

# PRAY

The Open Initiative from ABWE Global Family of Ministries

***“Pray for us, that God may open a door”***

*— Colossians 4:3*



## **We're praying for the Lord to ignite a passion for the lost in the next generation.**

Why? Because over 3 billion people worldwide have never heard the gospel. That's about one-third of the world's population.

In this booklet, we've created a guided prayer journey that introduces the seven unreached people groups of the Open Initiative.

You'll learn about cultures deeply ingrained with honor and shame traditions, people groups uprooted and wandering, and countries with hostile governments. There's heart-breaking brokenness in these fields.

Missionaries can't do this alone. Jesus' last command on earth, the Great Commission, is a collaborative command. Missionaries need a team of supporters to encourage them and surround them in prayer as they battle incredible hardships on the field. We can't do this without your help.

**Will you pray with us?**

**FULANI**

**SOUTH ASIA**

**CARIBBEAN**

**TOKYO**

**SOUTHEAST ASIA**

**SYRIAN REFUGEES**

**UNREACHED PEOPLE GROUPS**



## **How to Use:**

We included a prayer request for each identified unreached people group. Grab a friend and pray through them together at your own pace. Our goal is to awaken a sense of urgency in believers to reach the unreached and share God's love with everyone. We can start by getting on our knees in prayer.



**FULANI**

The Fulani (Fula, Fulde) are spread across 19 Central and West African countries. With over 38 million people, they are the world's largest nomadic group. Almost 100% of the population follow Islam.

### **Challenge:**

While initial contact may be easy, relationship building and long-term connection are difficult.

### **Prayer Request:**

Pray for creative ideas as new missionaries build relationships with the Fulani people.



**SOUTH ASIA**

This unnamed people group in South Asia lives in a land of great beauty and history. Their culture is complex and diverse, as many different cultures have blended into one unique and modern way of life. The region has over 800 unreached people groups with 98% of the population being Muslim.

### **Challenge:**

Centuries of unrest have caused increased tensions between the cultures in this group. Most of the minorities face persecution, daily. This region is also home to one of the largest Muslim majority countries.

### **Prayer Request:**

While the region is nearly closed to the gospel, the people are grateful for partners providing practical services, such as medical intervention, business development, and community outreach programs. Pray for continued opportunities to share the gospel.



**CARIBBEAN**

The Caribbean consists of more than 700 islands, islets, reefs, and cays. It is a melting pot of cultures. While Christianity is the predominant religion, pockets of unreached people groups are located throughout the Caribbean Basin region. Large numbers of Hindus and Muslims live in Trinidad and Tobago, Guyana, and Suriname.

### **Challenge:**

Hinduism and Islam are crowding out Christianity. Unfortunately, very few people are pushing back and sharing the gospel within these communities.

### **Prayer Requests:**

Pray that Caribbean churches will develop a genuine burden for the unreached communities and work to further the gospel amongst them. Pray that God would raise up new missionaries to partner with local churches in making disciples and planting churches.



**TOKYO**

The Japanese people of Tokyo have a unique set of beliefs that blend ancient traditions and newer western practices. While Shinto and Buddhism are widely practiced, they are not widely believed. Suicide is rife, and roots of the shame/honor culture go deep.

### **Challenge:**

The Japanese people are the second-largest unreached people group. The percentage of Christians is decreasing as the years pass, and new generations don't have a chance to hear the gospel.

### **Prayer Request:**

Pray for creativity and courage as the pioneer church planters explore ways to overcome the obstacles of ministry in a hostile, densely populated city.



**SOUTHEAST ASIA**

This unnamed people group in Southeast Asia represents one of the most challenging, dynamic, and rewarding locations in missions. Their region is home to islands and islets abounding in tropical beauty as well as bustling metropolises. Bound deeply by both orthodox and folk Islam, individuals in this people group are deeply bound by both orthodox and folk Islam.

### **Challenge:**

New believers in this people group must make great, personal sacrifices to follow Christ. Despite the millions of people, there are no local churches within this people group and believers rarely gather together.

### **Prayer Requests:**

Years of gospel work can go by without yielding fruit in this highly resistant people group. Pray for humble, teachable servants who will bring entrepreneurial creativity to the gospel work here. Pray for opportunities to engage his people group through spiritual conversations as they build meaningful, redemptive relationships.



# SYRIAN REFUGEES

Now in its 11th year, the Syrian refugee crisis poses the largest people group displacement challenge in the world. Today, there are approximately 6.8 million Syrian refugees and asylum seekers scattered throughout Europe and the Middle East with another 6.7 million people displaced within Syria itself.

### **Challenge:**

More than two thirds of Syria's population are displaced, refugee, or seeking asylum. Half of these are children, and most live in extreme poverty.

### **Prayer Request:**

Syrians have settled throughout Europe and the surrounding regions. Pray for new and established ministries to reach the Syrians, who have settled throughout Europe and the surrounding regions, with the gospel out of hearts of compassion.



# UNREACHED PEOPLE GROUPS

The last people group is undetermined. Pray that God would direct us and make clear the seventh people group we are called to reach. The heart and vision of the Open Initiative goes well beyond seven people groups as the need among the unreached is so great.

We believe through strategic partnerships with local churches, God will supply a vision for our seventh field. If God has given you a vision for a particular place or people group, email us at **[open@abwe.org](mailto:open@abwe.org)**.

## **Challenge:**

There are over 3 billion unreached in 6,700 people groups on the planet. Determining which ones to reach is a difficult task.

## **Prayer Requests:**

Pray that God would direct us to the seventh people group. Pray that God ignites a spirit of urgency within his church and that those called to go encounter few roadblocks. In addition, pray that hearts would be softened to receive the gospel.

Thank you for joining us in prayer for the Unreached People Groups of the Open Initiative.

Get updates from the field or learn more about the missionary journey by visiting [\*\*abwe.org/open\*\*](https://abwe.org/open).

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