------|
| Major Religion: | Islam |
| Joshua Project Status: | Unreached |
| Percent Evangelical: | 0.0%* |

**Self-professing evangelicals unverified in this country*

This landlocked nation is renowned for its rich poetry and cultural heritage, yet in modern times, it is most recognized for its ongoing conflicts. Since the Taliban's return to power in 2021, two decades of economic and developmental progress have largely unraveled. Over the past five years, the Taliban has ignored international calls to form an inclusive government, isolating themselves further.

Christianity's spread in Afghanistan faces significant challenges. Although over 70% of the population speaks Dari, the Dari Bible was only published in 2008. Under the Taliban, converting to Christianity is apostasy, punishable by death, forcing Christians to worship secretly amid severe restrictions. The literacy rate is about 43%, with a gender gap: 55% of males are literate versus 29% of females. Taliban policies further restrict girls' rights, denying them education, and perpetuating illiteracy. Women and girls suffer in other ways too, facing increased gender-based violence, forced marriages, and exclusion from most employment.

In 2025, Afghanistan's humanitarian crisis persisted, with international aid efforts hampered by ongoing conflict, further impacting minority communities, including Christians. Afghanistan remains one of the least reached nations, with many mosques but few churches. Christians face death for openly practicing their faith, forcing them to worship in secret. The

[Visit Joshua Project to learn more about the unreached in this region](#)

Pray

- That God would sustain and encourage believers and keep them safe.
- That God would bring about state-wide peace.
- That God would ensure women and girls have access to higher education.
- That God would protect people from genocide, mass killing, or violent repression due to ethnic tension.
- That God would alleviate high levels of religious persecution in the country.

Taliban's rule led to the withdrawal of foreign Christian organizations, leaving local believers vulnerable and with limited resources. Despite these challenges, the Christian community continues to slowly grow.



Scan here to
learn more about
this country!



CENTRAL ASIA

| | |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Major Religion: | Islam |
| Joshua Project Status: | Unreached |
| Percent Evangelical: | Less than 0.1% (1 in 1,000) |

Central Asia is a vibrant intersection of bustling cities, rural mountains, tranquil coastlines, and rich histories. Evangelical communities here often face significant societal and governmental challenges. Despite these obstacles, believers are dedicated to spreading the gospel and establishing robust, healthy churches. Their steadfastness in such environments powerfully demonstrates the gospel's resilience.

Union Church embodies this resilience. As a lively, multiethnic congregation of about one hundred people, it is strategically positioned in a Central Asian megacity of millions. For nearly two centuries, this English-speaking church has consistently proclaimed Christ. The pastor and his wife are devoted to cultivating Union Church into a biblically sound congregation.

The church's central location enables it to effectively minister to a vast community of locals and refugees from nearby conflict zones, offering not only food and clothing but also solid biblical teaching. MBC partners closely with Union Church, providing books, resources, encouragement, and training as they courageously share the gospel in a predominantly Muslim context. Union Church's strategic influence extends beyond its city, impacting the entire Central Asian region. They have a vision to develop and train local leaders, preparing them to serve as deacons, elders, and missionaries where they are most needed.

Pray

- That God would protect this church from harm and strengthen its members to remain faithful in the face of persecution.
- That God would grant deep unity among the congregation, deacons, and elders.
- That God would give the members a hunger for studying God's Word and faithfulness in sharing the gospel.
- That God would bless the preaching and teaching of His Word.

Although the evangelical community is small, its members boldly live out and proclaim their faith in Christ, often under intense pressure to remain silent.



TUNISIA

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----------|
| Major Religion: | Islam |
| Joshua Project Status: | Unreached |
| Percent Evangelical: | 0.0%* |

**Self-professing evangelicals unverified in this country*

The North African nation of Tunisia features diverse geography, ranging from Mediterranean beaches to the expansive Sahara Desert. Since the 2011 Arab Spring, Tunisia has made strides toward democracy yet continues to face economic challenges and political instability. In October 2024, Tunisia held its first presidential election under a new constitution. President Kais Saied, who had been in power since 2019, secured another term amid controversy, with critics accusing his administration of suppressing the opposition and curtailing democratic freedoms. In 2025 high unemployment, especially among the youth, continued to fuel frustration and unrest.

Most Tunisians practice Islam, with a small Christian minority mainly composed of expatriates and a few national believers. Christians in Tunisia face social pressures and restrictions on religious expression. Although the constitution protects freedom of belief, discrimination is common, and conversion from Islam often results in social backlash. Proselytizing is also generally discouraged.

Amidst these obstacles, hope persists as local and international Christian organizations provide humanitarian aid and educational support for believers. Underground church gatherings thrive, reflecting the strength of Tunisia's Christian community, even in the face of great odds.

Pray

- That God would bring economic stability and opportunities to Tunisia, enabling both its citizens and the church to flourish.
- That God would strengthen and mature Christian leaders in wisely handling trauma and abuse, which are widespread.
- That God would open doors for the gospel to be shared more widely and effectively.



HEATHER

SERVING IN INDIA SINCE 2021

| | |
|------------------------|-----------|
| Major Religion: | Hinduism |
| Joshua Project Status: | Unreached |
| Percent Evangelical: | Unknown |

Heather grew up in a loving Christian family that prioritized missions and attended a healthy local church. As a young graduate student in DC, she met and married a nonbeliever. A few years after the birth of her second son, her marriage ended.

Later, she enjoyed a career as a diplomat. She reflects, “I had traveled to more than fifty-five countries, and during my overseas postings, I attended local churches. In these churches, I served as a Sunday school teacher and hospitality volunteer. Despite this, the hurt, pain, and stigma of my life choices held me back from being vulnerable. Instead, I just became focused internally; and even though I prayed and read my Bible, I was not meaningfully connected to a local church and thus did not grow during this period.”

In 2018, while on a new assignment to DC, Heather began attending MBC Montgomery County and became a member soon after. In a 2019 sermon, Pastor David asked the church, “What if God is calling you for more than just the American dream?” After prayer and counsel, Heather felt the Lord urging her to move overseas. She was equipped and commissioned through the church and is now serving in India as she pursues marketplace opportunities for gospel advancement.

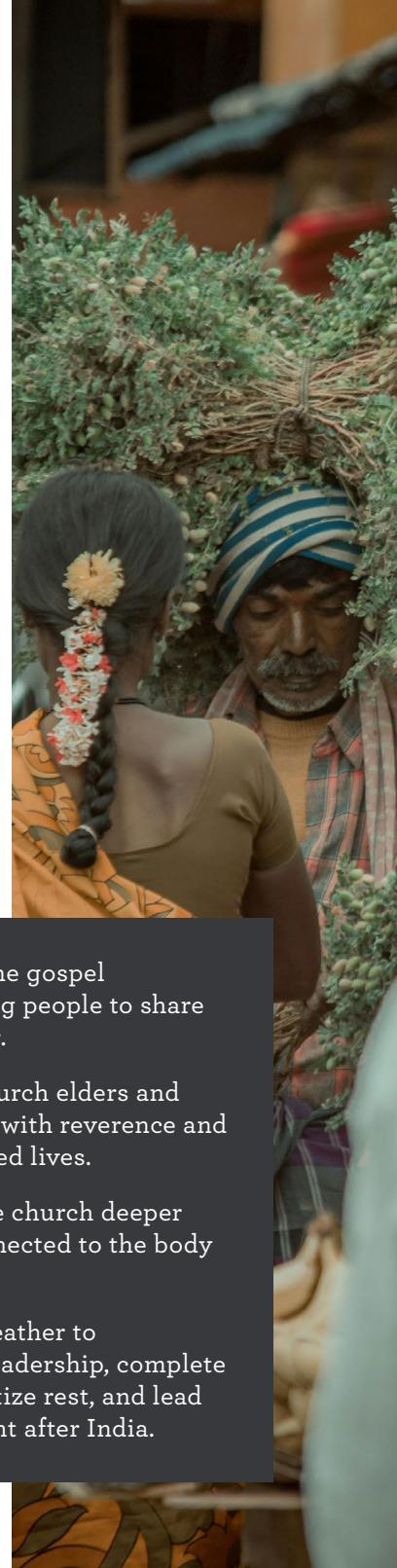
[Visit Joshua Project to learn more about the unreached in this region](#)

ENCOURAGEMENTS FROM 2025

Last year, the church appointed two new elders, both former pastoral interns, with one aiming to plant a Telugu-speaking church in a remote village. The church also reached outward, partnering with other organizations to hold workshops and seminars in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. Their Telugu website provided free gospel-centered materials to thousands of Telugu-speaking Christians worldwide.

Pray

- That God would spread the gospel throughout India, allowing people to share and accept it without fear.
- That God would grant church elders and deacons wisdom to serve with reverence and love, living Christ-centered lives.
- That God would grant the church deeper unity and keep them connected to the body of Christ.
- That God would guide Heather to demonstrate Christlike leadership, complete her ministry tasks, prioritize rest, and lead her to her next assignment after India.



BHUTAN

| | |
|------------------------|-----------|
| Major Religion: | Buddhism |
| Joshua Project Status: | Unreached |
| Percent Evangelical: | Unknown |

Bhutan is a small monarchy nestled in the Himalayas. Culturally, Bhutan maintains a strong emphasis on preserving its heritage, with traditional dress and architecture being integral to daily life. In recent news, Bhutan has focused on sustainable tourism and environmental conservation, aiming to balance modernization with its commitment to maintaining ecological and cultural integrity.

In Bhutan, Buddhism is the state religion, and it deeply influences the country's culture and daily life, with most of the population adhering to the Drukpa Kagyu or Nyingma schools of Mahayana Buddhism. Being an evangelical Christian in Bhutan can be challenging due to the country's strong Buddhist identity. Legal restrictions on proselytizing often result in social pressure and limited freedom of religious expression. Despite these challenges, the small Christian community continues to practice their faith discreetly, focusing on building supportive networks and engaging in community service.

Pray

- That God would cause the small church in Bhutan to grow and healthily multiply.
- That God would allow foreigners, such as Nepalese and Indians, to continue sharing the gospel within Bhutan in order to train up strong national believers.
- That God would allow for the continued translation and distribution of gospel material into the remaining indigenous languages.



[Visit Joshua Project to learn more about the unreached in this region](#)

MALAYSIA

| | |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| Major Religion: | Islam |
| Joshua Project Status: | Partially reached |
| Percent Evangelical: | 3.6% (1 in 28) |

Malaysia is renowned for its rich diversity, stunning landscapes, and iconic landmarks such as the Petronas Twin Towers in Kuala Lumpur. Currently, the country is focused on economic recovery and political stability, with significant efforts directed toward boosting tourism, digital transformation, and renewable energy. Christians in Malaysia represent a minority, and while they generally practice their faith freely, they can encounter challenges related to religious freedom and societal pressures.

One MBC partner church in Malaysia exists to glorify God by making mature, healthy disciples of Christ who can, in turn, share Christ with others. With a vision to equip and train leaders and pastors to be sent out to unreached areas throughout the country, the church accomplishes this through a pastoral internship program in partnership with a local seminary. Since 2024, the church has seen growth in both weekly attendance and unity among its members. In 2025, it welcomed more than two hundred first-time guests, many of whom had never heard the gospel. Additionally, the church was able to renovate its children's ministry area to accommodate the growing number of families within the congregation.

This expansion not only reflects the church's commitment to nurturing the spiritual growth of its members but also its dedication to reaching out to the broader community. By investing in the development

Pray

- That God would give church leaders wisdom to plant more churches and schedule multiple services.
- That God would raise up additional staff members to oversee their worship and next-generation ministries.
- That God would empower the church to be effective in reaching the nations in their global city and to expand their refugee ministry to care for more.
- That God would give Christians in Malaysia more freedom, specifically to evangelize other people groups within the country.

of future leaders and creating a welcoming environment for families, the church continues to fulfill its mission of spreading the gospel and glorifying God in a city that desperately needs His light.



SYRIA

| | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|
| Major Religion: | Islam |
| Joshua Project Status: | Minimally reached |
| Percent Evangelical: | 0.2% (1 in 500) |

Syria, with its rich biblical history, is home to Damascus, the world's oldest continuously inhabited city. Historically, Christians in Syria enjoyed relative freedom to worship, with Orthodox and Catholic churches predating Islam. Since the civil war erupted in 2011, over four hundred thousand people have died, and nearly half the population is internally displaced, with thousands seeking refuge in neighboring countries. This conflict has led to severe food shortages, impacting the most vulnerable.

