

GLOBAL OUTREACH PRAYER GUIDE 2022



MCLEAN BIBLE CHURCH

INTRODUCTION

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 with everything in me: 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's take full advantage of this opportunity we've been given to be a part of the spread of God's glory in the world, particularly among nations where Jesus is not yet known, from our knees.

For His Glory!

David Platt

A NOTE FROM GLOBAL OUTREACH

At McLean Bible Church (MBC), we glorify God by making disciples and multiplying churches among all nations, beginning in greater Washington, DC. 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 mission 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. Samuel Zwemer (1867-1952), pioneer missionary to the Middle East said, "The history of missions is the history of answered prayer." We invite our MBC Church family to pray with us this year for the missionaries, partners, and countries where the gospel is growing or has yet to go!

HOW TO USE THIS PRAYER GUIDE

This prayer guide is divided into 52 weeks. Each weekly session will prompt you to learn about and pray for MBC missionaries, MBC partner organizations, and some of the least evangelized regions in the world. Consider using these prompts as you pray in your personal daily devotions, as a family or with your housemates, and weekly as you gather with your Church Group. We may not be able to physically join the church planting efforts with these gospel workers among these God-loved peoples, but we can pray! Let's commit to do so and celebrate what God does in answer to our requests in 2022!

For missionaries and partners living in countries where being a Christian could compromise their security or the security of their fellow workers, pseudonyms and regions are used.

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JOSEPH & JENNIFER

Serving in THE MIDDLE EAST since 2012

Major Religion:	Islam
Joshua Project Status:	Partially Reached

Joseph first attended McLean Bible Church (MBC) in the 1990s, after graduating from college. He served on the worship team, with young adults, and disciplined other men. At MBC, he gained a vision for cross-cultural work while serving on an MBC short-term trip to Peru. Later, he completed his theological studies at seminary, earning a ThM and PhD.

As a teenager, Jennifer taught backyard Bible clubs and Sunday school classes. She graduated with a bachelor's degree and later earned an M.A. from the same seminary Joseph attended, which is where they first met. Jennifer then served for five years in East Asia. During this time, she researched languages and studied minority group cultures. Joseph and Jennifer eventually married, and now serve together in the Middle East.



Their current work in the Middle East centers on providing theological and leadership skills training to believers, especially those with Muslim backgrounds. The country they serve in is home to over 10 million people, yet with less than 30 thousand evangelicals (just 0.27%), it is considered unreached. Joseph teaches at an evangelical seminary and leads a discipleship group for men off campus. Jennifer loves being a mom, and also leads a Bible study for local women. She is often visiting local homes and sharing Christ with other women. As a family, they are actively involved in a local church.



PRAY:

- That God would unite their team together, as they joined a new missionary team in late 2021 in their city. Pray for successful recruiting of new co-workers with common vision and complementary gifts.
- That God would foster fruitful development of theological and leadership skills in the lives of the Muslim background believers they minister to.
- That God would continue to bless their children in their studies and their time together as a family.

Visit [Joshua Project](https://joshuaproject.org) to learn more about the unreached in this region.

MALAYSIA

Total Population:	32,679,000
Major Religion:	Islam
Joshua Project Status:	Partially Reached
Percent Evangelical:	3.52% (1 in 28)
Major Needs:	Bible translation, evangelism, healthy churches



Disparity of wealth, political corruption, and a predominantly Islamic following fuels most of the societal and spiritual issues facing Malaysia. In this Southeast-Asian region, the Malays are one of the world's largest unreached people groups. In all, 77 of the 182 groups living in Malaysia are unreached. Malaysia's constitution guarantees freedom of religion, but religious tensions have risen in recent years due to Islam's slow spread into everyday life, causing worry for non-Muslim groups. Churches are no longer able to be built, Bibles are thought to be against the Malaysian constitution,

and Christians are not legally allowed to evangelize Muslims.

Many unreached people are rural and indigenous and have been terribly mistreated and under-resourced by the national government and local officials. Over 1,000 Malay languages (spoken by over 142 million people worldwide), still have no translation of Scripture. Now more than ever, Christians need to support Bible translation work like this, so that more gospel infrastructure can be established to bring the gospel of Jesus Christ to those who need it most!



PRAY:

- That God would raise up local churches to boldly and clearly share Jesus with the vast majority of Malaysians who have not heard the gospel.
- That God would raise leaders that would hold the country together in ways that satisfy both moderate and conservative Muslims, as well as the sizeable and diverse minorities.
- That God would send Christians to begin translation projects and bring them to completion.

Visit [Joshua Project](https://joshuaproject.org) to learn more about the unreached in this country.

YEMEN

Total Population:	30,343,000
Major Religion:	Islam
Joshua Project Status:	Unreached
Percent Evangelical:	0.02% (1 in 5,000)
Major Needs:	Evangelism, healthy churches, pastoral training



Yemen, once known for its fertile land and natural resources, such as silver, has suffered in recent decades from three civil wars and numerous tribal conflicts. Currently, Yemen is divided between Shia rebels and Sunni forces. The conflict in Yemen has dominated news across the world in recent years, as aid organizations flooded into the country to assist the most vulnerable. The people of Yemen are experiencing one of the worst humanitarian crises in the world. There have been over 50,000 combatant and civilian casualties and widespread famine as a result of the conflict. The years-long civil war, economic collapse, and the recent challenge of COVID-19 have resulted in the highest levels of malnutrition and starvation Yemen has ever experienced.

Children are suffering the worst. Despite war, Yemenis are hearing about Christ through the radio, Bible distribution, bold but careful witness, and dreams and visions from the Lord! Believers meet secretly and only in small groups. They experience extreme opposition, imprisonment, and even death if caught. The emerging church in Yemen has a unique opportunity and open doors to both show the love of Christ in meeting physical needs and to proclaim the gospel. MBC partners in Yemen are responding to these urgent needs through a food distribution program. This program has a long-term goal to provide a leadership training to disciple believers, form healthy churches, and mobilize leaders to respond to the continued humanitarian crisis.



PRAY:

- That God would ease civil unrest and conflicts so Yemen can be restored.
- That God would help to further develop biblical materials for the spread of the gospel and that Yemenis believer would be bold and courageous in sharing their faith.
- That God would protect and provide for all Yemeni believers, grow His church, and mobilize ministries to build the local church.

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

AFGHANISTAN

Total Population:	39,637,000
Major Religion:	Islam
Joshua Project Status:	Unreached
Percent Evangelical:	0.02% (1 in 5,000)
Major Needs:	Bible translations, evangelism, healthy churches



This landlocked country has a rich history of poetry and culture. Over 70% of the population can understand the Dari language, and the Dari Bible was only published for the first time in 2008. However, the last 40 years have seen a circle of poverty, hunger, and high illiteracy among women, whom the Taliban ban from higher education. As a result of the 2021 Taliban takeover, economic and development advances in Afghanistan seen over the last 20 years will most likely begin to erode, significantly impacting women and children. Health care for women and children under the Taliban is

worrisome, and many infants die in childbirth. Afghanistan has one of the highest infant mortality rates in the world. One million people suffer with disabilities, many due to war injuries or lack of access to basic care. Afghanistan is one of the least evangelized countries in the world, with thousands of mosques but no visible churches. To be a Christian in Afghanistan is often a death sentence, literally. The small numbers of believers are only able to meet in secret to avoid Taliban detection. Under Taliban control, many Christian agencies were forced to evacuate their foreign workers, leaving Afghan believers more vulnerable and less resourced. Despite these realities, the church is slowly growing.



PRAY:

- That God would end gender-based oppression and protect the lives and health of vulnerable women and children. That they would hear about the great love Jesus Christ has for them.
- That God would provide a spiritual breakthrough for the entry and distribution of God's Word and for its translation into languages currently without Scripture.
- That God would allow foreign agencies to find creative ways to send needed resources and encouragement to Afghan believers.
- That God would convict the Taliban of their sin and draw them to worship Christ.

Visit [Joshua Project](https://www.joshuaproject.org/) to learn more about the unreached in this country.

EDWARD & AVA

Serving in **MALAYSIA** since 2018

Major Religion:	Islam
Joshua Project Status:	Partially Reached

Edward and Ava were active with CRU and served internationally as short-term workers for a year during college. Once married, Edward began a 25-year career living and working internationally in Asia, Africa, Europe, and the Middle East, along with Ava and their children.

Between international job postings, Edward and Ava lived in Northern Virginia from 2011-2016. During that time, they became members of McLean Bible Church (MBC) Loudoun. They faithfully taught Kids Quest, hosted a home group, and were AWANA leaders. They decided to retire early in order to apply their experience to full-time ministry, which led them to their current position in Asia.



In 2018, Edward, Ava, and their youngest two children moved to Malaysia to work with Bible translation and Scripture engagement initiatives across Asia and the Pacific. This region is particularly rich with languages that have no translation of the Scriptures (there are over 1,000 languages spoken by over 142 million people)! The Bible is currently being translated in over 2,500 languages (globally), so there are many teams of local and international workers bringing God's Word to the world. Eva provides administrative support to the leadership team that manages many projects in one of the most difficult-to-reach areas in the world. Edward works



PRAY:

- That God would give endurance and peace to international workers still scattered by the pandemic and, in some areas, repressed by local governments. Pray they find comfort in God, and that God would raise up more local workers to lead projects.
- That God would protect local believers and show Edward and Ava's organization the best way to support local churches and denominations.
- That God would bless their youngest son, who is a Senior in High School. Pray that he will have a rewarding year and that God would guide Edward and Ava in preparing him for a transition back to the U.S. for college in 2022-2023.

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

EGYPT

Total Population:	104,179,000
Major Religion:	Islam
Joshua Project Status:	Partially Reached
Percent Evangelical:	4.45% (1 in 22)
Major Needs:	Bible translation, evangelism, healthy churches



With a total population of over 104 million people, Egypt is one of the most populous countries in the Middle East. Much of the economy and industry takes place near the famed Nile River. Egypt is home to many people, and 25 of the 42 people groups represented in Egypt are still unreached. 85-95% of the country is majority Sunni Muslim, with the next largest religious group being Coptic Orthodox Christians (with estimates ranging from 5-15%). Currently, the country has a moderate amount of gospel infrastructure, some of which stems back more than 1,000 years to the early Coptic church,

even pre-dating Islam. Any advancement of the gospel today is threatened due to intentional efforts by political rulers to minimize Egyptian-Christian heritage. For more than a decade Egypt has grappled with political corruption, violent military intervention, and oppressive leaders who have restricted religious freedoms. Additionally, increased poverty rates have made life difficult for many Egyptians. Even still, the church is growing and opportunities to share the gospel and disciple believers is the focus of the Egyptian church! The idea of “outreach” is a growing concept among Egyptian churches, as they seek to find ways to reach out to Muslim believers around them.



PRAY:

- That God would refresh and grow healthy local churches, who make disciples and multiply other healthy churches.
- That God would give courage and faithfulness to Muslim background believers who are often rejected and ostracized from their families.
- That God would halt the harassment and restrictions that many Christians in Egypt face, from family and the larger community.
- That God would bring the right people to finish the work for the translation projects that are in the local dialect.