In 2025, Syria saw positive developments, with an expected 1% economic growth due to eased sanctions and a seven-billion-dollar investment in energy infrastructure by US, Turkish, and Qatari companies. The European Union also pledged 175 million euros for recovery efforts and the interim government worked to improve relations with the US. These initiatives, alongside humanitarian efforts, aim to address urgent needs and support vulnerable populations.

Sadly, the situation for Christians in Syria remains dire. A devastating suicide bombing at the Mar Elias Church in Damascus last year highlighted ongoing threats, killing twenty-five people and intensifying fears among the Christian community. Despite these challenges, the church in Syria continues to grow under persecution. Faithful believers focus on outreach, evangelism, and discipleship, aiming to equip church members for effective evangelism to their Muslim neighbors while nurturing their spiritual growth.

Pray

- That God would bring peace to Syria and provide people access to food, water, and health care.
- That God would protect the people of Syria and keep them safe from acts of war and terrorism.
- That God would raise up faithful leaders with the gift of teaching and support the church as they train and equip new believers.
- That God would protect His church in Syria and enable Christians there to grow despite hardship and persecution.



KEN & RUTH

SERVING IN TÜRKİYE SINCE 2023

| | |
|------------------------|-----------|
| Major Religion: | Islam |
| Joshua Project Status: | Unreached |
| Percent Evangelical: | 0.0%* |

**Self-professing evangelicals unverified in this country*

Ken and Ruth were both raised in the DC area. They each separately heard the gospel, believed in Jesus as Lord, and developed a strong desire to take the gospel to those who had never heard the good news. They first moved overseas in 2002 and served among an unreached people group for the next twelve years, working to start and strengthen local churches.

Ken and Ruth then returned to the States for a season. During that time, they served on staff at MBC. As members, they developed a deep love for MBC and served in different ministries, including Global Outreach and Church Groups. They faithfully and consistently prayed for the unreached, and God continued to draw their hearts to those who had little to no access to the gospel.

In 2023, after much prayer and counsel from church leadership, Ken and Ruth returned overseas so Ken could serve as the lead pastor of an international church in an unreached city in Türkiye. This church is one of the few Christian churches in a city of millions. They ask their MBC family to pray for them fervently as they serve.

[Visit Joshua Project to learn more about the unreached in this region](#)

Pray

- That God would bless the preaching and teaching of His Word.
- That God would continue to grant Ken and Ruth residency in this country.
- That God would strengthen them on hard days and help them to walk faithfully, placing their hope in Him.

ENCOURAGEMENTS FROM 2025

Last year, Ken and Ruth rejoiced when they were finally granted residency after an eighteen-month period of challenges, marking a significant answer to prayer. They were further heartened to see church members maturing through faithful spiritual disciplines and ordinary means of grace in their lives as they engaged in God's Word, prayer, and by boldly sharing the gospel with others. The church also welcomed many new members, which brought encouragement and gratitude to the congregation. They also experienced the joy of celebrating multiple baptisms.



Scan here to
learn more about
this country!



JAPAN

| | |
|------------------------|-----------------|
| Major Religion: | Buddhism |
| Joshua Project Status: | Unreached |
| Percent Evangelical: | 0.4% (1 in 250) |

Japan is renowned for its innovative and tech-savvy culture and consistently ranks among the countries with the highest life expectancy. However, beneath these achievements, Japan faces a growing mental health crisis among its youth. This crisis is driven by intense societal pressure, including high expectations for academic and career success, which often leads to significant stress and anxiety.

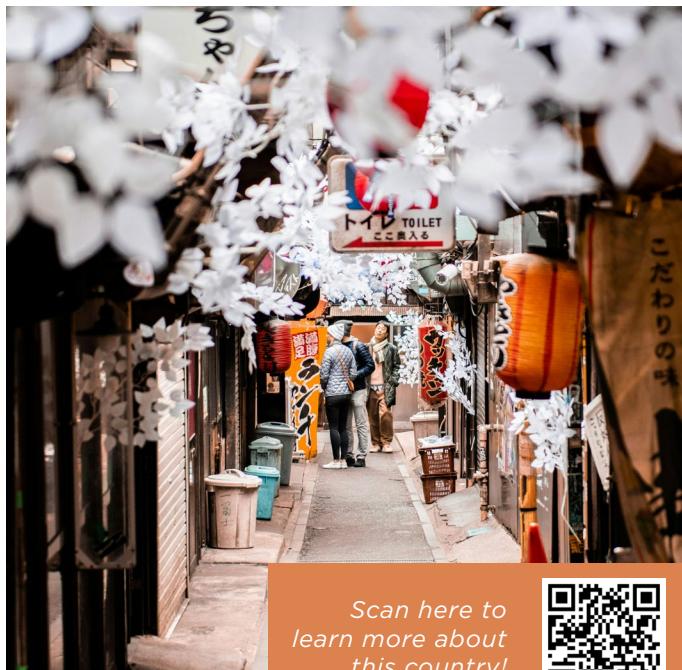
Last year, Japan hosted the highly anticipated Osaka Expo, drawing international attention and visitors from around the world. The event showcased cutting-edge technology, cultural exhibits, and innovative solutions to global challenges. Additionally, Japan's rich cultural heritage was celebrated through numerous traditional festivals, attracting both locals and tourists. These events highlighted Japan's blend of tradition and modernity, reinforcing its status as a vibrant cultural hub.

In Japan, religion is primarily seen as a cultural and traditional practice, with Buddhism and Shintoism being the main religions. Despite a general respect for religious practices, the country is largely secular, and many people identify as nonreligious or spiritual without committing to a specific faith. Japan's evangelical population is exceedingly small, with a significant portion being over the age of thirty, highlighting the need for gospel-centered churches to engage with and reach the younger generation effectively.

[Visit Joshua Project to learn more about the unreached in this region](#)

Pray

- That God would raise up a generation of young people in Japan committed to gospel proclamation.
- That God would move individuals to consider joining church-planting teams in Japan.
- That God would multiply healthy churches throughout Japan.
- That God would plant gospel seeds of hope in Japan so that suicide would never be a consideration.



Scan here to
learn more about
this country!



ETHIOPIA

| | |
|------------------------|--------------|
| Major Religion: | Christianity |
| Joshua Project Status: | Reached |
| Percent Evangelical: | 18% (1 in 6) |

Addis Ababa, a vibrant city with a population exceeding six million, is deeply rooted in faith, with the Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church significantly shaping its culture. Despite challenges from false teachings and a rise in Islam due to an influx of Muslim refugees, the city remains a religious hub. In 2025, Ethiopia was in the news for its efforts to stabilize the economy and address political tensions, focusing on infrastructure development and fostering peace in conflict-affected regions.

Christ Covenant Baptist Church (CCBC), a church plant in Ethiopia's capital led by Pastor Nigussie, is committed to fulfilling the Great Commission by proclaiming the gospel and making disciples within a gospel-centered and biblically ordered local church. CCBC is dedicated to raising biblically qualified leaders to plant churches in other cities and towns. By God's grace, CCBC expanded from a single Bible study group to eventually launching a Sunday morning gathering in 2024. They also received legal recognition, allowing them to operate as an official church in Addis Ababa and the surrounding region.

In 2025, CCBC experienced remarkable progress. The church welcomed sixteen new members, nine of whom were discipled and baptized. Twenty more applicants were in membership classes, with four expected to be baptized by the end of summer.

Pray

- That God would help the congregation grow in love, unity, and holiness.
- That God would guide CCBC to be intentional in evangelism and discipleship.
- That God would enable the consolidation of the pastoral internship program and the admission of more men to be trained.
- That God would lead CCBC to explore church-plant projects independently and in collaboration with other healthy churches.

They also initiated an intensive pastoral internship, enrolling two brothers to lead a church-planting effort in a remote town west of Addis Ababa. The church moved forward with appointing new elders and deacons.



IRAQ

| | |
|------------------------|-----------------|
| Major Religion: | Islam |
| Joshua Project Status: | Unreached |
| Percent Evangelical: | 0.2% (1 in 500) |

Iraq, known as the “cradle of civilization” and the birthplace of the ancient Babylonians and Assyrians, has faced significant challenges in recent decades. The nation is in a prolonged recovery, dealing with the aftermath of the Iraq War, the rise and fall of ISIS, and ongoing political instability. Despite these trials, Iraqis continue to demonstrate remarkable resilience and an enduring sense of hope.

Last year, Iraq was surrounded by major regional conflicts and worked to manage intricate relationships with neighboring nations. The country concentrated on rebuilding and stabilizing its economy, launching initiatives to enhance infrastructure and promote economic growth.

In Iraq, Christians, once a vibrant and historically significant community, have endured severe persecution, especially in regions ravaged by ISIS. Many churches have been destroyed, and numerous Christians have been displaced or forced to flee. Although ISIS has been largely defeated, the lingering impact of their brutal violence continues to affect communities nationwide.

Believers still face significant challenges, including persistent security threats and economic instability. While the Iraqi government is making efforts to tackle these issues, progress is slow, and many communities still require ongoing support. Local churches are deeply involved in rebuilding efforts, providing

Pray

- That God would heal, restore, and rebuild Iraq's infrastructure to benefit its citizens and enable mutual flourishing.
- That God would protect Christians and help healthy churches to multiply.
- That God would help leaders in Iraq to govern justly and wisely.
- That God would provide economic stability and opportunity for Iraqis to work and thrive.

essential aid to displaced families. Additionally, there is a renewed emphasis on interfaith dialogue and reconciliation as Iraq strives to repair its fractured social fabric.



STEPHANY

SERVING IN GERMANY SINCE 2018

| | |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| Major Religion: | Christianity |
| Joshua Project Status: | Partially reached |
| Percent Evangelical: | 2.1% (1 in 48) |

As a child, Stephany saw many cultures firsthand, developing an interest in living abroad that grew over time. At eighteen, she aspired to serve the Lord overseas and waited for an opportunity while working after college. Stephany first visited MBC Arlington in 2015. Soon after, she became a member and began to serve as a Church Group coleader and in other areas of the church as needed.

Stephany now lives and works in Germany. She supports and trains missionaries in over twenty countries through a missions organization. In addition to her work with church planters, Stephany has plugged into a local church plant. Her husband Andy, who is from Norway, is also a missionary who serves church planters in Europe. They enjoy working for separate organizations that partner with each other for the spread of the gospel among the unreached in Europe.

ENCOURAGEMENTS FROM 2025

Last year, Stephany's local church held regular prayer and worship nights, followed by evangelism training and street outreach, resulting in conversions and a young woman entering discipleship. God moved powerfully among the youth, and the church celebrated twenty-nine baptisms in the surrounding Bavarian lakes. Additionally, the ministry partnered with denominations in Switzerland, Denmark, Austria, and Hungary to facilitate church-planting training, which inspired leaders with a desire to plant new churches.

Pray

- That God would raise up new missionaries to serve churches and ministries in Germany and the Euro-Med region.
- That God would prepare churches to disciple the increasing number of converts and bless pastors and church-planting teams with opportunities to serve and share Jesus.
- That God would guide translation projects to effectively serve local churches in their native languages, meeting specific needs.
- That God would protect the marriages, health, and families of pastors, leaders, missionaries, and local believers as they faithfully carry out the Great Commission.



SENEGAL

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|
| Major Religion: | Islam |
| Joshua Project Status: | Unreached |
| Percent Evangelical: | 0.2% (1 in 500) |

Senegal, located at the westernmost point of Africa and known as the “Gateway to Africa,” boasts a rich history and diverse natural resources. Formerly a French colony, Senegal gained independence in 1960 and is considered a relatively stable country in Africa. Over 90% of its population practices Islam, with the Wolof being the predominant ethnic group.

In recent years, Senegal has faced political unrest despite its history of stability. In 2023, military clashes with young protesters and the dissolution of the opposition party raised concerns about civil rights. Additionally, many Senegalese have attempted to migrate to Europe via the Canary Islands in search of economic opportunities.

In 2025, Senegal made significant strides in renewable energy by expanding solar and wind power projects to reduce fossil fuel dependency. This initiative was part of a broader strategy to combat climate change and promote sustainability. The country also held successful local elections, praised for their transparency and fairness, reinforcing its status as a stable democracy in West Africa.

Dakar, the capital, is home to around sixty small churches, yet rural areas have limited access to the gospel. There is a pressing need for Christians to spread their faith and establish healthy churches, as 47% of the population remains unreached, comprising twenty-six distinct people groups.

Pray

- That God would help healthy churches multiply, especially in rural unreached areas.
- That God would increase the literacy rate, enabling Senegalese people to read and comprehend the Word of God.
- That God would bring economic growth and stability to Senegal so families can thrive.
- That God would protect women and girls who are at risk of early or forced marriage.



NORTH AFRICA

| | |
|------------------------|------------------------------|
| Major Religion: | Islam |
| Joshua Project Status: | Unreached |
| Percent Evangelical: | Less than 0.02% (1 in 5,000) |

North Africa is a region characterized by its diverse cultural heritage, vibrant markets, ancient architecture, and a unique blend of traditional and modern influences. In this North African country, where governmental policies shift between conservative and liberal, practicing Christianity is fraught with difficulties. Churches are pressured to stay small, often gathering in private homes, and the law forbids Christian evangelism.

One MBC partner pastors a small yet steadily growing church in this challenging environment. Although 2025 was a difficult year due to heightened scrutiny and personal maturity challenges among church members, the Lord is actively working through this congregation as they faithfully share the gospel with their families and neighbors. They remain thankful for how the Lord is building His church, rejoicing in each conversion and baptism. Here is a glimpse into how the Lord transformed lives there in 2025.

Last year, the church experienced heightened scrutiny from the police, with members being questioned about their religious activities and receiving visits at their homes and workplaces. The pastor was also threatened with visa termination, which is still uncertain. The church endured hardships after a brother was baptized, and his wife divorced him because of his newfound faith in Christ. Despite this, he grew significantly, encouraging others in their suffering.

Pray

- That God would help the church grow in number and, more importantly, in depth of character and faith.
- That God would grant the church wisdom and grace during the transition as it appoints additional elders for the church plant that began in the fall.
- That God would provide the right men for two more pastoral internships and continue to raise up leaders to serve and plant new churches in this country.



His passion for the Word and serving intensified as he evangelized his Muslim friends and family. Two pastoral interns were equipped and trained in their aspiration to become elders. They are eager to plant new churches.

YEMEN

| | |
|------------------------|-----------|
| Major Religion: | Islam |
| Joshua Project Status: | Unreached |
| Percent Evangelical: | 0.0%* |

**Self-professing evangelicals unverified in this country*

Yemen, rich in historical and cultural heritage, has faced devastating conflict since 2014, resulting in one of the world's worst humanitarian crises. Civil war caused widespread destruction, displacement, and poverty, with critical shortages in food, health care, and basic services. Nearly half of Yemeni children under age five are malnourished.

Islam continues to be the dominant religion in Yemen, where the country is governed by Islamic law and religious freedom is highly restricted. Conversion from Islam to Christianity is illegal and socially unacceptable, with Christians facing severe persecution. Public expressions of Christian faith are prohibited, and even private worship can lead to harassment, imprisonment, or worse, especially in Houthi-controlled areas where prohibitions against Christianity are most stringent.

In 2025, Yemen faced significant challenges, with nearly half the population experiencing acute food insecurity, particularly in southern regions. The country was also impacted by Israeli airstrikes targeting Houthi rebels, marking the first such strikes since the Israel-Iran ceasefire, and leading to evacuation warnings for Yemeni ports. The situation was further complicated by a surge in attacks by Houthi rebels, including a deadly assault on a cargo ship in the Red Sea, which raised international concerns.

Pray

- That God would bring peace and stability to Yemen so that a just government can be established.
- That God would grant Yemeni children and families access to adequate food and medicine.
- That God would strengthen churches and embolden them to proclaim the gospel to their neighbors and friends.
- That God would allow the Bible to be distributed widely and to where it is most needed.

Despite the harsh conditions and ongoing conflict, Yemen's small Christian community persists. Local and international organizations discreetly offer humanitarian aid and share the gospel, all while navigating the constant threat of persecution. Although their numbers are limited, this resilient group remains steadfast, maintaining their faith amidst overwhelming adversity.



[Visit Joshua Project to learn more about the unreached in this region](#)

REED & CLAIRE

SERVING IN THAILAND SINCE 2023

| | |
|------------------------|-----------------|
| Major Religion: | Buddhism |
| Joshua Project Status: | Unreached |
| Percent Evangelical: | 0.8% (1 in 125) |

Reed and Claire were both raised in the DMV area and lived in northern Virginia for many years. Reed worked as a manager at a manufacturing company, and Claire served as a teacher and reading specialist. Both were converted as adults. As faithful members of MBC Prince William, they served in Kid's Quest, Access, and Global Outreach. They have two children.

Reed and Claire had no plans to engage in global missions, but things dramatically shifted after an MBC short-term trip in 2019 when they developed an interest in serving overseas. While they did not feel strongly about a specific people or place, they received counsel from the church, and the Lord provided an opportunity to serve in Thailand. They were commissioned as MBC missionaries and moved to Thailand in the summer of 2023.

In Thailand, Claire is serving as a teacher in an international school where she ministers to local children. Their family joined a church plant, where Reed is working with other missionaries to proclaim Christ. He is concentrating on learning the language over the next several years.

Pray

- That God would continue to help Reed quickly and accurately learn the language, as he has been scoring well on assessment markers.
- That God would create meaningful bonds for Reed within the Thai community that open the door for gospel proclamation.
- That God would help both Reed and Claire flourish in new roles and responsibilities they have each assumed this year.
- That God would continue to help their children enjoy school, grow in their relationships with the Lord, and enjoy the friendships He has provided.

ENCOURAGEMENTS FROM 2025

Last year, by God's grace, ministry work in the region flourished, and the church expanded and grew in unity.

The team completed additional translation work, making the Scriptures more accessible in multiple languages. They hosted equipping conferences that encouraged Thai Christians and churches. Gospel partnerships with other Thai churches deepened, fostering greater collaboration within the community.



TAJIKISTAN

| | |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| Major Religion: | Islam |
| Joshua Project Status: | Unreached |
| Percent Evangelical: | 0.01% (1 in 1,000) |

Tajikistan, a Central Asian nation known for its rugged mountains and rich cultural traditions, is the smallest in the region and deeply influenced by its Persian Empire heritage. It is a secular republic with a predominantly Sunni Muslim population and a smaller Shia minority. Recent economic improvements look positive, with inflation and public debt on the decline.

Trade dramatically increased with Kyrgyzstan last year, thanks to progress on border delimitation and new intergovernmental agreements. The World Bank also approved financing to support community livelihoods and infrastructure, focusing on climate-resilient projects and entrepreneurship. These developments highlight Tajikistan's efforts to strengthen regional cooperation and improve local living conditions.

President Emomali Rahmon's government, in power since 1992, maintains tight control over daily life, including religion. Although the constitution guarantees religious freedom, all faith groups must register with the state, and unregistered activity is closely monitored. These restrictions affect all communities, including Christians, who face challenges practicing their faith openly. Despite this, Tajikistan's small Christian population—mainly expatriates and a few local believers—continues to persevere through underground churches and private

Pray

- That God would lift government restrictions on religious gatherings and individual freedoms, allowing churches and people to thrive and flourish freely.
- That God would encourage believers and equip them to boldly proclaim the gospel to others.
- That God would help Tajikistan's economy grow, increasing livelihoods and making basic financial security widely achievable.
- That God would secure access to safe drinking water in areas where water management presents challenges.

gatherings that offer fellowship and support. While their situation rarely reaches global headlines, the difficulties Christians face are well documented by human rights and religious freedom organizations, highlighting the ongoing pressure on believers in this tightly controlled environment.



GREECE

| | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Major Religion: | Christianity |
| Joshua Project Status: | Superficially reached |
| Percent Evangelical: | 0.50% (1 in 200) |

Greece, known for its impressive history and geography, is home to eighteen UNESCO World Heritage sites and attracts millions annually to its beaches, mountains, and archaeological sites. In recent years, Greece has faced severe economic challenges and a refugee crisis. Positioned strategically on the Mediterranean, it remains actively involved in regional security discussions while working to maintain stability and foster growth domestically and across Europe.

In Athens, Greece, MBC partners are actively involved in supporting the expanding Kypseli Church plant. With a congregation of over one hundred members, the church is situated in one of Athens's most impoverished neighborhoods. This strategic location acts as a center for worship and ministry, allowing the church to reach the community with the gospel while addressing both physical and emotional needs.

In 2025, the church rejoiced in the baptism of two former Muslims from Iran who embraced faith in Christ and became part of the local fellowship. A new discipleship group was established for young men eager to study the Bible and deepen their faith. The church also prepared a young Turkish believer at the Greek Bible College for leadership roles in his home church. These stories highlight a dedication to fostering spiritual growth and spreading the gospel both within Greece and beyond.

Pray

- That God would bless the church and continue to give them opportunities to share with the lost.
- That God would open doors and soften hearts in Greece, a nation with a Christian past that desperately needs a gospel-present.
- That God would bring revival to the land where Paul once walked and allow them to send workers into surrounding nations.



MIDDLE EAST

| | |
|------------------------|---------------------------|
| Major Religion: | Islam |
| Joshua Project Status: | Unreached |
| Percent Evangelical: | Less than 0.5% (1 in 200) |

One MBC partner, Rāsikhāt (Gospel Rooted Women), is dedicated to empowering Arab women to accurately teach and handle the Bible, enabling them to display God's glory and live lives rooted in the gospel.

This ministry organizes annual conferences in various countries, contingent on the political climate, where teachers gather women leaders from local churches for training. The size of these conferences varies based on the country's openness and the ability to publicize them. MBC has also been privileged to send women on various short trips to participate in and support these efforts. In 2024, over 150 women in the Arab world received training.

Despite ongoing conflicts throughout the Middle East making the planned 2025 conferences impossible to host, the ministry's efforts persisted. In Lebanon, leaders taught two groups of young women how to study the Bible. In Islamic North Africa, a team conducted a workshop for women from house churches on the book of Philippians and distributed *The Good Portion: Delighting in the Doctrine of Scripture* in Arabic. Some team members traveled to the UAE for further training and workshop planning. Additionally, over 150 women in Egypt gathered to study the book of Titus and learn from four of the ministry's teachers.

Pray

- That God would bring peace to the Middle East and soften hearts toward the gospel.
- That God would encourage these women to delight in the Scriptures and teach them to others.
- That God would help godly women in these areas be catalysts for other women to share with their Muslim neighbors.
- That God would allow Muslim-background women attending the workshops to be taught well and built up in their faith.



JAMES & LYRIC

SERVING IN KAZAKHSTAN SINCE 2018

| | |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| Major Religion: | Islam |
| Joshua Project Status: | Minimally reached |
| Percent Evangelical: | 0.5% (1 in 200) |

Born and raised in Southeast Asia, James and Lyric later emigrated to the United States to raise their children and are now blessed with grandchildren. As longtime members of MBC Tysons, they were involved in a home Bible study and various MBC fellowships. After retiring, James and Lyric wondered if God wanted them to use their time to live and serve among unreached peoples. They searched the Scriptures, sought counsel from MBC leaders, and prayed for God's direction.

It was clear that their thirty years of international development experience had prepared them for life overseas. They now serve in the Muslim-majority country of Kazakhstan. In this context, it is hard to establish deep relationships with other Christians. That is why James and Lyric spend time training local pastors and leaders through a program called Transformational Development (TD). These programs equip local churches to serve the practical needs of their communities. By meeting these needs, relationships are built, which opens the door for gospel proclamation.

Pray

- That God would ignite a passion in the local church for evangelism and discipleship.
- That God would guide the pastor to use the Business Club as an avenue for Bible study and gospel proclamation.
- That God would prosper the business endeavors and use them as a testimony in the community.
- That God would grant James and Lyric health, strength, and wisdom to discern their next steps.

ENCOURAGEMENTS FROM 2025

Last year, a TD process was initiated in a village to train church members. Initially hesitant, the church identified low household income as a major issue. The pastor's wife started a chicken egg-laying business, receiving a loan despite cultural advice against it. By mid-2025, the loan was repaid, incentivizing two other church members to start their own businesses. As success stories were shared in the community, five nonmembers, including a nonbeliever, also launched egg businesses. The pastor now views this group as a potential foundation for future church planting.