Visit [Joshua Project](https://www.joshuaproject.org) to learn more about the unreached in this country.

TURKEY

Total Population:	84,976,000
Major Religion:	Islam
Joshua Project Status:	Partially Reached
Percent Evangelical:	0.04% (1 in 2,500)
Major Needs:	Evangelism, healthy churches, pastoral training

Turkey is a secular state, yet to be a Turkish national is often equated with being Muslim. One interesting fact about Turkey is that its largest city, Istanbul, is on two continents, with both a European and an Asian side! For over 1,000 years, this region was a stronghold of Christianity but today, 66% of the population is unevangelized and less than 1% claim to be Christian. The country's constitution, courts, and military claim to uphold religious freedom, but some secular nationalists can even be as anti-Christian (and anti-Western, or anti-minority) as extremist Islamists are. While it's still



difficult to share the gospel openly with Turks and Kurds, churches and organizations are reporting they have greater freedom to minister to and share with refugees from the surrounding countries of Iran, Iraq and Afghanistan who are living in various camps and cities within Turkey. Currently, MBC partners are working to plant a new, English-speaking church in a hard-to-reach city in Turkey. This church will also provide pastoral ministry to evangelize unbelievers and shepherd church members through preaching, counseling, and prayer. While COVID lockdowns have delayed some of the plans, as of the Fall of 2021, the church was able to begin regular worship gatherings again. Their prayer is also to start a pastoral internship program to train and raise up men for pastoral ministry in other countries throughout South Asia and the Middle East.



PRAY:

- That God would break the strongholds keeping the gospel from being spread and that this region would reclaim its Christian heritage.
- That God would grow this new church plant and increase their members. That it would be a healthy vibrant church.
- That God would encourage followers of Christ and equip new believers to be bold and courageous for the advance of the gospel.
- That God would allow current missionaries to have favor, wisdom, and access to build a solid gospel infrastructure.

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

SOMALIA

Total Population:	16,262,000
Major Religion:	Islam
Joshua Project Status:	Unreached
Percent Evangelical:	0.01% (1 in 10,000)
Major Needs:	Bible distribution, evangelism, healthy churches

Somalia is one of the most “homogeneous” nations in the world, with 85% of its total population made up of ethnic Somalis. With the world’s highest fertility rates, yet lowest life expectancy, the country is plagued by failed extremist groups. The recent creation of a Parliament has generated hope, as Somalia tries to fight its way to stability. The militant Islamist group Al-Shabab has been ousted from most urban areas but is still active in rural parts of the country.



Due to these issues, the economic, social, and physical health of the nation is in ruin. Out of concern for safety, many foreign NGOs are not able to operate in Somalia, so needed aid and resources never reach the most vulnerable. Somali women suffer from genital mutilation, mistreatment, rape, divorce, abuse, and abandonment. Traffickers smuggle children out of Somalia to exploit or abandon them.

During conflicts in the 1990s, the small Somali church was driven into hiding. As a result of a successful propaganda campaign, many Somalis have false fears and prejudices against Christians. These barriers are frequently encountered by Somali churches and during evangelism. Persecution of Christians is great, it is estimated there are less than 4,000 Christians in all of Somalia! The Bible was completed in the Somali language in 1977 but it is not able to be widely distributed.

PRAY:

- That God would restore stability and peace, so that basic human needs and rights are met.
- That God would strengthen the small number of Christians and churches to share their faith and see new believers disciplined and raised to leadership.
- That God would protect women and girls from abuse and show them that they are valuable and loved by him.
- That God would open the door in Somalia to NGOs and Christian agencies to provide needed resources and support.
- That God would bring terrorists to justice, convict them of their sin, and draw them to worship Christ.



Visit [Joshua Project](https://www.joshuaproject.org) to learn more about the unreached in this country.

BEN & ERIN

Serving in GERMANY since 2017

Major Religion:	Christianity
Joshua Project Status:	Partially Reached

Ben began attending McLean Bible Church (MBC) at just two years old and was active in children's and youth ministry. He joined the church at age 14 and traveled to Africa on a short-term trip. Ben was later on MBC worship staff for over 20 years. Erin began attending MBC in 1991 and was MBC Access Ministry staff for seven years. During their time at MBC, their daughters Elise and Emily were both involved in many children's ministries. Emily also has CHARGE Syndrome.

Ben and Erin have had an interest in Germany for many years. In 2016, the Lord provided Ben a position to help lead Eurobrass, a Christian evangelistic ensemble group he had served before, right when their daughters were looking for new schools! In 2017, the Roundtrees moved to Germany to serve with Artists in Christian Testimony Intl. God had clearly been preparing them. He even provided a special needs



school where Emily could excel and gave both daughters the ability to learn the German language quickly as they made the transition to attending German schools.

Despite centuries of rich spiritual heritage, Germans today are quite secular, and most do not personally know any born again Christians. There are 80 million people in Germany and roughly half "belong" to either the Protestant or Catholic church. Of those, only about 9% of Catholics and 3% of Protestants attend church on a regular basis.

Germany has a great appreciation for brass music which opens many ministry doors for Ben and Erin, who also share the gospel through handbell concerts. Ben is able to travel the country sharing Christ and connecting people to local churches. Additionally, they support a growing ministry in Ukraine and have served there as a family.



PRAY:

- That God would allow them to resume the BellTree Duo concerts and for the Lord to prepare the way for evangelistic concert tours in Ukraine in early 2022.
- That God would maintain their overall health and for travel protection as they hope to be out for ministry more as pandemic restrictions continue to lift in Europe.

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

CAMBODIA

Total Population:	16,889,000
Major Religion:	Buddhism
Joshua Project Status:	Partially Reached
Percent Evangelical:	2.05% (1 in 49)
Major Needs:	Evangelism, healthy churches, pastoral training



Cambodia is a unique country famous for its exotic cuisine and ancient Buddhist temples. The only country with a building featured on its flag, 43% of the population is unreached, 19 out of the 44 people groups! But, by God's grace, the gospel is spreading! Only 2% of the total population are evangelical, but as the second-generation of national believers step into church leadership, the need for strong biblical teaching and discipleship is growing. Since Buddhism continues to be the primary religion of the region, having a strong tie to traditional family units it is

often hard for believers to step away from Buddhism because it means severed family ties. Even years after the civil war (1975-79) in which over 2 million people died, the country is still experiencing the effects of genocide. Many intellectuals and the highly educated who fled the country during the war have never returned. Drug and sex trafficking trades plague Cambodia, ruining and affecting the lives of people of all ages. Disparate wealth and corruption continue to deepen the divide between the poor and upper classes. This further establishes a people who need love, restoration, healing, and forgiveness that is found only in God through Jesus Christ.



PRAY:

- That God would strengthen His church in Cambodia and that He would 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 so the people of Cambodia can experience refreshment
- That God would provide for basic needs, especially among the most vulnerable, and that the local church will continue to be a bold, clear witness for Christ while religious gatherings continue are restricted due to the pandemic.

Visit [Joshua Project](https://joshuaproject.org) to learn more about the unreached in this country.

MIDDLE EAST

Major Religion:	Islam
Joshua Project Status:	Unreached
Percent Evangelical:	3.47% (1 in 29)
Major Needs:	Evangelism, healthy churches, pastoral training



The countries represented in this ancient region of the world have long traditions rooted in Islam, Christianity, and Judaism. Today, most people in this region are Muslim. MBC global partner, 9Marks, exists to equip church leaders with a biblical vision and practical resources for building healthy churches among the nations. They help pastors, church leaders, and church members see what biblical church looks like, and how to take practical steps for becoming one. The goal is to see churches characterized by the biblical marks of a healthy church. Throughout the Muslim world, there’s a lack of accessibility often to solid biblical resources. There are also

security concerns for many believers in how to access needed resources. 9Marks works with partners from all across the Arabic speaking world in many different dialects. Materials are distributed digitally across multiple platforms, including on translations platforms, Arabic language websites, Amazon, and local partner websites. Distribution happens primarily through local partners in the region who distribute them digitally for free as well as commercially via print editions. Their licensing approach allows for the same translation to be printed legally in any part of the Arabic speaking world as well as making Arabic translations available on Amazon in the UK, US, Europe, and across the world. This has created a unique global distribution platform that will allow many to be reached with the Good News!



PRAY:

- That God would raise up Christian workers in these countries, eager to learn and make disciples.
- That God would further the reach of the ministry to open new channels for material distribution.
- That God would stir a heart of learning and passion of the Word for local pastors so their churches would be strengthened, so they can better serve their congregation.
- That God would help the ministry plant biblically based, healthy churches.

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

MALDIVES

Total Population:	515,000
Major Religion:	Islam
Joshua Project Status:	Unreached
Percent Evangelical:	0.1% (1 in 1,000)
Major Needs:	Evangelism, healthy churches, committed pastors

Maldives is well known for its tourism and tropical landscape! Tourists experience the Maldives as an island paradise, but a darker reality exists below the surface. Powerful social and official forces limit freedom of expression and belief. The Maldives has one of the highest divorce rates in the world. Crime rates and gang activity both continue to rise. Child abuse and teenage drug abuse in up to 70% of teens, indicate deep problems. Islam is the only recognized religion, and the government forbids open practice of all other religions.



Beyond Islamic beliefs, many people follow occult practices called Fanditha. Maldivians are still among the least evangelized on earth. Neither mission work nor Christian literature has ever been allowed. The government denies the existence of Christianity among Maldivians while arresting those who trust in Christ. The perception of Christianity is so bad (largely due to Western media and tourist immorality) that political opponents use the term “Christian” to slander one another. The desire to honor human rights and increase freedoms has been expressed by the current government, but freedom of religion is highly unpopular and violent opposition to it has been promised. Grassroots religion has shifted in a decidedly Islamist and Arabized direction, losing its indigenous Maldivian roots.

PRAY:

- That God would break the strongholds of pride, fear, and lies that the enemy has created in regard to Christianity.
- That God would use the 2004 tsunami and 2008 economic downturn to cause many to seek eternal assurance obtainable only through Christ Jesus.
- That God would bless and provide a brighter future for Maldivian peoples, torn between oppressive religion and empty freedoms.
- That God would make Jesus’ true nature known, and that the state’s contradictions and heavy-handedness toward Christianity will generate great curiosity so that many people to come to faith.

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

MIRIAM

Serving in EGYPT since 2018

Major Religion:	Islam
Joshua Project Status:	Partially Reached

Miriam became a member of McLean Bible Church (MBC) in 2016, when she and her family moved to Northern Virginia. Miriam served with the Young Adults Ministry and led a women's Bible study in her home. From 2017-2018, she served as an MBC Global Outreach Intern. Miriam loved her time at MBC and is grateful to call MBC her spiritual family and her home church!

In middle school, Miriam fell deeply in love with Jesus. She began reading missionary biographies and was captivated by their stories. In high school, Miriam served on several short-term trips, and during those trips God gave her his heart for the nations. After graduation, she learned that around 3% of all Christian workers go to the almost 2 billion unreached people of the world. That lit a fire in her, and she knew that



the Lord was inviting her to maybe spend the rest of her life making His name known among the unreached.

In 2018, Miriam moved to Egypt. While Egypt has a moderate amount of gospel infrastructure, there is still work to be done! With a total population of over 104 million people, 25 of the 42 people groups are still unreached. Miriam studied the language and culture full-time for two years. Since then, she remains a part-time language student, and can now participate in a variety of ministry activities! She is engaged to be married in 2022 and looks forward to all that the Lord has in store for her next!



PRAY:

- That God would give Miriam wisdom as she evaluates different ministry opportunities and looks to a long-term future in the Middle East.
- That God provides access to gospel truth for Muslims who seek it; that God will connect them to other believers and to His word.
- That God would incite the government to remove "religion" from national ID cards, so that those who follow Christ can live more boldly.
- That God would bring the right people on the team to finish the translation projects that are in progress in local dialects.

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

JORDAN

Total Population:	10,187,000
Major Religion:	Islam
Joshua Project Status:	Partially Reached
Percent Evangelical:	0.27% (1 in 370)
Major Needs:	Evangelism, healthy churches, pastoral training

Jordan is one of the most progressive countries in the Middle East. The vast majority of people in Jordan practice Islam (96.3%), and for those serving there it is not hard to notice that all parts of life are tied to Islam. Rich in biblical history, Jordan's largest city, Amman, is the epicenter of political activity and economic trade. The King of Jordan declares Islam the religion of the state but safeguards "the free exercise of all forms of worship and religious rites" without



discrimination, which makes it one of the most open to religious freedom in the Middle East. 13 out of the 20 people groups found in this country are considered unreached, which offers the small evangelical population a unique opportunity to advance the gospel. Being landlocked between the volatile and Muslim majority countries of Syria, Iraq, and Saudi Arabia (and even Israel), Jordan has experienced an influx of refugees from these countries due to ongoing wars and political conflict. Amman witnessed rapid growth after several successive waves of refugees: Palestinians in 1948 and 1967; Iraqis in 1990 and 2003; and Syrians since 2011, in addition to the many students from the surrounding countries who come to Amman to study. Amman is strategically placed for churches and gospel-based ministries to have a wide reach throughout the Middle East by the direct impact they make on the people living in Jordan.

PRAY:

- That God would give Christian workers serving in Jordan access to the many refugees and students there, and that those who hear the gospel would believe in Christ and carry the gospel back to their home countries.
- That God would show favor to missionary workers in this region and give them continued perseverance.
- That God would raise up new healthy churches. Pray for the churches which already exist, that they would develop into healthy, thriving, 12-trait churches.
- That God would protect Jordan and reduce its vulnerability to violent troubles that surround the country.



Visit [Joshua Project](https://joshuaproject.org) to learn more about the unreached in this country.

KENYA

Total Population:	54,749,000
Major Religion:	Christianity
Joshua Project Status:	Significantly Reached
Percent Evangelical:	49.21% (1 in 2)
Major Needs:	Healthy churches, pastoral training, Christian literature



Rich in agriculture, natural resources, and known for its sprawling landscape and wildlife, Kenya has a large evangelical presence with a long history of missionary activity. Although there is a large population of Christians in Kenya, many churches are heavily influenced by prosperity teaching and are lacking in biblical health. Also, churches in Africa often lack sufficient access to biblical resources. Sound theological resources are largely unaffordable and inapplicable to the issues Christians face in the African context, which directly affects the health of existing churches. Up to 85%-90% of pastors serving on the African continent have no access to theological education, leaving them ill-equipped to faithfully shepherd their churches, especially in

rural areas throughout Sub-Saharan Africa. In response to this need, MBC Partner, Ekklesia Afrika, exists to equip the church in Africa by providing access to sound theological resources through publishing Christian literature, informal theological training, and by hosting conferences and events. Ekklesia Afrika locally publishes sound resources and hosts strategic conferences to equip pastors through faithful preaching and teaching in conjunction with Emmanuel Baptist Church in Nairobi, Kenya. Ekklesia Afrika also offers non-formal theological curriculum in a cohort learning format through a program called SOMA. By translating books into Swahili and printing locally, Ekklesia Afrika offers a sustainable training program for African pastors. These initiatives have the ability to impact generations to come for Christ!



PRAY:

- That God would sustain existing churches and help them grow in biblical health.
- That God would give wisdom to the leaders of Ekklesia Afrika.
- That God would equip pastors through SOMA and Ekklesia Afrika events.
- That God would aid in helping the organization in the publishing and distribution of sound theological resources throughout the African continent.

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

PAKISTAN

Total Population:	224,197,000
Major Religion:	Islam
Joshua Project Status:	Unreached
Percent Evangelical:	Unknown
Major Needs:	Evangelism, healthy churches, committed local pastors

Pakistan is unique for many reasons—it has everything from fertile desserts to high mountain peaks. Though a minority, Taliban-driven Islam impacts everything. Power and wealth are held by a few, and Pakistan’s government alternates between inefficient, corrupt party rule and authoritarian military dictatorships. Women under fundamentalist Islam lack freedoms, rights, or education, and domestic abuse



is rampant. External pressures include outside Islamist forces, Afghanistan, Punjab, and the India-Kashmir conflict. Extremists use strict blasphemy laws to punish innocent people. Common church struggles involve unequipped or corrupt leadership, court cases, substance abuse, and division. Few Muslims repent and trust in Christ because local churches—emerging from mainly Hindu-background and lower caste believers—can’t integrate well into society. Most Muslim background converts to Christ either revert to Islam, turn to atheism, or retreat to a hidden, private faith. With the second-largest concentration of unengaged, unevangelized peoples and second largest Muslim population, Pakistan lies at the heart of the unevangelized world. Many of the 350 unevangelized peoples/castes have no churches, no Christians, no missionaries, and no witness.

PRAY:

- That God would grow strong local churches led by faithful shepherds.
- That God would clearly reveal the gospel of Christ and that Islam’s grip on the country would be weakened.
- That God would free Pakistan from spirits of violence and that the government would help the nation.
- That God would equip and give courage to the believers who are sharing their faith and pouring into younger people in hopes of propelling the gospel to future generations.
- That God would put the right people in place for media networks to grow, effectively ministering to Christians and portraying a clear gospel message to nonbelievers.



Visit [Joshua Project](https://joshuaproject.org) to learn more about the unreached in this country.

LIV

Serving in CAMBODIA since 2017

Major Religion:	Buddhism
Joshua Project Status:	Partially Reached

Liv began attending McLean Bible Church (MBC) in 1992 when her family moved to the D.C. area. It's there that she repented and placed her faith in Christ and began deeply studying the Bible. As a student, she was also an avid volunteer. While participating in her first international mission trip, she saw the dire need for the gospel on a global scale. Liv graduated from college with an engineering degree and began working for an organization that sends Christians around the world, via their unique professions, to serve the local church and make disciples. Liv helped mobilize interns, volunteers, and long-term staff to serve as disciple makers among the nations. After years of sending others, she co-led a mission trip with her local church, and concluded that God



wanted her to serve overseas. Liv is now living out the Great Commission by faithfully serving in Cambodia.

96% of the population of Cambodia is unreached. But by God's grace, the gospel is spreading! As the second generation of national believers step into church leadership, the need for discipleship is growing. Using her engineering degree and driven by her passion for the local church, Liv is providing engineering and architectural services for infrastructure within her community. All of this gives her incredible opportunities to share Christ and make disciples!



PRAY:

- That God would give grace to Liv's organization in the eyes of the government, as they have accepted their first government engineering project.
- That God would increase the number of team members on Liv's team, and that they would grow in unity.
- That God would allow tourism and other businesses to reopen, as COVID closures have negatively impacted the country financially.
- That God would provide for the needs, especially of the most vulnerable, and that the local church can continue to be a light while religious gatherings continue to be restricted due to the pandemic.

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

GERMANY

Total Population:	83,726,000
Major Religion:	Christianity
Joshua Project Status:	Partially Reached
Percent Evangelical:	2.01% (1 in 50)
Major Needs:	Evangelism, healthy churches, pastoral training



Germany is the third most widely taught language in the world, and Germany occupies a prominent place in both world history and the world economy. It also holds a prominent place in church history, when over 500 years ago, Germany was the site of the Protestant Reformation led by Martin Luther. The years that followed the Reformation ushered in a new era, where the Bible began to be read by “normal” people and distributed outside of the clergy only. The next few centuries saw deep religious foundations and traditions built. Even so, the nineteenth and twentieth centuries in Germany brought new challenges, both as a country and in the church.

Twentieth century Germany was splintered by two world wars, which decimated the country and greatly affected its churches. Since then, Germany, along with the rest of Europe, has battled secularism. Altötting is a city located in the northern part of Germany in the Bavaria region and is also the site of religious pilgrimages by Catholics in honor of Mary. New churches are being planted in this city and surrounding areas and there is a new generation of Germans slowly returning to church. This is being seen throughout Europe as well. Additionally, many immigrants from the Middle East and Asia are hearing the gospel in European churches!



PRAY:

- That God would dispel the spiritual apathy and deadness in Germany and replace it with a passion to know the true God.
- That God would continue to grow healthy German churches, so that the gospel is preached, and disciples are made.
- That God would provide for organizations and missionary agencies, so that more missionaries can be equipped and sent to areas in Germany that need it most.

Visit [Joshua Project](https://www.joshuaproject.org) to learn more about the unreached in this country.

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Total Population:	80,000,000
Major Religion:	Islam
Joshua Project Status:	Unreached
Percent Evangelical:	0.44% (1 in 227)
Major Needs:	Evangelism, healthy churches, pastoral training

The Arabian Peninsula is a region in the Middle East which is the original birthplace of Islam and includes countries such as Saudi Arabia, Oman, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Yemen, and Bahrain, along with parts of Jordan and Iraq. Due to the economic growth of several countries, industry and business workers have flocked to the region from all over the world—many of those among the unreached. This unique setting is especially reflected in several universities in the region. Universities in the Arabian Peninsula attract students from the whole region and beyond, with some campuses claiming a student body representing more than 120 countries! While



most countries and universities are very restrictive about Christians sharing the gospel on campus, other countries are less so. This offers a unique opportunity to gospel ministry.

One MBC partner is working to serve these students through collegiate ministry. Their aim is to establish indigenous fellowships of students on every campus in the Arabian Peninsula, supported and led by indigenous staff teams, all of whom bear witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ. They accomplish this through effective evangelism and discipleship. When this happens, students often return to their home countries, carrying the gospel and what they have learned with them!

Almost all the student leaders in this ministry became Christians through the ministry's evangelistic outreaches. These student fellowships also strengthen churches, as leaders and new believers commit and serve in a healthy church located in their city. Many alumni have graduated and returned home to become godly leaders in their home churches – taking the seed of the gospel far and wide



PRAY:

- That God would give wisdom to staff workers to establish student fellowship on every campus in the Arabian Peninsula.
- That God would give leaders fruitful evangelism as they meet new students and build relationships with them.
- That God would help new believers to mature and grow as disciples of Christ in their local churches.