NORTH KOREA

| | |
|------------------------|----------------|
| Major Religion: | Nonreligious |
| Joshua Project Status: | Unreached |
| Percent Evangelical: | 1.6% (1 in 63) |

North Korea, with a population exceeding twenty-six million, is a country where the persecution of Christians is both severe and widespread. According to Operation World, the situation is described as a “nightmare,” with the regime fostering a personality cult centered around its leader, Kim Jong Un, and his grandfather, Kim Il Sung. The nation remains isolated from the global community, and since 1994, over three million people have succumbed to starvation.

The 2023 documentary, Beyond Utopia, sheds light on the harsh reality of life in North Korea, the strength and resilience of those who dare to flee, and the broader human rights issues at play. For many years, political dissidents, including Christians, have been detained in state-run prison camps. It is estimated that between fifty to seventy thousand Christians are currently incarcerated. The Bible is prohibited and possessing one can result in harsh penalties.

Life in North Korea remains heavily controlled by the government, with strict limitations on freedom of expression, movement, and access to information. In 2025, the government's strict control was evident when a man received seven years of labor for borrowing an SD card containing South Korean movies, while the woman who lent it was given a fifteen-year forced labor sentence. Internationally, North Korea continues to be in the spotlight for its missile tests, which have heightened regional tensions.

[Visit Joshua Project to learn more about the unreached in this region](#)

Pray

- That God would liberate the people of North Korea and restore their personal freedoms.
- That God would strengthen believers in North Korea, give them endurance, and allow them to share the gospel with others.
- That God would provide North Koreans with basic food and supplies required for their everyday needs.
- That God would sustain and multiply the underground church in North Korea despite the harsh restrictions around it.



Scan here to
learn more about
this country!



PAKISTAN

| | |
|------------------------|-----------|
| Major Religion: | Islam |
| Joshua Project Status: | Unreached |
| Percent Evangelical: | Unknown |

Pakistan, the second-largest country in South Asia, is known for its rich cultural and geographic diversity. In 2025, it continued facing conflicts such as rising extremism along the Afghan border, fueled by the Taliban, while remaining vulnerable to natural disasters like the devastating 2022 floods.

Pakistan has the world's second-largest Muslim population and the second-highest number of unengaged, unevangelized peoples—around 350 groups lack churches, missionaries, or a Christian witness.

One MBC partner, *Masīhī Ishaāt Khāna* (“The Christian Publishing House,” or “MIK”), strengthens local churches by publishing faithful Christian literature for Urdu speakers and by training pastors. One pastor shared, “This training helped me understand the main teaching of the New Testament books; now I will study the New Testament in more detail.”

Last summer, MIK recorded and published the entire New Testament for a nearby restricted-access country, allowing many to engage joyfully with Scripture through an app. Across Pakistan, 202 preachers participated in a biblical preaching program, with nearly ninety completing certification. MIK also hosted youth seminars on biblical sexuality, emphasizing grace and forgiveness and creating a safe space for discussion of culturally sensitive topics. Over 1,000 youth attended, and additional conferences are planned to continue fostering gospel-centered growth.

Pray

- That God would enable meetings with key leaders from local churches for biblical disciple-making, addressing a significant weakness in the national church.
- That God would guide the development and implementation of biblical marriage curriculum to reduce divorce rates among young believers.
- That God would raise up more preachers trained in expository preaching and strengthen preaching clubs for support and constructive feedback.
- That God would draw more people to attend inductive Bible study gatherings, equipping them as faithful students and obedient Christ followers.



QATAR

| | |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| Major Religion: | Islam |
| Joshua Project Status: | Minimally reached |
| Percent Evangelical: | 0.82% (1 in 122) |

Qatar, a small but wealthy nation on the Arabian Peninsula, is renowned for its vast natural gas reserves and significant oil production, which have contributed to its high per capita income and rapid development. The country is famous for its modern skyline, particularly in the capital city of Doha, which features striking architecture and luxury shopping malls. Qatar is also known for hosting major international events, including the 2022 FIFA World Cup, which highlighted its state-of-the-art stadiums and infrastructure. Despite its modern advancements, Qatar maintains a rich cultural heritage, with traditional souks, museums, and a strong emphasis on preserving its history and Islamic traditions.

In Qatar, Islam is the state religion, and the country follows Sharia law, which influences its legal and cultural framework. While much of the population is Muslim, Qatar allows for some religious freedom, and expatriate communities are permitted to practice their faiths in designated areas. Being a Christian in Qatar can be challenging due to restrictions on public worship and proselytizing, which are prohibited. Christians typically gather in private homes or designated church compounds for worship. Despite these limitations, the government has allowed for the construction of several churches to accommodate the diverse expatriate population.

Pray

- That God would develop and raise up a mature, healthy Qatari church that will impact generations to come.
- That God would cause expatriate Christians, who may have more freedom to share, to courageously share the gospel with their Qatari neighbors and friends.
- That God would continue to allow radio ministries to be effective in Qatar as they have been so far, and that people in the country would have ears to hear the good news and be connected to local churches.



SAMUEL & SIERRA

SERVING IN ITALY SINCE 2025

| | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Major Religion: | Roman Catholic |
| Joshua Project Status: | Superficially reached |
| Percent Evangelical: | 1.5% (1 in 67) |

Samuel and Sierra both grew up in Christian homes and were converted to Christ in grade school. Samuel began attending MBC in 2017 and became a member soon after. He faithfully served in MBC Prince William's prison ministry. Sierra started attending MBC in 2018 and routinely served with Kid's Quest.

As a young married couple, Samuel and Sierra were spurred on by God's desire for all nations to hear the good news of Jesus Christ. This ignited a desire in them to make the gospel known among the unreached. By leveraging a job opportunity overseas, they were commissioned as marketplace missionaries and served in Southeast Asia from 2022-2024.

During their time in Southeast Asia, they plugged into a local church plant where they helped disciple church members and faithfully supported evangelism among a majority Muslim population. After returning to DC for a brief time, they relaunched to another job opportunity in Rome, Italy in 2025. There they serve with an MBC partner church, Breccia di Roma, as the church works to preach the Word, teach sound doctrine, evangelize, provide theological training, and serve refugees and the poor in a highly apathetic and culturally Roman Catholic country. They also welcomed their first child in the fall of 2025.

Pray

- That God would bless Samuel and Sierra with a strong, healthy marriage as they enter parenthood overseas.
- That God would ensure their daughter's healthy development and guide her to know and love Jesus.
- That God would open the hearts of those who hear the gospel from Samuel and Sierra, leading them to conversion.
- That God would strengthen Breccia di Roma's leaders and congregants, helping them grow in faith as they serve their city.



CAMBODIA

| | |
|------------------------|----------------|
| Major Religion: | Buddhism |
| Joshua Project Status: | Unreached |
| Percent Evangelical: | 1.4% (1 in 71) |

Cambodia is a unique country, famous for its exotic cuisine and ancient Buddhist temples. Decades after their civil war (1975-1979), which claimed over two million lives, Cambodia still grapples with the aftermath. Many intellectuals who fled have never returned, and drug and sex trafficking continue to affect people of all ages. In 2025, Cambodia amended its constitution to revoke citizenship for those deemed to collude with foreign powers, raising human rights concerns. Tensions with Thailand led to military conscription plans amid border disputes and authorities intensified a cybercrime crackdown, arresting over one thousand people in scam center raids. Disparate wealth and corruption also widen the gap between the poor and the elite, highlighting a need for love, restoration, healing, and forgiveness found only in relationship with Christ.

Forty-three percent of the population remains unreached, and since Buddhism is the primary religion of the state and is strongly tied to traditional family units, it is often difficult for believers to step away from Buddhism without severing family ties. But by God's grace, the gospel is spreading. Less than two percent of the total population are evangelical, and as the second generation of national believers step into church leadership, the need for strong biblical teaching and discipleship is growing!

Pray

- That God would strengthen His church in Cambodia and raise up strong, faithful leaders to teach the Bible to new believers.
- That God would break the strongholds of suffering and abuse through the gospel of Christ, allowing the people of Cambodia to experience true freedom.
- That God would provide for people's basic needs, especially among the most vulnerable, and enable the local church to be a bold, clear witness for Christ.



INDONESIA

| | |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| Major Religion: | Islam |
| Joshua Project Status: | Partially reached |
| Percent Evangelical: | 3.2% (1 in 31) |

Indonesia, the world's largest archipelago and home of the Komodo dragon, boasts rich cultural diversity and rapidly growing cities. In 2025, it made headlines after securing a major trade deal with the U.S. following a threatened 32% tariff, underscoring Indonesia's rising strategic and economic importance on the global stage.

In one bustling city, a partner founded a church focused on discipleship, medical ministry, and leadership development. In 2024, they secured a two-year lease in a closed Muslim community, using the facility as a hub for medical care, community outreach, and church-planting to equip believers to build relationships and make disciples among unreached neighbors.

Last year, several Muslims accepted invitations to church services, many hearing about Jesus for the first time. A new member began writing gospel-centered worship music in the local language, enriching worship. The biblical counseling ministry, launched a year ago, offered hope to those struggling with relationships and mental health. A small playgroup grew into a preschool and kindergarten. The medical ministry met major needs, providing house calls and emergency care for missionaries in remote areas. The team, trained in CPR and First Aid, equipped nationals in island villages and witnessed encouraging growth in faith and conversions through compassionate service and gospel outreach.

Scan here to
learn more about
this country!



Pray

- That God would continue to draw the church members' Muslim neighbors to Himself.
- That God would provide like-minded, qualified ministry partners, both national and international, for the church's counseling, children's, and medical ministries.
- That God would supply funding for ministry opportunities and physical needs.
- That God would bless the pastor's family life and discipleship amidst a busy ministry schedule.



SUDAN

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|
| Major Religion: | Islam |
| Joshua Project Status: | Unreached |
| Percent Evangelical: | 0.5% (1 in 200) |

Sudan is renowned for its rich archaeological heritage, particularly the ancient pyramids of Meroë, which underscore its historical significance. However, the country currently faces significant challenges, including political instability and economic difficulties. Ongoing conflicts and humanitarian crises have led to widespread displacement and hardship, prompting efforts to improve governance and development to stabilize and rebuild the economy.

In March 2021, MBC partners established a new church in a strategic city in Sudan, beginning with a group of fifteen people. Despite being situated in a predominantly Muslim area, the church initiated weekly worship gatherings, renting a meeting space with the goal of purchasing land for a permanent building. This endeavor continues amidst challenges posed by the region's religious demographics and ongoing conflicts.

As the war in Sudan persisted, opportunities last year for the church to minister to internally displaced people in the city increased. By God's grace, fourteen individuals came to faith and were baptized, offering encouragement in difficult circumstances. However, the growing attendance at church gatherings led to tensions with the Muslim community, who began scheduling their meetings at the same time. In response, UN officials, seeking to avoid conflict, requested that the church cease using the rented venue. Despite these obstacles, the zeal and eagerness of the church members remained strong, demonstrating their commitment to their faith and community.

Pray

- That God would bring an end to the war in Sudan and restore peace.
- That God would produce gospel fruit and conversions even amidst opposition.
- That God would grant endurance and encouragement to gospel workers and the Christian community.
- That God would provide financial provisions for church leaders as the cost of living escalates and ongoing conflict persists.



JOSEPH & JENNIFER

SERVING IN THE MIDDLE EAST SINCE 2012

| | |
|------------------------|---------------------------|
| Major Religion: | Islam |
| Joshua Project Status: | Unreached |
| Percent Evangelical: | Less than 0.5% (1 in 200) |

Joseph first attended MBC in the 1990s after graduating from college. He gained a vision for cross-cultural work while on an MBC short-term trip. Later, he completed his theological studies, earning a doctorate in theology. As a teenager, Jennifer taught backyard Bible clubs and Sunday school classes. She met Joseph in seminary, then served for five years in East Asia before they married, where she researched languages and studied minority-group cultures.

Joseph and Jennifer's current work in the Middle East centers on providing theological education and leadership training to believers, especially those from Muslim backgrounds. Joseph teaches at an evangelical seminary and leads a discipleship group for men off campus. Jennifer leads a Bible study for local women, and loves being a mom to their two sons. She often visits her neighbors with the goal of sharing Christ.

ENCOURAGEMENTS FROM 2025

During the last academic year, the Equipping Servant Leaders (ESL) training began with its first cohort. Despite challenges, the team celebrated the graduation of one dedicated student. They also accepted three new students to start ESL training this past fall. In the spring, five videos titled From Our Forgotten History were launched, highlighting the history of Christianity among the Arabs, which will serve as an evangelistic tool in the region.

Pray

- That God would guide the ESL team to pursue holiness, love, and unity.
- That God would provide protection for the students and ensure the effectiveness of the ESL training in 2025 and 2026.
- That God would deepen and grow the Middle Eastern church amidst suffering and bring an end to conflicts in the region.
- That God would bless their boys with meaningful friendships and help them flourish this school year.



NEPAL

| | |
|------------------------|-----------|
| Major Religion: | Hinduism |
| Joshua Project Status: | Unreached |
| Percent Evangelical: | Unknown |

Nepal, renowned for its stunning mountain landscapes—especially the Himalayas—is also the birthplace of Buddhism, with Lumbini serving as the most sacred pilgrimage site for Buddhists worldwide. Although Nepal is a secular state, Hinduism heavily influences governance and daily life, resulting in persecution and close monitoring of non-Hindu faiths. Despite the 2015 constitution guaranteeing religious freedom, Christian evangelism is banned, and conversion is criminalized. Christians face hostility from Hindu nationalists, discrimination from families and communities, and are often scapegoated for social and economic issues. Christian organizations encounter legal hurdles, including registration difficulties and restrictions on activities involving children. Despite low literacy rates, the Christian community remains resilient, practicing their faith amidst these challenges.

Nepal experienced a surge in tourism in 2025, marking a positive trend for an industry still recovering from the effects of COVID. The year also marked the tenth anniversary of the devastating 7.8 magnitude earthquake that claimed nine thousand lives, prompting nationwide remembrance. In September 2025, Nepal saw violent protests—including Gen Z-led demonstrations over a social media ban and pro-monarchy rallies—highlighting government corruption and ongoing political tensions which prompted Prime Minister K.P. Sharma Oli to resign.

Pray

- That God would strengthen existing churches so that they can mature and multiply throughout the country.
- That God would help train and equip young pastors, leaders, and teachers to lead the Nepalese church for the next generation.
- That God would continue to allow pending translation projects to be completed and distributed to rural areas where they are needed most.
- That God would cause the Nepalese government to treat people of all faiths favorably and grant churches the ability to gather without restrictions.



In this difficult setting, the church in Nepal prioritizes areas such as pastoral training and establishing biblical foundations for future generations. Additionally, there is a crucial need to translate, publish, and distribute the Bible and other biblical materials throughout the nation, particularly in remote and hard-to-access regions.

FRANCE

| | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Major Religion: | Roman Catholic |
| Joshua Project Status: | Superficially reached |
| Percent Evangelical: | 1.2% (1 in 83) |

In 2025, France was at the forefront of navigating complex political dynamics within the European Union, particularly concerning migration policies and economic reforms. Despite its rich Christian heritage, France has seen a sharp decline in Christianity, with most people now indifferent or even hostile to the gospel.

In response to this challenging spiritual landscape, Mauricio Prunera and his wife planted Église Chemin Nouveau (New Path Church) in Saint-Lô, Normandy. After years of gathering in their home, they secured a building in 2021 that not only accommodates weekly services but also offers temporary housing for refugee families. The influx of migrants from Africa and the Middle East has given Chemin Nouveau unique ministry opportunities, as many from the Global South are receptive to gospel conversations.

In December of 2024, the church and their partners hosted four Christmas concerts where over 150 people heard the gospel, including the mayor of Saint-Lô, which strengthened her relationship with the church. In June, the church celebrated its second baptism, with two Cameroonian, one Haitian, one Congolese, and one French Argentine professing faith in Christ, witnessed by 117 attendees. This event was a powerful opportunity to share the gospel and challenge believers to embrace new life in Christ. Since starting in 2023, the church's weekly Bible study and prayer meetings have also thrived. About twenty people attend each week, growing together in their understanding of God's Word.

Pray

- That God would bring salvation to the people of Saint-Lô and the surrounding communities and spiritually strengthen the Chemin Nouveau church members.
- That God would provide more musicians for the Chemin Nouveau worship team.
- That God would provide the finances needed to purchase the church building and for related renovation costs.
- That God would grant faithfulness, enthusiasm, fruitfulness, and financial provision for Pastor Mauricio and his family.



UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

| | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|
| Major Religion: | Islam |
| Joshua Project Status: | Minimally reached |
| Percent Evangelical: | 1.5% (1 in 67) |

Life in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) is characterized by a blend of modernity and tradition. With its skyscrapers, luxury shopping, and vibrant culture, the UAE is a global business and tourism hub, attracting expatriates and creating a diverse, cosmopolitan society. Despite its rapid development, the UAE maintains strong cultural roots, with traditional practices and Islamic values playing a significant role in daily life.

MBC partners with several churches in the UAE, including Grace Baptist Church (GBC). Located in a conservative city with a diverse expat population, GBC faces unique ministry challenges and opportunities. This English-speaking evangelical church includes members from the UAE, Philippines, India, and beyond. Though freedoms are limited, its leaders faithfully teach healthy church principles and equip believers to spread the gospel globally.

Another UAE partner, the Evangelical Christian Church (ECC), rejoiced in God's work last year. Indigenous pastors completed a nine-month internship, preaching workshops, and a ten-day intensive on church planting and revitalization, preparing them for ministry in Africa, South Asia, and the Middle East. Church members grew through classes, small groups, and discipleship, while new believers were baptized and integrated into the church family, maturing and inspiring others.

Pray

- That God would grant GBC boldness in proclaiming the gospel to all people in their city while inspiring a Christ-exalting, joyous pursuit of holiness in the congregation to make the gospel attractive to non-Christians.
- That God would empower GBC members to stand firm in hope, displaying Christ's surpassing power in their afflictions.
- That God would sustain and grow the members of ECC to be a godly, clear witness for Christ.
- That God would bear fruit in this region and beyond from ECC's pastoral discipleship and training programs.
- That God would soften the hearts of local authorities to continue tolerating a Christian witness in the UAE.



DAVID & KRISTEN

SERVING IN SOUTHEAST ASIA SINCE 2024

| | |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| Major Religion: | Buddhism |
| Joshua Project Status: | Unreached |
| Percent Evangelical: | Less than 2% (1 in 50) |

David and Kristen met in college while serving on a short-term trip. They began attending MBC in 2006 and became active, faithful church members. They served in various capacities, from leading kids, college, and Church Group ministries, to participating in local outreach. Kristen also served on staff, and together they played a role in launching the MBC Maryland location.

In 2019, David and Kristen, along with their three children, moved to Southeast Asia to spread the gospel. Over three years, they worked in communications, learned the local language, and served in a village church, where they taught children's Sunday school and hosted an evangelistic kids' club.

Upon returning to the US, they rejoined MBC Montgomery County as members while simultaneously serving at a DC-area church attended by people who spoke the Southeast Asian target language they were learning. Kristen discipled young women, and David regularly preached. With prayer and guidance from MBC leadership, they made the decision to return to Southeast Asia in 2024. They now collaborate with a team to support the local church, encourage pastors, mentor young adults, and care for local communities.

Pray

- That God would bless David and Kristen's daily language studies.
- That God would direct them in using their time strategically as they enter year two, freeing up time outside of language classes.
- That God would guide them in actively discipling new believers at their church.
- That God would bless David's opportunities to teach periodically at their church.

ENCOURAGEMENTS FROM 2025

Last fall, they helped with flood relief, connecting with a wheelchair ministry to provide a specialized wheelchair for a family's ill daughter. Their church celebrated the baptism of six people, including a young couple, an elderly woman and her daughter, and two youths, gifting Bibles to each. They also attended a language school intensive and participated in outreach activities and English clubs. During one club, a young man accepted Christ, which boosted attendance as others sought to learn about God.



ALGERIA

| | |
|------------------------|-----------|
| Major Religion: | Islam |
| Joshua Project Status: | Unreached |
| Percent Evangelical: | 0.0%* |

**Self-professing evangelicals unverified in this country*

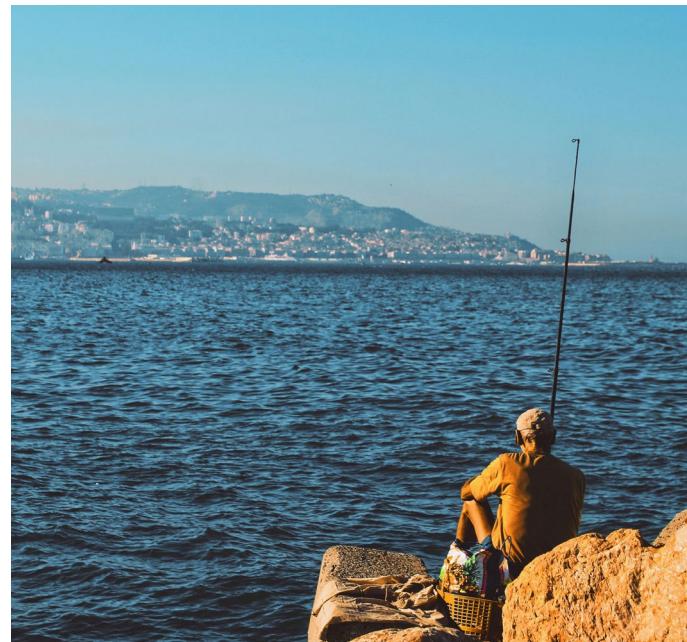
Algeria, Africa's largest country, spans the Sahara Desert to the Mediterranean and reflects Berber, Arab, and French influences. Despite its cultural richness, it faces economic hardship and political unrest, with ongoing protests and demands of reform. In 2025, repression deepened as the Bejaia Court upheld convictions of two activists, underscoring the government's crackdown on peaceful dissent.

In Algeria, where Islam is the state religion, Christianity faces severe restrictions and tight government control. Christians, a small minority, encounter discrimination, social pressure, and legal barriers. Church gatherings are monitored, unregistered congregations risk closure, and proselytizing is banned, leading to harassment and intimidation. Despite these challenges, both expatriate and local believers persevere. Courageous Berber Christians have carried the gospel into unreached Arab areas, where many have come to faith in Jesus, reflecting extraordinary resilience and steadfast devotion amid opposition.

Algeria has become a key hub for theological training and church growth in North Africa. Despite strict government oversight, legal permission to print and distribute Bibles offers believers a vital resource. This advantage allows the Algerian church to equip and support emerging Christian leaders, advancing the gospel's spread across the region amid persistent challenges.

Pray

- That God would stabilize Algeria and cause the government to rule with justice and equity.
- That God would sustain the church in Algeria and enable it to grow strong and multiply.
- That God would open doors for the gospel to be shared safely.
- That God would alleviate economic struggles and provide employment opportunities.



[Visit Joshua Project to learn more about the unreached in this region](#)

PORTUGAL

| | |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| Major Religion: | Roman Catholic |
| Joshua Project Status: | Partially reached |
| Percent Evangelical: | 3.5% (1 in 29) |

Portugal, one of Europe's oldest nation-states with a continuous history, boasts a rich cultural heritage and numerous historical landmarks. Recently, it gained attention for its progressive renewable energy initiatives and efforts to lead Europe in sustainable practices. The country is also tackling housing affordability challenges, especially in urban centers like Lisbon. Although traditionally Catholic, Portugal has undergone a significant transformation, with over one hundred theologically sound, gospel-preaching churches now flourishing nationwide.

Among these is First Baptist Church of Lisbon (FBC), a historic congregation situated in the city's center, and founded in 1922. It is currently led by Pastor Tiago Oliveira, a Portuguese native dedicated to revitalizing the church. Besides his pastoral duties, Pastor Tiago is also the president of Martin Bucer Seminary, an evangelical institution that collaborates with FBC Lisbon.

Pastor Tiago's vision extends beyond the walls of FBC Lisbon. Through the seminary and a growing network of healthy churches, he is committed to training future pastors who will be equipped to plant and revitalize churches throughout Portugal. Pastor Tiago's goal is to see a robust and vibrant evangelical presence spread across the nation, renewing the spiritual landscape of Portugal.