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

IRAN

Total Population:	84,895,000
Major Religion:	Islam
Joshua Project Status:	Unreached
Percent Evangelical:	0.52% (1 in 192)
Major Needs:	Healthy churches, faithful local pastors, pastoral training



Iran, also called Persia, is the second largest country in the Middle East. Home to some of the oldest civilizations and one of the founders of the United Nations, Iran is experiencing increased secularism stemming from ongoing corruption and oppression. The center for Shia Islam, most Iranians agree that religion has a place in government but are divided on how that should look. Addiction rates, orphaned street children, and widespread prostitution are a handful of the issues ignored by conservative Islamic leadership leading many to question their traditional Islamic faith. Many young people (2/3 of Iran is under 30) are open to the gospel

and make up much of the underground church. Many old churches remain in Iran from the early days of Christianity. However, converts to Christianity from Islam face persecution and isolation from their networks. Historically Christian communities, such as Armenians and Assyrians, while protected by the government are often treated as second class citizens and prohibited from holding services in the Persian language. Today, Christianity is growing with worship gatherings are happening in homes mainly led by women. Congregants risking punishment by fines, lashing, or prison terms, with judges having the authority to even evoke the death penalty, if they desire.



PRAY:

- That God would establish the local church in His Word and that congregations would be equipped and encouraged to serve the many suffering in their communities.
- That God would provide for ever increasing distribution of the Bible and that translation teams be raised for other languages.
- That God would raise up biblical leaders to faithfully teach the whole Bible, to foster discipleship, and to train church members for local outreach efforts so they can share the gospel in new contexts.

Visit [Joshua Project](https://www.joshuaproject.org) to learn more about the unreached in this country.

STEPHANY

Serving in GERMANY since 2018

Major Religion:	Christianity
Joshua Project Status:	Partially Reached

As a child, Stephany was blessed with opportunities to travel and see other cultures firsthand. During these times of travel, God planted in her a desire to live abroad. At age eighteen, Stephany felt God wanted her to be a missionary, but she didn't know how or when. After college and while working her first full-time job, God confirmed Stephany's desire to live abroad as a missionary.

Stephany first visited McLean Bible Church (MBC) Arlington in 2015, after moving into a house with a roommate who was an MBC member and who led a small group out of the home.



Stephany soon became an MBC member and began to serve as a small group co-leader and in other areas of the church, as needed.

Stephany now lives and serves in Germany. She focuses on church planting and training efforts across the European continent, where she gets to support and train missionaries in over 20 countries. In addition to her work with church planters, Stephany has plugged into a local church plant, and serves there as part of their church planting team.



PRAY:

- That God would bless the leaders being trained in church planting through Stephany's ministry. Pray that they will receive guidance and wisdom from the Lord for the churches they are to plant. Pray for the individuals that they will be evangelizing, that they will come to know Jesus as Lord.
- That God would grow Stephany's local church plant; and that monthly services will bless the community.
- That God would move people's hearts to know Jesus, and that the team of volunteers will be strengthened throughout the process of newcomer follow- up.
- That God would provide additional missionaries and volunteers in Europe. They need more people as they continue to expand the countries, languages, and cultures where they are planting churches.

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

KAZAKHSTAN

Total Population:	18,872,000
Major Religion:	Islam
Joshua Project Status:	Partially Reached
Percent Evangelical:	0.61% (1 in 164)
Major Needs:	Evangelism, healthy churches, pastoral training

Located in Central Asia and four times the size of Texas, Kazakhstan is a large country that was Soviet controlled until 1991. Since then, the country has made great strides both in their economy and in human rights. There are large stores of natural resources, which guarantees great wealth for some while many in the country struggle economically. It's the only country where Islam is not given special status, and the



government works hard to keep Islam moderate within its borders. Even still, the country has as Muslim majority, but it is highly intertwined with indigenous practices. 73% of the total population identifies as Muslim.

In 2011, the government enacted laws that prohibit public worship, which has hindered ways churches can grow. The evangelical presence is only 115,000 followers of Christ (0.61%) so, in this context, Christian witness and establishing relationships are difficult. Kazakh Christians from a Muslim background face immense hardship and are often ostracized from their families. Despite all of this, there is much room for Christianity to grow in Kazakhstan!

PRAY:

- That God would favor efforts of training and equipping local pastors and leaders on Transformational Development. Using TD approaches, the local churches will be able to help people and communities at their point of need (like water, health, food production, livelihood, others).
- That God would give missionaries helping and caring for people, relationships of trust, acceptance and respect will be established and through God's grace, open doors for gospel proclamation.
- That God would raise up new healthy churches to proclaim Christ for generations to come.
- That God would encourage Kazakh Christians to boldly and clearly share the gospel and commit to grow through faithful Bible study.



Visit [Joshua Project](https://www.joshuaproject.org) to learn more about the unreached in this country.

RUSSIA

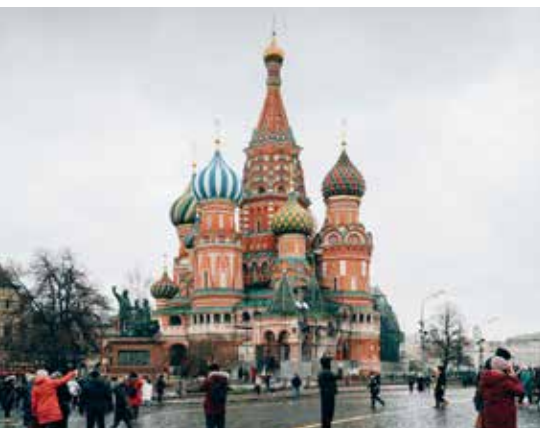
Total Population:	144,666,000
Major Religion:	Christianity
Joshua Project Status:	Superficially Reached
Percent Evangelical:	1.46% (1 in 68)
Major Needs:	Healthy churches, pastoral training, seminary, Christian literature

Russia is the largest country in the world. Russia and other former USSR countries have endured years of Communism and war. Operation World reports that the fall of the Iron Curtain opened Eastern Europe and Central Asia to evangelism, church planting, rebirth of a Christian identity in society, Bible translation work, and more. While the Russian Orthodox Church is culturally strong, it is spiritually weak and in desperate need of renewal. The number of evangelicals in Russia is less than 2% and there are very few healthy churches. Evangelical believers often face opposition from the government, Muslims, and Orthodox. Despite these challenges, healthy churches are being planted, especially



in Russia's rural regions. Some of these regions, such as the North Caucasus region, are among Europe's least-evangelized areas. These pastors need sound biblical training and resources to help shepherd their young and growing congregations.

One MBC partner working in the region provides pastoral training programs and theological resources to isolated Russian-speaking pastors and church-planters to equip them for faithful church ministry both in Russia and in surrounding countries. This training program primarily serves pastors from small churches and rural areas who are unable to afford solid resources and have little access and exposure to sound teaching. Around 80% of the participants oversee churches of 30 members or less and maintain additional jobs outside of their pastoral ministry. Through this training program, participants are provided books and mentoring to support them in their ministry.



PRAY:

- That God would provide solid resources for the ongoing support of these pastors.
- That God would help the pastors to grow in their love for God's Word and for fruitfulness in their preaching and teaching.
- That God would raise up the churches of these pastors and they would be faithful amidst difficulty and persecution.

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

MAURITANIA

Total Population:	4,741,000
Major Religion:	Islam
Joshua Project Status:	Unreached
Percent Evangelical:	0.12% (1 in 833)
Major Needs:	Evangelism, healthy churches, faithful local pastors



The African nation of Mauritania and its tribal culture believe leaving Islam is not only religious betrayal, but also a betrayal of the tribe and family. Christians from Muslim backgrounds will often keep their faith secret, knowing they can lose not only their status in their community but also their citizenship. Those who do practice attend secret Catholic or expatriate church services, there is no national church. The importation of Bibles is restricted, and evangelism is illegal. Even slight criticism of Islam can carry the death penalty, and radical

Islam is on the rise. Fewer than 150 believers are known to live in the country, and only foreigners can worship openly. Nearly all Mauritanians are Sunni Muslims and the people here experience huge economic and social challenges. Many are starving since only about 1% of the land can be farmed, and that number is constantly decreasing as once rich soil becomes desert. New discoveries of oil could bring wealth but could also increase corruption and further divide the rich and the poor. Though slavery is illegal, thousands still live as slaves.



PRAY:

- That God would bring freedom and justice for all those oppressed in Mauritania and that they experience the true freedom found in Christ
- That God would break the cultural and tribal bondage of Islam and that those who repent and trust in Christ would be protected from sin and find their daily bread
- That God would open access for the Word to be distributed freely and into the hands of believers so that they may grow in Christ
- That God would heal the spiritual and physical brokenness of Mauritania and that the local church would grow and serve these people well.

Visit [Joshua Project](https://www.joshuaproject.org) to learn more about the unreached in this country.

JAMES & LYRIC

Serving in KAZAKHSTAN since 2018

Major Religion:	Islam
Joshua Project Status:	Minimally Reached

James and Lyric were born and raised in Southeast Asia, where they both came to know the Lord and committed their lives to Him. They later emigrated to the United States to raise their children and are now blessed with grandchildren!

James and Lyric are MBC members and have faithfully served for many years. They were involved in a home Bible study and various MBC Fellowships, where they helped with several MBC projects.

After recently retiring from successful careers, both James and Lyric felt that God wanted them to serve as missionaries to unreached peoples. To confirm God's calling, they searched the Scriptures and prayed for God's confirmation. They also sought prayer support from family, their community group, other church members, Christian friends, and counsel from MBC Pastors. The Lord showed them in very clear ways that He indeed wanted them to be missionaries. This gave them a



deep sense of peace, joy, and excitement, and they wished they had made this missionary decision earlier in their lives!

Through their careers, the Lord gave them over 30 years of international development experience in 22 countries. They now serve in the Muslim-majority country of Kazakhstan where unreached peoples account for over 73% of the total population. In this context, Christian witness and establishing relationships are difficult. They train and equip local pastors and leaders in Transformational Development (TD). Using TD approaches, local churches help people and communities at their point of need (like water, health, food production, livelihood, etc.). By helping and caring for people, relationships of trust, acceptance, and respect are established, and doors then open for gospel proclamation!



PRAY:

- That God would give TD course participants opportunities to care for their communities. Pray that they will bear much fruit as they implement what they've learned in helping the poor and needy in their communities. Pray for gospel proclamation in an otherwise restrictive and fearful environment.
- That God would grant James and Lyric long-term visas and lift COVID travel restrictions.

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

GERMANY

Total Population:	83,726,000
Major Religion:	Christianity
Joshua Project Status:	Partially Reached
Percent Evangelical:	2.01% (1 in 50)
Major Needs:	Healthy churches, pastoral training, faithful local pastors



Despite centuries of rich spiritual tradition, Germans today experience mostly a secular culture where many people do not personally know any true Christians. Germany has one of the lowest birth rates in the world. Not only are they expecting a population decline, but Germany is also experiencing spiritual decline due to a lack of spiritual interest, diminishing attendance, and church closings. Only 10% of German people say they believe in God as absolutely certain. Of the 80 million people in Germany, roughly half claim (as required and designated on their tax form) to belong either the Protestant or Catholic church, but that is where their faith ends for many. Targeted criticism

of the Bible by the Nazi party in the early 20th century led to the rise of the predominantly secular culture seen today. Those seeds of criticism have since bloomed into cultural chaos with many areas of Germany seeing a spike in crime, suicide, and corruption. Germany today is also diversifying. Germany is one of the most popular destinations in Europe for immigrants, with countries from all over the Middle East and Eastern Europe represented. With 28% of the population considered unreached, there exists a great opportunity for missionaries and ministries serving there to preach the gospel. Opportunities for the gospel to reach beyond Germany exist as immigrants hear about Christ while in Germany and take the seeds of the gospel back to their home countries.



PRAY:

- That God would increase healthy churches across Germany, and those who do not truly know the Lord would come to saving faith
- That God would reveal Christ to the many immigrants and students coming to Germany
- That God would remove the pagan traditions that have had a stronghold on the country so that Germany would experience a revival of interest in the Word of God.

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

SUDAN

Total Population:	44,818,000
Major Religion:	Islam
Joshua Project Status:	Unreached
Percent Evangelical:	0.39% (1 in 256)
Major Needs:	Evangelism, healthy churches, pastoral training

Sudan is home to over 160 people groups who are predominantly Muslim, most of whom practice in the Sunni tradition. Since their independence in 1956, the country has suffered from political instability and war. For several decades, the western region of Sudan has been plagued by armed conflict and many people have been displaced. Despite the upheaval, the gospel spread as Christian refugees were scattered throughout the country and churches were formed among several unreached peoples. The Christian minority, however, faces severe persecution which threatens the stability and unity of these churches. Moreover, pastors are



often isolated and ill-equipped to shepherd their churches and serve their local communities.

MBC Partner World Relief is working with local pastors to support Sudanese believers in the face of persecution and hardship. World Relief also aims to equip church and community leaders to strengthen their families and communities for economic development and peacebuilding. Specifically, the goal is to increase the health of local churches, so that opportunities to proclaim the gospel in a sustainable, replicable way are created. There are many barriers to the growth of the church in this region, from persecution, lack of training and equipping leaders, the displacement crisis, and even ethnic tensions. Effective training programs for church leaders combat these barriers, as local pastors are empowered to address needs in their community through partnership and the sharing of resources.



PRAY:

- That God would bring healing and stability to Sudan.
- That God would give local believers courage and protection in order to establish healthy and long-lasting gospel ministry.
- That God would encourage churches to faithfully proclaim the gospel in the midst of persecution.
- That God would create unity of churches as they seek to serve their local communities.

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

SAUDI ARABIA

Total Population:	35,315,000
Major Religion:	Islam
Joshua Project Status:	Unreached
Percent Evangelical:	0.56% (1 in 178)
Major Needs:	Evangelism, healthy churches, faithful local pastors

Over 32 million people in Saudi Arabia are considered unevangelized and live in a region known to rank among the world's worst, for religious freedom and human rights. As the birthplace of Islam and the location of the religion's most holy site Mecca, people of other faiths cannot practice their religion openly or even gather privately. For centuries,



the country has been under absolute monarchy where the official religion is Islam, and the constitution is the Quran and Sunna. Social restrictions limit women in all aspects of life and their presence outside the home is discouraged but are typically more educated than their male counterparts. Despite having a large expatriate community of various faiths (more than 30% of the population) Saudi authorities make a point to monitor them—if Christians are caught assembling together, either in public or private, they may be detained or deported. It's estimated that 56% of the population are under the age of 30. The number of Saudi Christians has been slowly increasing, sharing their faith with others on the internet and via Christian satellite TV channels.

PRAY:

- That God would reveal Christ to anyone who makes pilgrimage to Mecca and that some of the millions who travel to Saudi Arabia each year would instead put their faith in Jesus.
- That God would break the stronghold Islam holds on this country and that the billions of dollars that come from oil resources would help to advance the gospel.
- That God would stir the younger generation that makes up the majority of the country to diverge from family tradition and be convicted of their need for a Savior.
- That God would protect the believers and missionaries serving in Saudi Arabia and that the church would be able to worship freely and grow in studying and understanding God's Word.
- That God would continue to use the Internet to strengthen and unite believers and grow the Saudi church.



Visit [Joshua Project](https://www.joshuaproject.org) to learn more about the unreached in this country.

JOHN

Serving in HAITI since 2010

Major Religion:	Christianity
Joshua Project Status:	Significantly Reached

John grew up in Northern Virginia and began attending McLean Bible Church (MBC) in 2002. He served in Kid’s Quest, the Rock, and became a member of MBC. He desired to serve as a cross-cultural missionary but felt he should be free of debt first.

Once his finances became stable, he began to actively look for ministry opportunities overseas. In 2010, a pastor asked him to pray about going to Haiti to assist with the earthquake relief effort through Score International. John arrived in Haiti in March of 2010 and has served there ever since!

John is making disciples and attends Rendez-Vous Christ Church, which is led by godly Haitian leaders who focus on youth and young adults. They encourage rising generations of Haitians to know and follow Jesus Christ. John also teaches



classes about Jesus to those who are interested, so that they may repent and trust in Him.

Haiti has access to vast gospel resources. Yet, recent natural disasters, political assassinations, violence, and subsequent poverty have crippled the country. According to Pastor Julio Volcy, the Director of Haiti Teen Challenge, 90% of all Haitians grow up without a father. This lack of family structure is debilitating for local communities and affects the lives of young people in particular. John and his fellow church workers faithfully serve to disciple people to follow Jesus, so they can be the voice of hope and truth their communities so desperately need!



PRAY:

- That God would bring peace to Haiti. Security in Haiti is volatile, and people live in daily fear. Crime, political unrest, kidnappings, and violence are at an ultimate high.
- That God would protect His people and give grace for His church to grow. Pray John’s staff and co-workers continue to grow in the grace and knowledge of Christ.

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

SENEGAL

Total Population:	17,108,000
Major Religion:	Islam
Joshua Project Status:	Unreached
Percent Evangelical:	0.19% (1 in 526)
Major Needs:	Evangelism, healthy churches, pastoral training

The Republic of Senegal has a rich history. This secular nation generally tolerates religious freedom, however over 90% of the total population claim Islam as their religion. The capital of Dakar is fortunate to have upwards of 60 small churches, but other parts of the country have little to no gospel infrastructure or churches for the thousands of people outside major cities. There is a need for healthy churches to be planted and for missionaries to proclaim Christ to the least reached. 47% of the total population are considered unreached



with the gospel, encompassing 26 distinct people groups. The Spring of 2021 saw the worst political unrest in a country widely seen as one of the most stable in West Africa, while the summer saw a third wave of the deadly COVID-19 pandemic. Many Senegalese attempt a dangerous sea crossing to the Canary Islands, in the hopes of reaching Europe. As of September 2021, just 7% of the country has been vaccinated, with available vaccines concentrated in Dakar. People are fearful and desperate for some relief. In 2022, Senegal has the honor of hosting the Youth Olympic games.



PRAY:

- That God would increase the spiritual health of existing churches in the capital of Dakar so they can be a light for the gospel.
- That God believers in Dakar would boldly and clearly share Christ with their neighbors and friends.
- That God would increase church planting teams to other areas of the country where no churches currently exist.
- That God would make a way for Senegal to receive more COVID-19 vaccine doses which would allow more people to be vaccinated.
- That God would quell political unrest and bring peace.

Visit [Joshua Project](https://joshuaproject.org) to learn more about the unreached in this country.

NORTH KOREA

Total Population:	25,762,000
Major Religion:	Non-religious
Joshua Project Status:	Unreached
Percent Evangelical:	1.57% (1 in 63)
Major Needs:	Evangelism, healthy churches



There are over 25 million unreached people in North Korea, ranking as one of the countries where Christians are most severely persecuted. Though officially an atheist state, the leaders of North Korea have established a personality cult around the “Supreme Leader” (Kim Jong-un and his late grandfather, Kim-Il-Sung), organized by the state and propagated under Juche ideology. As a result, Christians are considered a threat to the regime and persecution is ongoing and systemic. Under the rule of Kim Il-Sung, all churches were closed in North Korea. Since 1988, four church buildings (one Catholic, two Protestant, and one Russian Orthodox) were erected in Pyongyang through foreign donations; however, North Korean citizens are not allowed to worship at or join any of them. Over the past several decades, there are numerous reports of Christians being sent to state-run prison

campus. Some reports estimate as many as 50,000–70,000 Christians being held in these camps today. Additionally, the Bible is banned, and it is reported that possession of one is punishable by imprisonment or worse.

Defense Forum Foundation is a US based partner which helps fund Free North Korea Radio in South Korea. This organization works in partnership with both North Korean defectors (who prepare Bible based radio programs to broadcast to North Korea) and American churches and individuals (who support the costs of the program). Since 2013, Free North Korea Radio has broadcast daily powerful gospel programming to provide Bible teachings and testimonies for the underground church in North Korea and to spread the gospel message to all the people of North Korea to bring them eternal hope!



PRAY:

- That God would open the door for the gospel to be shared freely in North Korea.
- That God would protect and grow the underground church.
- That God would give favor and provision to the organizations to carry out their mission and continue to share the gospel in North Korea.

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

TUNISIA

Total Population:	11,911,000
Major Religion:	Islam
Joshua Project Status:	Unreached
Percent Evangelical:	0.03% (1 in 3,333)
Major Needs:	Evangelism, healthy churches, faithful local pastors



Tunisia is situated on the Mediterranean Sea and home to the northernmost point on the continent of Africa. Seen as one of the most progressive and open countries in the Arab world, Tunisia’s biggest societal problems tend to be high unemployment rates, poor living conditions, and economic decline. The constitution designates the government as the “guardian of religion” however, only Muslim citizens are able to run for the presidency and other government positions. Tunisia has a rich Christian history, as it was home to Christian martyrs Perpetua and Felicity and the third Council of Carthage ratified the New Testament canon here in A.D. 397. Although every aspect of life for a Christian involves

very high levels of pressure, persecution is highest in family and church life. Muslim background Christians face the worst persecution because their new faith is opposed—sometimes violently—by both family and community. Tunisia law offers religious freedom but most of these converts choose to hide their faith and believe they cannot openly worship or live as Christians. The hostility and pressure they face from the surrounding community and society make it illegal for them to share Christ with their family members, relatives, neighbors, friends, or colleagues. They also find it difficult to gather for worship and fellowship due to the risk of exposure, especially if they are monitored by Tunisian security services. Bibles are not widely available but are able to be distributed with special permission.