Pray

- That God would bless the growth of the church, both in numbers and in Christlikeness.
- That God would guide and empower the forty-two men being trained at the seminary, including the twenty who are pastors or aspiring pastors.
- That God would unite the newly established pastor's network in faith and partnership in the gospel, leading to the revitalization and planting of many churches.



Last year, the church grew steadily, welcoming new members at each meeting, including newly baptized believers. New attendees, even those from religious backgrounds, often remarked, "I've never heard the gospel being preached or being preached so clearly," and "I've never been taught the Bible." This clarity led many to faith, deepening their love for the Word as they experienced sanctification. The seminary also surpassed expectations with forty-two new students, many aspiring to pastoral ministry.

SOUTH ASIA

| | |
|------------------------|-----------|
| Major Religion: | Hinduism |
| Joshua Project Status: | Unreached |
| Percent Evangelical: | Unknown |

South Asia is a region known for its vibrant cultural diversity, rich history, and significant economic growth. It is home to a vast population with a multitude of languages, religions, and traditions, contributing to its dynamic social fabric. The area is also recognized for its technological advancements and contributions to global industries, while simultaneously facing challenges such as poverty, infrastructure development, and environmental sustainability.

In one South Asian country, MBC partner churches are working to preach the gospel and make disciples. The bustling metropolis where one church was planted is a vibrant blend of cultures, languages, and cuisines. Predominantly Hindu, it also hosts significant Muslim, Christian, and other religious communities. Despite its economic significance, the city grapples with poverty and overcrowding.

Last year, four people in this city were converted to Christ, and the congregation celebrated the joy of baptizing two of those new believers. The ministry expanded as a new church was established, spreading the gospel to new communities. Additionally, the church experienced significant numerical growth, outgrowing its space and highlighting God's blessing and the need for larger facilities.

Pray

- That God would convert more people, bringing evangelistic fruit and spiritual awakening to the local community.
- That God would help the church purchase a building to provide a permanent facility for their growing congregation.
- That God would raise up partners to train and guide church planters and seminary teachers, fostering wisdom, spiritual growth, and effective ministry development.
- That God would bless community outreach through the Christmas program, VBS, and local business connections.



MIRIAM

SERVING IN EGYPT SINCE 2018

| | |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| Major Religion: | Islam |
| Joshua Project Status: | Partially reached |
| Percent Evangelical: | 2.4% (1 in 42) |

As a middle schooler, Miriam fell deeply in love with Jesus. She loved reading and was captivated by missionary biographies. In high school, Miriam traveled on several short-term trips, and her love for the nations grew. After graduation, she learned a shocking statistic: Only 3% of Christian missionaries serve among the world's nearly two billion unreached people. Those numbers lit a fire in her; and from that day, she prepared to spend her life making Christ's name known among the unreached.

Miriam became a member of MBC Tysons in 2016 when her family moved to northern Virginia. She served in Church Groups and as a Global Outreach intern and is glad to be commissioned from MBC. In 2018, Miriam moved to Egypt. While there is a moderate amount of gospel work taking place in Egypt, much work remains to be done. Many Egyptians will likely never meet a Christian in their lifetime. She and her husband, who is Egyptian, are faithfully working to make Christ known in this region.

ENCOURAGEMENTS FROM 2025

Miriam was blessed to spend extended time in the States last year, where she was refreshed by worshipping in English, connecting with her family, and sharing about the Lord's work in Egypt with others. It was truly life-giving. During this time, the Lord also called her mother-in-law to heaven after a prolonged battle with cancer. They find comfort in knowing she is now with her Savior.

Pray

- That God would cultivate an understanding of missionary sending and support within local churches, inspiring Egyptian believers to leave their homes in major cities to serve among the unreached in smaller towns and villages.
- That God would send workers to the Delta region, home to 58% of Egypt's population but only 7% of churches, where challenges like radical Islam and poor infrastructure persist. Pray for provision and protection for those serving there.
- That God would bless their family with unity, wisdom, guidance, strength, obedience, and joy amidst daily challenges.
- That God would continue to bless Miriam and her husband with wisdom as they parent their children.



MALDIVES

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----------|
| Major Religion: | Islam |
| Joshua Project Status: | Unreached |
| Percent Evangelical: | 0.0%* |

**Self-professing evangelicals unverified in this country*

The Maldives, renowned for its coral reefs and turquoise waters, is a tropical haven in the Indian Ocean with a predominantly Muslim population where Islam is integral to the national identity and legal system. Operating as a presidential republic, the nation has faced political upheaval, with recent shifts in 2025 seeing President Mohamed Muizzu's pro-China party winning elections, leading to tensions with India and plans for a financial freezone.

In the Maldives, religious freedom is severely limited, with all citizens legally mandated to follow Islam, the state religion. Practicing other faiths is strictly forbidden, and converting from Islam can result in harsh penalties. As a result, the small Christian community, mainly expatriates, faces significant challenges. Public worship is banned, forcing Christians to gather secretly to practice their faith.

Despite these constraints, the Christian expatriate community remains active, discreetly offering support and sharing the gospel. International Christian organizations also provide aid, working within legal boundaries to support believers and offer relief.

Pray

- That God would foster greater openness and respect for religious diversity in the Maldives, allowing more freedom of worship and expression for all faiths.
- That God would protect and strengthen the Christian community, granting them courage and wisdom to live out their faith in a restrictive environment.
- That God would create discreet and effective opportunities for the gospel to be shared, reaching those who seek truth despite legal and social barriers.



SPAIN

| | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Major Religion: | Roman Catholic |
| Joshua Project Status: | Superficially reached |
| Percent Evangelical: | 1.6% (1 in 63) |

Iglesia Bautista Fe, in Seville, Spain, established in 2012, has grown into a vibrant congregation with ninety-five members and 130 regular attendees. The church is actively developing future leaders, with three pastors in training, four pastoral interns, and two deacons.

The church's vision is to equip and send pastors and missionaries to fulfill the Great Commission, focusing on unreached towns in Spain and unengaged people groups in North Africa and other parts of the world. God is at work among a new generation of Spaniards who have been raised in secular households. These individuals are eager to deepen their understanding of the Bible and are committed to serving the Lord, no matter the cost.

The past year was a joyful period of growth for the church. New converts and members were warmly welcomed into the church family. The second pastoral internship cycle (2025-2027) began with two full-time interns, and the pastoral training school was launched with ten pastors. Furthermore, a fourth pastor joined the church's pastoral team.

Scan here to
learn more about
this country!



Pray

- That God would bless the interns and pastors in their training and equipping.
- That God would provide for acquiring the church building in the final year of their purchase agreement.
- That God would guide the potential church plant in Bollullos as they assemble a mission team.
- That God would support their partnership with Latin American churches to establish a missionary training center for North Africa.



LEBANON

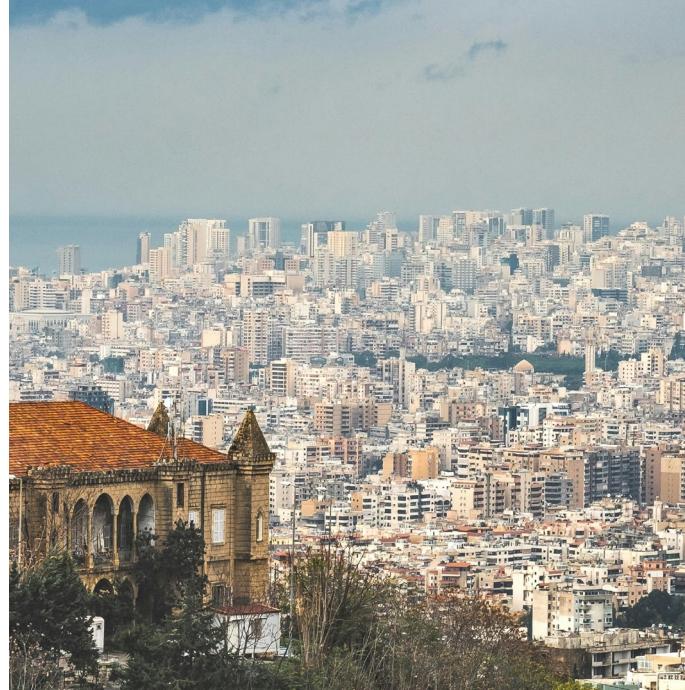
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|------------------------|-------------------|
| Major Religion: | Islam |
| Joshua Project Status: | Minimally reached |
| Percent Evangelical: | 0.7% (1 in 143) |

Lebanon boasts a rich history that spans thousands of years. Known for their hospitality, many Lebanese are fluent in both Arabic and French, with French serving as the official language until 1943. In 2025, the country faced a major refugee crisis due to escalating tensions with Hezbollah, a militant group. The conflict along the northern border displaced thousands, exacerbating Lebanon's ongoing economic crisis. Despite these challenges, Lebanon, one of the few Middle Eastern countries with a notable evangelical population, saw churches and schools open their doors to displaced, predominantly Muslim individuals. One MBC church partner, City Bible Church (CBC), strategically located in a city center, helped during this crisis. They remain steadfast, witnessing the continued advance of the gospel in the region.

Last year, a significant moment for this church was witnessing the baptism and membership of a young Palestinian woman. The congregation had prayed for her and her husband, and she came to faith in late 2024. Seeing her remove her hijab for the first time before her baptism was a powerful moment. The church also faced a challenging case of discipline, but through God's kindness, that incident served to prune and strengthen the members. What was intended for harm, God used for good and His glory. Additionally, the church had numerous opportunities to serve both members and the broader community through relief efforts amid the fighting in Lebanon, which also opened doors to share the gospel with those they selflessly served.

Pray

- That God would help CBC continue growing and maturing in holiness, increasing their culture of discipleship and evangelism.
- That God would allow CBC's Arabic Bible study and ministry to develop into a church plant by 2027, providing wisdom for the next steps.
- That God would grant CBC pastors wisdom and direction as they care for several persecuted believers.



KYRGYZSTAN

| | |
|------------------------|-----------------|
| Major Religion: | Islam |
| Joshua Project Status: | Unreached |
| Percent Evangelical: | 0.3% (1 in 333) |

Kyrgyzstan, often described as the “Switzerland of Central Asia,” is a beautiful, mountainous country and popular hiking destination known for its nomadic culture. However, the post-Soviet years in Kyrgyzstan have been difficult. Throughout its existence as a republic, the country has continued to endure ethnic tensions, revolts, economic hardship, political conflict, and transitional governments.

In 2025, Kyrgyzstan grappled with freedom of expression issues, highlighted by the swift passage of the Mass Media Bill, which allows authorities to control media operations without judicial oversight. The country also experienced deadly border clashes with Tajikistan and marked a shift in national symbolism when they ordered the removal of Central Asia’s tallest Lenin statue.

In Kyrgyzstan, most people are culturally Muslim, though few practice the religion devoutly. Recently, foreign Muslim missionaries have built over two thousand mosques to purify Islamic practices. Despite this, occult practices like ancestor worship and shaman consultations are common. The Christian community, primarily expatriates, is small, and gospel work faces challenges due to government restrictions on religious expressions perceived as destabilizing. Churches often struggle to gain formal registration, and expatriate work permits are limited. Additionally, some Muslims have exaggerated church growth numbers, stoking government fears and contributing to a restrictive environment for evangelical Christianity.

Pray

- That God would protect and strengthen believers and allow them to worship freely without fear.
- That God would bless Christians in Kyrgyzstan and provide them with good, legal jobs.
- That God would cause the government to look favorably on churches and allow them to meet without restrictions.
- That God would establish healthy churches throughout Kyrgyzstan and raise up a new generation of mature pastors and leaders.