PRAY:

- That God would protect believers in the region who are experiencing increased persecution from friends and family.
- That God would open doors for the local church to grow, and that the practice of open worship would become acceptable.
- That God would send missionaries to Tunisia to reignite the Christian faith and that they would bring Bibles so that believers would have access to the Word.



Visit [Joshua Project](https://www.joshuaproject.org) to learn more about the unreached in this country.

BROOK

Serving in THE MIDDLE EAST since 2019

Major Religion:	Islam
Joshua Project Status:	Unreached

Brook grew up in Virginia and attended McLean Bible Church (MBC) as a child, participating in children and youth ministry. At age 16, on an MBC trip to the Dominican Republic, a pastor said, “God will ask some of you to move cross-culturally for His glory.” Brook felt God may want her to do this. After college, she served on MBC staff. During this time of serving the vulnerable and living in community, the Lord began to lay a foundation to “go” overseas. Brook sensed she would be disobeying the Lord if she stayed in the USA, and through hours of prayer, along with the confirmation of others, she began to actively pursue being sent by MBC as a missionary to the Middle East.



In 2019, Brook moved to the Middle East, to a region where the evangelical population is just 0.27%. The majority religion is Islam, and all parts of life there are tied back to Islam. Brook says, “We have all heard of unreached people groups before and their great need, but we must remember that behind each number is a face and a name...God led me to the Middle East to intentionally plant my life here to invest in these people; to see men, women, and communities come to know the radical love of Jesus—the one true God—and to see churches planted, thriving and healthy, in this part of the world. We all have a part to play! God is worthy of us spending our lives for the good news to be known in every nation and tongue.”



PRAY:

- That God would give perseverance to Brook and other workers in this region.
- That God would continue to form healthy churches. Pray against disunity. Pray churches would be outward focused.
- That God would bless Brook’s relationships. Pray that she would be quick to speak about Jesus and not fearful. Pray God would open doors for more relationships.

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

INDIA

Total Population:	1,387,132,000
Major Religion:	Hinduism
Joshua Project Status:	Unreached
Percent Evangelical:	Unknown
Major Needs:	Evangelism, healthy churches, pastoral training



India is the world's largest democracy, but there is still much to improve in the area of how human rights are defended and upheld in this large country. India has a total population of 1.3 billion people! In attempts to defend Hinduism, the current government has incited increasing instances of religious persecution against other faiths, mainly Christianity. 90% of India's population is considered unreached, with little to no access to the gospel. Even though the caste system is illegal, it still remains a major issue within Indian culture. Over 25% of the population is considered (by birth) to be in the "lower" classes and still face much discrimination and hardship.

Hyderabad is the fourth most populous city in India, and a hub for information technology companies. Nicknamed "City of Pearls" due to its role in the 19th century pearl industry, this metropolitan city is home to a handful of healthy, growing churches. Hyderabad and cities like it are where the "New India" is growing. Operation World says, "The 'New India' is a youthful, ambitious, cosmopolitan and modern entity, where differences of religion, caste and gender mean less and less. It is increasingly urban and tech-savvy. The India of call centers, cricket, Bollywood, bhangra and globally connected Indian culture is exposed to and open to new ideas and ways of living, including Christianity." These change ideas can be seen in Hyderabad and other large international cities in India.

PRAY:

- That God would cause the current government to uphold and protect basic human rights and freedoms.
- That God would cause local churches in Hyderabad to be an example in how they treat people—regardless of their caste.
- That God would continue to strengthen the churches in Hyderabad. That they would grow and that new churches would be planted.



Visit [Joshua Project](https://www.joshuaproject.org/) to learn more about the unreached in this country.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Total Population:	9,959,000
Major Religion:	Islam
Joshua Project Status:	Minimally Reached
Percent Evangelical:	1.18% (1 in 84)
Major Needs:	Pastoral training, seminary

Dubai is the most populous city in the UAE and one of the wealthiest cities in the world. Located in the eastern Arabian Peninsula, Dubai has become a business hub for the region. Due to the city's political stability and thriving economy, it's one of the world's fastest growing cities. Dubai is a popular tourist destination, claiming the world's tallest building (Burj Khalifa) and hosting the World Expo in 2021. It's a vibrant mix of businesspeople and migrant workers from all over the world. The city is predominantly Muslim (65%) and Hindu (28%) and only around 1% evangelical. Unlike other countries in the region, Christian expatriates are free to worship privately and in permitted public spaces but are restricted



from evangelism or public prayer. Within these unique circumstances, several healthy churches have been planted in the city. This has created an opportune setting to disciple believers and train future pastors to plant and serve churches in the region and beyond. One of these churches includes MBC partner United Christian Church of Dubai (UCCD). UCCD is a growing congregation comprised of members representing more than 50 different nationalities.

UCCD oversees a pastoral training program aimed at equipping pastors and evangelists from the Middle East, North Africa, and Central Asia. Pastoral interns are given the opportunity to observe pastoral ministry, study sound doctrine, and engage in the life of the church. Upon completion of the internship, pastors are provided a library of resources and long-term ministry encouragement. Through this training program, UCCD has sent pastors to start and strengthen healthy churches in Morocco, Jordan, Palestine, Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Indonesia, and more!

PRAY:

- That God would foster the continual growth and health of UCCD as they proclaim the gospel and make disciples of Christ in Dubai.
- That God would raise up believers in the region with training to be godly pastors.
- That God would mobilize interns as they seek to establish healthy churches among the unreached.



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

MOROCCO

Total Population:	37,253,000
Major Religion:	Islam
Joshua Project Status:	Unreached
Percent Evangelical:	0.10% (1 in 1,000)
Major Needs:	Evangelism, healthy churches, faithful local pastors

Arab armies brought Islam to the region around Morocco in the 7th century. Moroccans are very proud of their strong Islamic history and culture which has aided in the resistance of Christianity in the modern day. Up until recently, Morocco has been ruled by a monarch who is supposedly a direct descendant of the prophet Muhammad and believed in leading with Islamic principles. Now promoting a more liberal



government, the Moroccan constitution guarantees freedom of thought and the right to practice one's religious affairs, but Islam and Judaism are still the only recognized religions, and the king is still seen as the spiritual authority.

Bible distribution is not allowed in the country and hundreds of missionaries were forced to leave in 2010. Converts from Islam to Christ face opposition from family members who do not want them to practice their new faith publicly and persecution from former government strongholds. Believers gather in the underground church, and it can be difficult to find true fellowship. Moroccan law also makes it criminal to undermine the faith of Muslims, which make evangelism and church outreach nearly impossible.

PRAY:

- That God would give new believers stamina and courage to grow in their faith.
- That God would help believers remain faithful even if faced with losing basic rights and possible persecution.
- That God would reopen the country for missionaries and that local churches would be established to help develop discipleship.
- That God would help to propel the Christian faith through the new government leadership and that He would raise-up believers to take places of power to establish lasting change.
- That God would create new ways for believers in Morocco to share the gospel and that the online and digital platforms currently being used would reach the masses.



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

DAVID & LARK

Serving in SOUTHEAST ASIA since 2019

Major Religion:	Buddhism
Joshua Project Status:	Unreached

David and Lark met during a CRU summer mission project. At that time, they believed God had called them to use their gifts and abilities to serve Him overseas, and they assumed He would send them abroad soon after getting married. However, the Lord had a slightly different timeline in mind. Once married, David and Lark instead felt called to the DC area, where they worked and served for fifteen years before moving to Southeast Asia.

In 2004, David and Lark became active volunteers in MBC Frontline and the Edge services at the Tysons campus. When MBC decided to launch Frontline Silver Spring, they were there to help! They later attended MBC Bethesda and were thrilled when the two locations combined into MBC Montgomery! As MBC members, David and Lark served as small group and discipleship group leaders, led Global



Outreach trips, local outreach projects, and served on Sunday morning teams.

Today, David, Lark, and their children live in Southeast Asia. Southeast Asia is a region where 630,660,930 people and 2,703 different people groups live. Of those people groups, 630 are unreached and 285 are both unengaged and unreached.

David and Lark help support the missionaries across their region through media and communications, specifically by telling the stories of the work that is being done and communicating the needs across Southeast Asia. They do this mainly through video, design, writing, and photography. They are also diligently learning the local language and serving through their local church which is located among an unreached people group.



PRAY:

- That God would keep their eyes fixed on Christ and that they will worship Him as they walk through organizational changes that may impact their position.
- That God would give them the ability to speak and understand the local language so that they can share His love and good news with neighbors, friends, and those they meet.
- That God would open doors for them to creatively tell the stories here, serve in their community, and honor Him with their time.

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

HAITI

Total Population:	11,504,000
Major Religion:	Christianity
Joshua Project Status:	Significantly Reached
Percent Evangelical:	17.53% (1 in 6)
Major Needs:	Healthy churches, pastoral training, faithful pastors

The Caribbean Island of Haiti is currently experiencing one of the largest conflicts of the last few decades. While the vast majority of the population claims to be Christian, only 17.5% are evangelical. There are no unreached people among the six identified people groups in the country. Yet, the lack of traditional family structure continues to hinder young people who struggle to thrive, with 90% of all Haitians growing-up without a father, or father-figure in the home. Lost and



forgotten youth are often then initiated into the many gangs throughout the territory. Gang activity on the one hand and corrupt politicians and law enforcement on the other, have contributed to a climate of ongoing insecurity. Armed groups have invaded large areas of the capital and their aggression has forced thousands of people to flee their homes for their lives. People live in fear daily, with many now seeking political asylum in the United States, only to be deported back to a country in chaos. Ministries are being forced to close and are unable to help the people. In addition to all of this, natural disasters, economic collapse, and spiritual brokenness continue to plague this country in desperate need of God's redemption.



PRAY:

- That God would raise up faithful Haitian pastors who will teach the Bible to rising generations of Haitians.
- That God would intervene with ongoing security situations in Haiti. That Christians would resist all corruption and churches would be part of the solution. That the enemy would be bound and that there would be a decrease in violence, political unrest, kidnapping, and gang activity.
- That God would raise up honorable, truthful, God-fearing leaders and law enforcement to remove the corruption and heal the country.
- That God would care for the needs of the 650,000 displaced people who have lost their homes due to gang violence or natural disaster.

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

TAJIKISTAN

Total Population:	9,730,000
Major Religion:	Islam
Joshua Project Status:	Unreached
Percent Evangelical:	0.07% (1 in 1,428)
Major Needs:	Evangelism, healthy churches, pastoral training



This mountainous country is known for its peaks and lakes, and over 90% of the country is covered in mountains. This creates difficulty in road travel and isolates many remote communities. The civil war of the 1990s caused many issues in this former Soviet run state. Over 80% of the country lives below the poverty line and there is great need for education. The primary religion is Islam, and the country is in desperate need of relief-and-development work. Thirty-one of the thirty-nine people groups in Tajikistan are considered unreached. Christians in Tajikistan often face persecution, as the government keeps tight control over “deviant” religions.

Churches and religious activities must be “approved” by the government. Christians who are found to be involved with Christian activities or in possession of Christian materials not approved by the government face interrogation and jail. Missionaries have been working tirelessly for many years on a new, more understandable, and complete version of the Bible in Tajik to address the spiritual brokenness of the region. To date, the New Testament is finally finished and is in the process of being printed! There have been a lot of challenges in getting to this point. The desire of this MBC partner is for as many copies of the updated New Testament to be printed as possible, so new believers can grow in maturity and so that non-believers have access to the Word.



PRAY:

- That God would raise up faithful Tajik pastors as leaders in the church.
- That God would increase the proclamation of the gospel of Christ through faithful, national believers.
- That God would get Bibles into the hands of those who need to read it and those who need to distribute it.
- That God would heal the material and spiritual brokenness of the country and build new churches to encourage and equip the new believers.

Visit [Joshua Project](https://www.joshuaproject.org) to learn more about the unreached in this country.

ALGERIA

Total Population:	44,584,000
Major Religion:	Islam
Joshua Project Status:	Unreached
Percent Evangelical:	0.06% (1 in 16,666)
Major Needs:	Healthy churches, faithful local pastors, pastoral training

The Christian faith in Algeria has a long history, especially among the Berber people. Muslim occupation drove many to rural areas or underground which opened doors for Islam to become the state religion. The Berber people still practice the faith even though Christian persecution is intensifying due to unprecedented church growth. New legislation has criminalized evangelism and “non-Muslim worship” outside pre-approved buildings. In the past three years, authorities in Algeria have engaged in a targeted campaign resulting in



13 churches forcibly closed by the authorities. Others have received orders to cease all activities. All of this aside, Algeria has experienced one of the world’s largest movements of Muslims coming to faith in Christ in recent years.

Years of hard work and prayer have produced fruit in the Algerian church! The Christian community enjoys unity, in contrast to historical ethnic conflict with most coming to faith in Jesus through supernatural visions and personal evangelism. Believers face intimidation by family, friends, employers, Muslim extremists, and the government, yet the church grows. Algeria is becoming a leader in Northern Africa for theological training and church development. Printing and importation of Bibles is allowed, but carefully monitored, limited, and controlled by the government.



PRAY:

- That God would remove corruption and Islam-biased practices from the government and raise-up leaders who love Jesus.
- That God would give Christian families strength to stand against religious and social pressures that force Christian girls to marry Muslims.
- That God would reopen closed churches and establish new strong, Bible preaching local churches where believers can grow in their faith, learn how to share the gospel, and develop disciples.
- That God would reduce unemployment among Muslim background Christians and that their economic situation would improve.

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

ZOE

Serving in THE MIDDLE EAST since 2020

Major Religion:	Islam
Joshua Project Status:	Partially Reached

Even as a young child, Zoe could see how God was preparing her for overseas ministry. She especially enjoyed when missionaries visited her home church to share about their work among the nations. Through her teaching career, the Lord continued giving Zoe a specific love for certain parts of the world. During her first years of teaching, Zoe got to know several students from the Middle East, which only increased her interest for that region.

Several years later, Zoe got the opportunity to travel the Middle East as part of a short-term ministry team. While there, she sensed that she should return to the country they were serving in, in a more permanent capacity. Zoe was able



to return to this country through her profession as a Special Needs teacher and served at a local special needs school from 2015-2017.

In 2017, Zoe returned to the United States and began attending McLean Bible Church (MBC) Tysons. She faithfully served on Sundays and participated in all aspects of life at MBC, especially through Access Ministry and Local Outreach during the pandemic. In 2020, she returned overseas to rejoin the school she had previously served at and will soon transition into a new leadership role within the school.



PRAY:

- That God would give wisdom to the school’s leadership as they start next year and for God’s provision of the right place for a new building, as the current building is too small.
- That God would open discipleship opportunities special needs families; that these individuals and families would know the great love God has for them.
- That God would convict and incite local communities to care for those with special needs; that they would accept them and allow them to be included in all areas of life.

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

JORDAN

Total Population:	10,187,000
Major Religion:	Islam
Joshua Project Status:	Unreached
Percent Evangelical:	0.27% (1 in 370)
Major Needs:	Evangelism, healthy churches, pastoral training



Jordan is a socially conservative country with a rich, diverse history. Christians have enjoyed relative freedom, even serving as government officials. Operation World reports that, “Jordan serves as a regional center for many Christian activities and ministries, and much Christian work in the Middle East would suffer if religious freedom in Jordan changed.” Even so, Jordan has very few Christians, with just 0.27% evangelicals.

Women’s rights in Jordan have improved greatly over the past twenty years, yet women still struggle to join the workforce and have the same freedoms as men. Jordanian women typically

wear a hijab (headscarf) and modest clothing. They are able to attend university and drive. Due to the ongoing conflict in Syria, Amman is now also home to thousands of Syrian refugees, many of whom are vulnerable women and children. The refugee crisis and the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic have resulted in an increase of all forms of violence against women and girls, particularly domestic in Jordan. Churches in Amman have clear opportunities to minister to women and girls in these situations and meet their felt needs. The Lord is working in surprising ways to get the gospel to women!



PRAY:

- That God would give churches specific and tangible ways to meet the felt needs of women, in order to build relationships and share Christ.
- That God would specifically open opportunities for Syrian women to hear the gospel and that their lives would be radically changed by Him.
- That God would stop violence against women in Jordan and that the government would continue to support programs and laws to support this.

Visit [Joshua Project](https://www.joshuaproject.org) to learn more about the unreached in this country.

NEPAL

Total Population:	29,555,000
Major Religion:	Hinduism
Joshua Project Status:	Unreached
Percent Evangelical:	Unknown
Major Needs:	Evangelism, healthy churches, pastoral training

This small landlocked country boasts the famed Himalaya Mountain range. Renowned for its beauty and treacherous peaks, it draws thousands of tourists a year to its summit. Until 2008, Nepal was considered a Hindu monarchy. Since then, a new Republic was created. Although Nepal is now a secular state, a recent law criminalizing religious conversion directly targets Christian activities and defends Nepal’s Hindu traditions. With only a 1% Christian population, the goal of one MBC partner working in the region is to exalt



Christ and see his church established in the Himalayas. This organization takes the gospel of Jesus Christ to the most remote, and unreached people in Nepal. Specifically, they are praying to see the 23 ethnic Tibetan people groups residing in the Himalayas hear about Jesus and worship him.

The indigenous Nepalese church is growing, and it is important to help these churches grow. One program they have established is frontier church planting which addresses both the urgent physical and spiritual needs these remote people face. Supported by various discipleship networks they seek to resource the local church, where it currently exists. This is done by providing training materials, church supplies, evangelistic tools, Bibles, discipleship training conferences for pastors and believers and other expenses.



PRAY:

- That God would allow churches to be planted in remote areas. Operation World reports that among the Loba people of Mustang peoples, almost no churches exist.
- That God would protect the right to religious freedom and that local believers and missionaries would fearlessly proclaim the gospel.
- That God would soften the hearts of the people in the remote villages to hear, know, and accept Jesus as Lord.
- That God would establish strong, Bible-based churches that would serve new believers and generations to come.

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

JAPAN

Total Population:	125,972,000
Major Religion:	Buddhism
Joshua Project Status:	Unreached
Percent Evangelical:	0.57% (1 in 1,754)
Major Needs:	Healthy churches, faithful local pastors, pastoral training

Japan is the largest unevangelized nation that is open to missionaries, yet spiritual, sociocultural, and linguistic difficulties abound. Despite 500 years in Japan, Christianity is still regarded as a foreign religion. Many Japanese claim no religion yet follow Buddhist and Shinto rituals and superstitious new religions start up frequently. Due to constant threats of natural disaster, economic decline, and social isolation, suicide and divorce prevail across most age groups. Japan has 24 cities, 595 towns/villages, and some



1800 rural areas which still lack a church. Korean descendants of forced immigration are classified as resident aliens and their 500+ church plants across the country lack spiritual vitality. In addition, Japan’s Chinese population is very unevangelized, with only 30 Chinese churches and 2,000 known believers. The shunned Ainu people of northern Japan are dying off without known believers, so focused outreach is critical. There is little outreach to Muslims in the country.

Powers associated with temple idolatry and home ancestor worship remain strong; a God who created all things is foreign to the Japanese worldview. Christians form a tiny minority in this society, fragmented into hundreds of denominations, all lacking unity. Pastors are overloaded, so the congregation must engage in persistent outreach to create more viable and active churches. Christian media, Bibles, books, music, videos, computer software, education materials, tracts, plus Christian TV and radio are widely available.



PRAY:

- That God would remove the spirit of delusion! May the Holy Spirit grow new churches through the faithful evangelism of Japanese Christians.
- That God would intervene and encourage the emperor and royal family of Japan to abandon Shintoism and embrace the gospel of Jesus Christ.
- That God would send Christian missionaries to Japan to help start healthy churches, faithfully teach the Bible to Christians, and boldly proclaim Christ to the Japanese.
- That God would equip and convict the Japanese Church to have the vision and passion to proclaim the gospel in rural areas.

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

HEATHER

Serving in INDIA since 2021

Major Religion:	Hinduism
Joshua Project Status:	Unreached

Heather grew up in a Christian family who prioritized missions and attended church. As a graduate student in DC, she met and married a non-believer. A few years after the birth of her second son, the marriage ended. Meanwhile, Heather’s love of culture and international relations led her to a career as a diplomat. About that time, Heather wrote, “I had travelled to more than 55 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 to other Christians I encountered. Instead, I just became focused internally and even though I prayed and read my Bible, I wasn’t connected significantly to a local church and thus did not grow in Christian maturity during this period.”



In 2018, while on assignment to DC, Heather began attending McLean Bible Church (MBC) and became a member. There she repented of her lukewarm Christianity and began to serve God wholly. She served through Access Ministry and as a Global Outreach leader. In a 2019 sermon, Pastor David asked, “what if God is calling you for more than just the American dream?” After prayer and counsel, Heather felt the Lord urging her to use her life and work to be on mission cross-culturally. She was equipped through MBC’s Sending Pipeline and is now serving in India as she pursues marketplace opportunities for gospel advancement. Her desire is to obey the Lord and to see new disciples and churches multiplied in the region she’s serving in.



PRAY:

- That God would help Heather’s high-school aged son be a light at his school.
- That God would give Heather and her son continued health. Pray for God’s mercy and that the government will take measures to decrease the spread of COVID.
- That God would give Heather an opportunity to start a Bible study at work.
- That God would bless her local church as they begin new classes and a counseling ministry.