RUSSIA

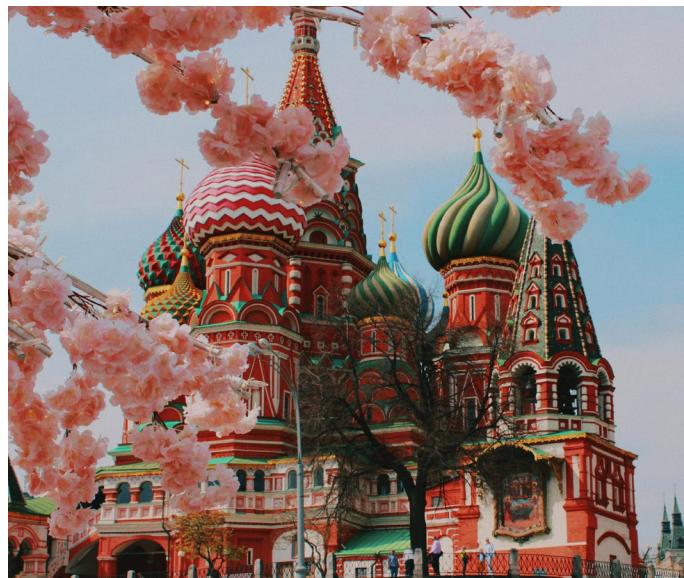
| | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Major Religion: | Christianity |
| Joshua Project Status: | Superficially reached |
| Percent Evangelical: | 1.4% (1 in 72) |

Russia, the world's largest country, has historically been a major player in global affairs, renowned for its cultural contributions in literature, art, and science. It is famous for iconic figures like Tolstoy and landmarks such as the Kremlin. Currently, Russia remains in the spotlight of international politics, with ongoing tensions related to its foreign policy and the war in Ukraine. In Russia, evangelical churches face challenges due to government regulations and societal pressures, with the Russian Orthodox Church being predominant. Despite restrictions, local churches continue to practice their faith and engage in gospel outreach with resilience.

Last year, one MBC partner collaborated with a confessional, indigenously led publisher to distribute resources to local churches, recognizing the crucial role indigenous publishers play in fostering a gospel ecosystem within a country. This publisher translated *What Is a Healthy Church?* and *Authority* into Russian, addressing a topical void in Russian resources. The partner noted that *Authority* would offer a compelling depiction of biblical authority, distinct from the ideals prevalent in Russian culture, which generally emphasizes authority structures. At the Ekklesia Conference in Moscow, they distributed one thousand copies of *What Is a Healthy Church?* to pastors from diverse backgrounds, aiming to encourage them. Additionally, they partnered with a publishing ministry in Latvia to produce *Expositional Preaching* in Latvian, making it available both digitally and in print to provide practical guidance for preachers.

Pray

- That God would guide and strengthen the international team as they nurture publishing work worldwide, working with over fifty partners to utilize resources for kingdom good.
- That God would bless Good News Publishing, led by Arman, as they publish books and train dozens of pastors annually, impacting the Russian-speaking world significantly.
- That God would produce God-glorifying fruit from the Ekklesia Conference in Moscow, unifying Christians in Russia around the gospel and obedience to God's Word.



MALI

| | |
|------------------------|-----------------|
| Major Religion: | Islam |
| Joshua Project Status: | Unreached |
| Percent Evangelical: | 0.7% (1 in 143) |

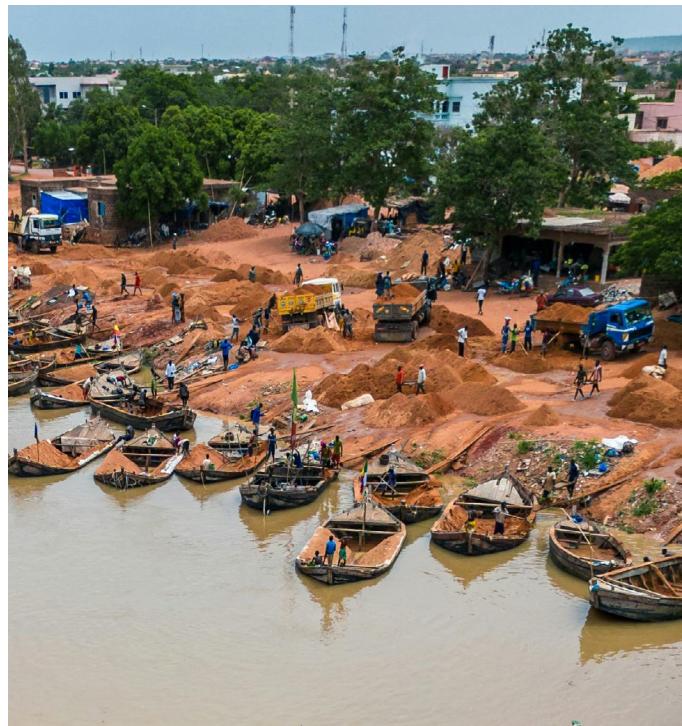
Mali is best known for its rich cultural heritage, including the ancient city of Timbuktu, which was a historic center of learning and trade. The country is characterized by its diverse landscapes, from the Sahara Desert in the north to the fertile Niger River basin in the south. Despite its cultural richness, Mali faces challenges such as political instability and economic difficulties, impacting its development and security.

Since 2012, Mali has undergone three military coups, with the latest occurring in 2020 and 2021. These coups were intended to facilitate elections in 2024, but the elections have been indefinitely postponed due to the military regime's ongoing battle against jihadist groups. The persistent security challenges have further complicated Mali's political landscape, hindering the transition to civilian governance. In 2025, the situation intensified as the military junta banned all political parties and proposed extending General Assimi Goïta's presidency for another decade, prompting continued protests demanding a return to civilian rule.

In Mali, religious freedom is generally respected, with Islam being the predominant religion and Christianity practiced by a minority. Christians in Mali can worship openly, but they may face social pressure and occasional discrimination, particularly in regions with strong Islamic influence. The northern areas, affected by conflict and extremist groups, pose additional challenges for Christians, impacting their ability to practice their faith freely.

Pray

- That God would help existing evangelical churches make outreach and evangelism a priority and that churches would see new conversions this year.
- That God would help believers and converts to Christianity stand firm in the face of social pressure and discrimination.
- That God would help install peaceful transitions of power and civilian rule in Mali for the good of all the people.



KAZAKHSTAN

| | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|
| Major Religion: | Islam |
| Joshua Project Status: | Minimally reached |
| Percent Evangelical: | 0.5% (1 in 200) |

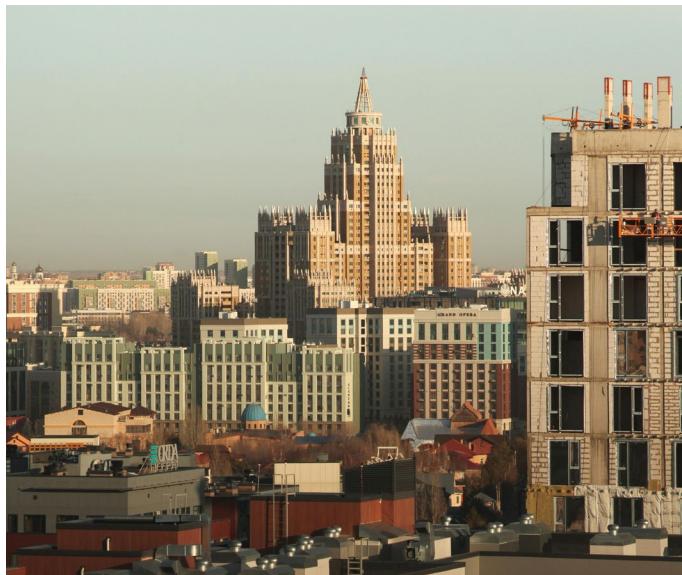
Kazakhstan, the largest country in Central Asia, is renowned for its mineral wealth, stunning landscapes, and ethnic diversity. Since gaining independence from Soviet rule in 1991, the nation has seen economic growth and improvements in human rights. Unique among its neighbors, Kazakhstan maintains a moderated approach to Islam, though 73% of the population identifies as Muslim, often blending Islam with indigenous traditions.

In 2011, the government implemented laws restricting public worship, posing challenges for church growth. Kazakh Christians from Muslim backgrounds face significant hardships, often experiencing familial ostracism. Despite these obstacles, churches persist in gathering and sharing the gospel.

In 2025, Almaty Bible Church welcomed its largest class of pastoral interns, with eight participants, reflecting a growing interest from pastors across Central Asia and Russia. This was the first year the church could not accommodate all applicants due to capacity limits. Additionally, the church organized two Simeon Trust workshops in two cities, with one event reaching full capacity at forty participants. The church continued to grow and remained focused on evangelism and conversions, celebrating thirty-eight new members with plans to add two more by the end of 2025.

Pray

- That God would bless the new Russian Bible translation project, similar to the ESV, and the first of its kind in Russian.
- That God would support the team of scholars and translators, providing all necessary resources for the translation project, expected to take seven to ten years to complete.
- That God would guide and strengthen regular pastoral and preaching ministries.
- That God would continue to strengthen and mature local churches in the region to be gospel influences in their communities.



BEN & ERIN

SERVING IN GERMANY SINCE 2017

| | |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| Major Religion: | Christianity |
| Joshua Project Status: | Partially reached |
| Percent Evangelical: | 2.1% (1 in 48) |

Ben began attending MBC Tysons when he was just two years old. He joined the church when he was fourteen and eventually served on the worship staff for over twenty years. Erin began attending MBC in 1991 and served with Access Ministry staff for seven years. While at MBC, their daughters Elise and Emily were involved in many ministries.

Ben and Erin had an interest in Germany for many years. In 2017, Ben joined Eurobrass, an evangelistic Christian ensemble that tours Germany. The next year, they moved to the Black Forest region of Germany to serve with Artists in Christian Testimony International. They also perform handbell concerts as a way to share the gospel. God provided a special-needs school near their town, with a life and job skills training program, that Emily could attend. Elise is at a university in the US.

Germany's historic appreciation for brass music opens many ministry doors. Despite centuries of rich spiritual heritage, Germans are quite secular. Of the eighty million people in Germany, roughly half "belong" to either the Protestant or Catholic Church. But only 4% of Catholics and 3% of Protestants attend church on a regular basis. Among those who are Protestant, even fewer identify as evangelical.

Pray

- That God would give Ben creative ways to share the gospel through his ministry.
- That God would guide the summer 2026 Eurobrass tour and CD recording.
- That God would ensure the success of the Orchestra missions trip in fall 2026.
- That God would strengthen relationships with the Ukrainian families in the village, especially with those who have children with special needs.

ENCOURAGEMENTS FROM 2025

Last year, Eurobrass organized a workshop for forty-five brass players in southern Germany. The quintet played six performances and embarked on a summer concert tour, sharing the gospel across the country. Ben's new Amazing Grace Brass Ensemble also shared the gospel through performances. In December, four handbell concerts took place, including a special collaboration with local Ukrainian musicians for a refugee church service. Ongoing support for Ukrainian families with special needs children in the village continued to bring hope and joy.



GLOBAL CRISES

World Relief (WR) is a Christian humanitarian organization partnering with local churches to develop sustainable solutions for urgent needs, addressing some of the world's most dire crises. WR projects span the globe, bringing gospel hope and relief to suffering communities. WR reports that over 65.3 million people are displaced globally, equivalent to one-fifth of the US population. Every three seconds, someone flees their home due to violent conflict, with most conflicts lasting over twenty years.

This past year, WR mobilized over 4,500 churches locally and globally to address the world's displacement crisis by building resilient communities, supporting those on the move, and creating welcoming environments. They championed gospel-centered work through local churches, such as in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, a country in continual turmoil. There, Elizabeth faced shattered dreams due to armed conflict and fled to an overcrowded IDP camp with her six children after a brutal assault. Feeling forgotten by God, she found hope through a local church support group for assault survivors. Trained by WR, the local church provided her with counseling and vocational skills through a sewing class. This support enabled Elizabeth to become independent and resilient. She is now determined to start a small business to help others in the IDP camp and hopes to eventually return to her village as a testament to God's ability to see, heal, and redeem the lost.

Pray

- That God would bless WR's work in Ukraine and guide strategic meetings with local churches to co-create a vision for rebuilding.
- That God would grant wisdom as WR begins to withdraw from now stable countries and enter new crisis-affected nations, preparing the way and fostering church growth.
- That God would support WR's projects with Sudanese refugees in Sudan and Chad, enhancing their witness and grant them strategic opportunities to serve and love as Christ-followers.
- That God would strengthen WR's efforts with refugees and immigrants in the US, expanding trauma counseling, job training, and legal services, and empowering the church to be a witness to diverse communities.