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

EGYPT

Total Population:	104,179,000
Major Religion:	Islam
Joshua Project Status:	Partially Reached
Percent Evangelical:	4.45% (1 in 22)
Major Needs:	Evangelism, healthy churches, pastoral training

It is believed that close to 10% of Egypt's total population has a special need or physical disability. While services and government programs are improving, many resources available to families with special needs are concentrated in the capital city of Cairo. Similar to other countries, there is a prevalent belief among Egyptians that physician disabilities



are the result of God's punishment. Many resources such as special needs schools, equipment, or medical treatments require private funding, which most families cannot afford. Most Egyptian private and public schools require entrance exams, which often result in the exclusion of children with special needs. Culturally and practically, Egypt is not equipped to help those in their society with special needs excel. As a result, Christian churches and organizations have a unique opportunity to minister to those with special needs. The last 15+ years have seen the creation of various Christian run special needs programs and schools. Muslim parents are experiencing the love of Christ, through watching Christians care for their children and invest in their family's wellbeing!

PRAY:

- That God would continue to give local churches the opportunity to build discipleship relationships with families with special needs.
- That God would open doors for Christians organizations and programs currently serving the special needs communities, to share the gospel and make disciples.
- That local churches would be strengthened through outreach to special needs individuals.
- That God would soften the Egyptian culture to those with special needs, and that their local communities would love and support them and their families in tangible ways.
- That God would continue to help the government offer programs, services, and schools to those with special needs in order to bridge gaps and fill felt needs.



Visit [Joshua Project](https://www.joshuaproject.org) to learn more about the unreached in this country.

SYRIA

Total Population:	18,153,000
Major Religion:	Islam
Joshua Project Status:	Minimally Reached
Percent Evangelical:	0.19% (1 in 526)
Major Needs:	Evangelism, healthy churches, pastoral training

Syria has a geography rich in biblical history. Damascus, the capital city, is the oldest continuously “lived-in” city in the world! In the past, Christians could worship in Syria with relative freedom, as both the Orthodox and Catholic churches existed in Syria long before Islam did. However, since a bloody civil war began in Syria in 2011, it is estimated that over 400,000 people have died, with over half the



country internally displaced with thousands more fleeing to surrounding countries. This has also created a food shortage affecting and killing the most vulnerable. Throughout this, the small church within Syria has struggled to survive. Radical Muslims heavily persecute and even kill Christians. Many Christians have fled abroad in order to survive.

MBC partners working in Syria have a variety of projects. These projects currently focus on outreach, evangelism, and discipleship to Syrians who are both displaced in surrounding regions and to those still in Syria to equip and empower believers and local churches in reaching Muslims. Recently, they have also been managing child sponsorships, COVID-19 relief programs, food intervention, and hosting training conferences in Egypt and Syria.

PRAY:

- That God would bring peace and rebuilding to Syria.
- That the Sunni Arab majority, most who have not heard the gospel, would have opportunities to hear and respond to it.
- That God would continue to bless this organization as they advance the gospel in the Middle East.
- That God would raise up faithful leaders with the gift of teaching to aid in the ministry’s efforts to train and equip new believers.
- That God would protect his church in Syria and allow it to grow despite hardship.
- That God would bless the efforts being made to meet material needs in an effort to meet spiritual ones.



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

BHUTAN

Total Population:	777,000
Major Religion:	Buddhism
Joshua Project Status:	Unreached
Percent Evangelical:	Unknown
Major Needs:	Bible translation, evangelism, healthy churches

Found in the Eastern Himalayans and being one of the world's least-evangelized nations, Bhutan's geographical location is naturally isolated causing the country to suffer from poor infrastructure and poor international relations. The need of focused missionary outreach and Bible translation is much needed. Though Buddhism replaced the ancient practice of Bon, it still holds a strong influence over some today. Only the Lepcha people group have significant Christian numbers. There has been progress in translating Scripture into



Dzongkha (official language), but the government continues to restrict widespread distribution and most other languages found in the country do not have access to the Bible.

Recent changes to the constitution in 2008 award greater levels of religious freedom but Christians still experience persecution in various ways. Church buildings are forbidden with most fellowships meeting in homes. Bhutanese who become Christian face the loss of citizenship, as well as other basic human rights. Many Christians are seen as following a false Western religion but those who come to faith in Bhutan heard of Christ through evangelism and literature distribution by Indian believers coming from the south in particular, but also Nepalis and others.



PRAY:

- That God would reveal Christ to King Wangchuk and the royal family, so they know His love and power.
- That God would use the new government for His glory and that doors for the gospel would be opened.
- That God would aid in the effective spread of Christian materials in the country and at the borders.
- That God would encourage and equip believers to witness for Christ to every ethnic group of the Bhutanese, and that Bhutanese in Bhutan, India, and around the world would hear, repent, and place their faith in Christ.

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

TODD & JESS

Serving in SENEGAL since 2021

Major Religion:	Islam
Joshua Project Status:	Unreached

Todd and Jess each came to faith in Christ as young children. As a young adult, Todd knew that God was drawing him to overseas missions, specifically to Muslims. As a youth, Jess went on several short-term mission trips, but it wasn't until serving the unreached in India, that God broke her heart with a desire to see all nations reached.

Todd and Jess began attending MBC in 2019 with their children and became members shortly after. They served in the Adoption and Foster Care Ministry, Kid's Quest, and Global Outreach. During this time, they learned and experienced even more the importance of belonging to a local church. Most recently they enjoyed serving with their children



to distribute food to surrounding communities as part of MBC's COVID-19 response.

Todd and Jess were equipped through MBC's Missionary Sending Pipeline and in 2021 relocated their family to Senegal for Todd's job. With a total population of over 17 million people, this Muslim-majority country is considered unreached with just 0.19% evangelicals. For example, the Wolof people group have less than 100 known believers and no known church. Todd and Jess are excited to see how the Lord will use them next, as they continue to abide in Christ and be obedient to His calling.



PRAY:

- That God would help Todd thrive in his new job and be a good steward of this opportunity.
- That God would help their children acclimate to this new culture and excel in their new school. Give them opportunities to make friends.
- That God would help them plug into a healthy local church and build community.
- That God would provide clear avenues for Todd, Jess, and the children to actively support and minister to the Wolof people, most specifically to help meet their greatest need, which is knowing Jesus as Lord.

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

THAILAND

Total Population:	69,737,000
Major Religion:	Buddhism
Joshua Project Status:	Unreached
Percent Evangelical:	0.65% (1 in 154)
Major Needs:	Evangelism, healthy churches, pastoral training



Thailand means “Land of the Free,” because it remained free when Western powers colonized the countries around it. However, there is a spiritual oppression over this predominantly Buddhist country. Less than 1% of the population is Christian, even after hundreds of years of missionary work in the region, as the church continues to see slow but steady growth. Thailand was one of the countries that had the most success in containing the COVID-19 virus, but the economy suffered greatly in 2020, due to the loss of

tourism and other factors. Operation World says, “Praise God that national leaders now have a bold goal to reach every one of Thailand’s 80,000 villages and neighborhoods with the gospel! Pray for their plans: a national prayer network, leadership development, extensive research, community development ministry, all in addition to evangelism. Many church and mission leaders feel Thailand is ready for a breakthrough of church growth.” Chiang Mai is north of Bangkok and located in a mountainous region. This historic city welcomes over 14 million tourists a year. There are a variety of churches in Chiang Mai, ministering to the city population and also continuing outreach efforts in more rural areas.



PRAY:

- That God would grow the Thai church through faithful Bible study, and cause gospel infrastructure to expand.
- That God would send missionaries to people groups who have no known church in their area.
- That God would encourage churches in Chiang Mai to boldly and clearly proclaim Christ and that God would add new believers to their congregations in 2022.

Visit [Joshua Project](https://joshuaproject.org) to learn more about the unreached in this country.

OMAN

Total Population:	5,209,000
Major Religion:	Islam
Joshua Project Status:	Unreached
Percent Evangelical:	0.65% (1 in 1,538)
Major Needs:	Evangelism, healthy churches, pastoral training



Located on the Arabian Peninsula, Oman is the oldest independent state in the whole Arab world, a fact of which they are proud. With maritime industries, large oil reserves, and tourism, Oman has a high-income economy. Even though Oman has a modern society, especially compared to other neighbors in the region, government and culture are still intricately tied to Islam. Even still, Oman also loves to boast of it's almost non-existent crime rate (most likely due to Sharia law) and is a relatively “safe” country to visit, with no known terrorist attacks in the preceding decades. Even though the Omani government claims to be tolerant to other religions, Islam takes priority and dictates daily family life

and legislation. Most Christians in Oman are foreigners from the Philippines, India, or Western countries, and they are concentrated in the country's urban areas. Foreign Christians meet together in locations designated by the government and are allowed to share with other foreigners, but it is illegal to evangelize Muslims. Muslims background Christians face immense pressure to return to Islam and are more persecuted than foreign Christians. In the rural and tribal regions, there are no known churches. Bibles are widely available to foreigners but not for Omanis. Omani believers do have access through digital and audio Bibles online which are easily available.



PRAY:

- That God would open the hearts of people in Oman, that despite their wealth they would see their need for a true Savior.
- That God would allow leniency to foreign Christians and give them opportunities to share the gospel with Muslims in creative ways.
- That God would send out workers to plant healthy churches to the semi-nomadic Mahra people and the Jibbali of Dhofar.

Visit [Joshua Project](https://joshuaproject.org) to learn more about the unreached in this country.

BANGLADESH

Total Population:	165,551,000
Major Religion:	Islam
Joshua Project Status:	Unreached
Percent Evangelical:	Unknown
Major Needs:	Bible translation, evangelism, healthy churches

Bangladesh is a small country with many diverse people groups and six distinct weather seasons, each celebrated with elaborate festivals. With few natural resources, 25% of Bangladeshis live in poverty. The Bengali people are one of the largest unreached people groups in the world. The country suffers from political corruption and religious and ethnic tensions. Large parts of the region are regularly devastated by flooding and the government seems unable or unwilling



to facilitate infrastructure improvements which would aid the poor majority.

Christianity is said to have first arrived to Bangladesh through travels of the Apostle Thomas around 52 A.D. and its growth can be attributed to focused efforts by missionaries like William Carey and other ministries up to this day. Churches have seen major growth in the past 50 years, but there's still much work to be done. Bibles are available in several languages, but those in rural areas and converts have difficulty finding and accessing them. The country also suffers from 50% illiteracy rates, so many cannot even read the Bible if/when translations become available. Tribal and indigenous peoples in particular are even harder to reach, as they are marginalized by the unreached Bengali majority.

PRAY:

- That God would continue to protect minority and tribal groups and provide the Bible in their languages.
- That God would strengthen the health of existing churches ministering to the Bengali majority, that they would understand and boldly follow Jesus as their Lord.
- That God would raise up a new generation of strong healthy pastors for the Bengali church.
- That God would comfort and reveal Christ to the Rohingya Muslims, who fled Myanmar and now live in refugee camps in Bangladesh.



Visit [Joshua Project](https://www.joshuaproject.org) to learn more about the unreached in this country.



GLOBAL OUTREACH

MCLEAN BIBLE CHURCH

globaloutreach@mcleanbible.org

mcleanbible.org/globaloutreach

SOURCES

Country & Region Statistics

<https://joshuaproject.net/>

Quotes & General Information

<https://operationworld.org/>