IRAN

| | |
|------------------------|----------------|
| Major Religion: | Islam |
| Joshua Project Status: | Unreached |
| Percent Evangelical: | 1.2% (1 in 83) |

Iran, historically known as Persia, is strategically located at the crossroads of Central Asia, South Asia, and the Arabian Peninsula. As an Islamic Republic, religion significantly influences governance, though its extent is debated. Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, in power since 1989, holds ultimate authority over all government branches. Iran also has elected officials and following President Ebrahim Raisi's death in a 2024 helicopter crash, reformist Masoud Pezeshkian was elected as his successor. This political shift, coupled with rising tensions and active conflict with Israel over Iran's support for Hamas, has caused the regime to double down on internal security measures and public dissent, leading to increased restrictions on civil liberties and heightened surveillance of its citizens. In 2025, the US launched airstrikes on Iran's nuclear facilities, aiming to disrupt its nuclear capabilities.

Christianity has deep roots in Iran, but today it represents a small community. According to the Joshua Project, evangelicals make up roughly 1.2% of the population, though estimates suggest the actual number could be closer to 0.5%. Despite this, Christianity has experienced a resurgence in recent years, particularly among the youth. With around two-thirds of the population under age thirty, many young Iranians are increasingly drawn to the gospel, especially as they seek answers to the challenges they face around them.

Scan here to
learn more about
this country!



Pray

- That God would continue to grow the number of faithful believers in Iran and multiply them.
- That God would reveal the truth of His Son, Jesus Christ, to more Muslims in Iran and comfort persecuted converts through His Word.
- That God would open opportunities for believers to distribute Bibles and other resources throughout the country to those who need it most.
- That God would help leaders in Iran to choose justice and peace for the flourishing of all people in Iran.

Believers in Iran risk harsh penalties, including fines, flogging, and imprisonment. In some cases, judges have the authority to issue death sentences, making the decision to follow Christ a perilous one. Despite these risks, the Christian faith continues to quietly grow, particularly in underground house churches.



SOUTH ASIA

| | |
|------------------------|-----------|
| Major Religion: | Hinduism |
| Joshua Project Status: | Unreached |
| Percent Evangelical: | Unknown |

Many places in this region are known for their rich history and cultural heritage, showcasing a blend of Mughal and British architectural influences. One bustling metropolis has a diverse population, predominantly Hindu and Muslim, which can pose challenges for Christians, who are a minority. Christians in this city often navigate societal pressures while maintaining their faith in a predominantly non-Christian environment. Despite these challenges, the Christian community remains active, gathering for worship and engaging in outreach activities to share their faith.

An MBC partner church in this region oversees an affiliated seminary and publishing ministry. Over the past few years, they have seen tremendous growth as new pastors and leaders are equipped and trained, and the local church is strengthened.

One recent project successfully recorded *12 Traits of a Healthy Church* as an audiobook, reaching both young urban listeners and illiterate rural populations. The entire book was recorded and edited for audio accessibility. Additionally, an online ecclesiology curriculum based on the book was developed, featuring videos and assessment questions tailored to the South Asian context. This initiative, the first of its kind in the local language, greatly benefited rural pastors in largely unreached areas who lacked access to seminary training.

Pray

- That God would continue to bless and multiply leaders in the church, training and equipping them for gospel proclamation.
- That God would help ongoing translation projects to be completed so resources can be distributed to rural and underserved areas.
- That God would strengthen and unify the church in South Asia to be a strong witness to the lost in their country.



MAURITANIA

| | |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| Major Religion: | Islam |
| Joshua Project Status: | Unreached |
| Percent Evangelical: | 0.01% (1 in 10,000) |

Mauritania, known as the “land of a million poets,” is deeply influenced by its Islamic heritage, which is evident in its culture, literature, and education. Despite its rich fishing and mineral resources, the country struggles with food insecurity, affecting nearly one-third of its children. Although slavery was abolished in 1981, illegal forced labor remains a significant issue. In 2025, Mauritania faced a migrant crisis, and authorities intensified efforts to curb irregular immigration, leading to mass deportations and difficult conditions at the Mauritania-Senegal border. Many migrants, including women and minors, were left stranded, raising concerns about their treatment and the impact of new immigration laws requiring residence permits, which have been challenging for many to obtain.

In a nation where 99.5% of the population practices Islam, converting to Christianity is viewed as a profound betrayal. Consequently, converts often worship in secret to safeguard their citizenship and social standing. The increasing influence of radical Islam has led to severe restrictions on religious freedom, with evangelism prohibited, Bible imports tightly controlled, and public criticism of Islam potentially punishable by death. These challenging conditions underscore the urgent need for more gospel workers and the establishment of robust, healthy churches.

Pray

- That God would strengthen and encourage the Christian community, making them resilient and wise as they live out their faith under restrictive circumstances.
- That God would enable the spread of the gospel, despite restrictions, leading to the conversion of many to Christ.
- That God would keep immigrants safe, improving living conditions and alleviating poverty.
- That God would help the president and government leaders rule wisely and justly.



KENYA

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Major Religion: | Christianity |
| Joshua Project Status: | Significantly reached |
| Percent Evangelical: | 45.8% (1 in 2) |

Kenya, known for its natural resources and wildlife, is relatively stable compared to its neighbors and has a significant evangelical presence. According to Operation World, nearly half of Kenyans are affiliated with Protestant churches, with most identifying as Christians. However, many churches are influenced by prosperity teachings and lack sound biblical instruction.

Across Africa, sound theological resources are frequently unaffordable and hard to access. Many pastors, particularly in rural regions, lack theological education, which leaves them underprepared to lead their congregations effectively. Ekklesia Afrika tackles this issue by supplying sound theological resources, publishing Christian literature, and organizing conferences in collaboration with Emmanuel Baptist Church in Nairobi, Kenya. Their SOMA program provides cohort-based training, translates books into Swahili, and prints locally to enhance pastoral education.

Last year, the Bible distribution program partnered with other ministries to serve churches, schools, and prisons. An itinerant preacher shared a testimony about an inmate who, after coming to faith and receiving a Bible, said, "Now that I am saved by the blood of Jesus, I will shame the devil by preaching, witnessing and giving testimony to other fellow prisoners, without shame or fear." This demonstrated the impact of the program's collaboration in reaching

Pray

- That God would ensure that ongoing SOMA program revisions prove effective in making theological training affordable, accessible, and available.
- That God would bless efforts to cultivate homegrown authors who produce sound resources that best serve the African church.
- That God would continue to grant deep and meaningful partnerships in the gospel with like-minded churches and ministries in the region and across the world.

people they otherwise could not. Additionally, a local pastor in Northern Kenya felt discouraged and considered quitting. However, a preaching workshop for SOMA pastors revitalized him and renewed his passion for ministry. MBC short-term trip participants also got to visit and fellowship with SOMA pastors last summer and saw the importance of access to these initiatives firsthand.



[Visit Joshua Project to learn more about the unreached in this region](#)

ALBANIA & NORTH MACEDONIA

| | |
|------------------------|--|
| Major Religion: | Islam; Christianity |
| Joshua Project Status: | Minimally reached; superficially reached |
| Percent Evangelical: | 0.6% (1 in 167); 0.2% (1 in 500) |

Albania and North Macedonia, in the Balkans, are culturally rich regions with complex histories shaped by conflict and division. Emerging from communism in the 1990s, both young democracies continue in transition politically and socially, striving to integrate with Europe while navigating their unique historical and cultural legacies.

Two different MBC partners working in these countries seek to see the name of Jesus multiplied. Last year, Radstock saw their afterschool initiatives in Albania, initiated through local churches, transform overlooked children through love and dedication. Fatmira learned to read and write, and Amelia became a fully engaged student. These stories highlight the power of consistency, faith, and the importance of supporting marginalized communities for gospel change.

A second MBC partner in North Macedonia works to combat corruption and traditional religion through holistic community development. Partnering with local churches, they foster faith-driven businesses and provide coaching for believers and nonbelievers. Their podcast addresses youth mental health from a Christian perspective, with insights from experts and pastors. Expanding to in-person events and workshops, the team also equips believers to integrate

Pray

- That God would help churches be planted among marginalized people in Albania and lead children to know Jesus through afterschool programs.
- That God would raise up more Albanian leaders to guide Albanian churches and plant new churches in the Balkans.
- That God would bring more clients to the entrepreneurship program in North Macedonia and raise up more volunteer Christian business coaches to serve them.
- That God would bless the faith and work initiatives, helping believers shine for Jesus in the marketplace, and enable the team to expand the youth mental health platform with in-person events in North Macedonia.

faith into work. These efforts strengthen local churches, helping Christians live out their faith authentically and positively impact communities with integrity, compassion, and gospel-centered influence.



CHINA

| | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|
| Major Religion: | Nonreligious |
| Joshua Project Status: | Partially reached |
| Percent Evangelical: | 7.55% (1 in 13) |

China, the world's most populous nation, is a major global player known for its rich history, cultural diversity, and rapid economic growth. It excels in technology and manufacturing, though it faces challenges like environmental issues and human rights concerns. Many Christians in China worship in house churches due to strict government regulations. In 2025, China further tightened control over religious practices, increasing online content regulations and surveillance. Despite these challenges, the Christian community remains resilient, continuing to practice their faith and support each other.

Thirdmill is committed to equipping church leaders in their native countries and languages, entirely free of charge. They have developed a visually engaging, seminary-level curriculum that includes twenty-two courses in Bible and theology, offered in various formats in twenty-six languages. This initiative aims to deliver free biblical education to unreached populations. In China and for the Chinese diaspora, Thirdmill focuses on supporting house churches, regional field staff, and training events, while fostering indigenous partnerships to enhance the dissemination of biblical education and leadership training.

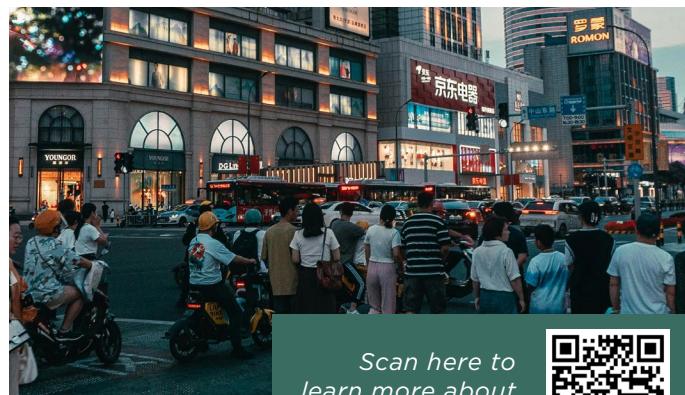
Last year, across various parts of Asia, Mandarin-speaking churches were established for the Chinese diaspora. At the Tokyo Reformed Presbyterian International Church, five campuses hosted over eighty students studying Bible and theology through

[Visit Joshua Project to learn more about the unreached in this region](#)

Pray

- That God would continue to equip and multiply Chinese believers, increasing gospel proclamation in China and fostering the planting and strengthening of healthy churches.
- That God would provide resources to churches in other parts of Asia who are helping to train and equip the Chinese diaspora for their potential return to ministry in China.
- That God would encourage Chinese believers to be steadfast and immovable in the face of discouragement and persecution.

the Thirdmill Institute, with thirty-five students earning completion certificates. Additionally, a woman serving as a trauma counselor in a major Asian city graduated with a master's from Thirdmill Seminary. She and her church continued to persevere despite facing persecution.



Scan here to
learn more about
this country!





MBC's mission is to glorify God by making disciples and multiplying churches among all nations. Involvement in this global mission is not optional: every Christ-follower has a role to play. Believers are called to surrender their time, talents, resources, and lives for the sake of the lost, the poor, and the vulnerable who need to hear the message of Christ. MBC works to establish new local churches where none currently exist and to strengthen existing local churches. The church prioritizes global endeavors that help create gospel access where there is none, primarily through short-term trips, mid to long-term sending, and global partnerships.



For more information about how MBC members can get involved, visit mcleanbible.org/globaloutreach and explore the resources below.

- *What is the Gospel* by Greg Gilbert
- *Conversion: How God Creates a People* by Michael Lawrence
- *Prioritizing the Church in Missions* by John Folmar & Scott Logsdon
- *Missions: How the Local Church Goes Global* by Andy Johnson
- *Radical.net*
- *Missions Talk Podcast*; a regular conversation about biblical and practical elements of missiology.



GLOBAL OUTREACH
MCLEAN BIBLE CHURCH

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SOURCES

Some entries have been adapted from previous years' prayer guides.

Country and region statistics:
joshuaproject.net

General country information:
operationworld.org

Videos:
radical.net

