

2022

WEEK OF PRAYER UNREACHED PEOPLE GROUPS

Jesus said to them, "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." - Luke 10:2

Every year, we as a church dedicate ourselves to open up a new year in prayer. We know that we can nothing apart from Christ and if we ask anything in His name, He will give it to us. Our prayer calendar emphasis for 2022 is our local community and for God to bless the work that is happening all around us towards those in need. Yet, at the same time, we don't want to become blind to what the Lord is doing around the world. Jesus asks His people to pray, making us sensitive and tune our hearts to His mission. So we will be praying for those who have never heard Christ and His story of redemption in each of the countries where we currently have partners. The Lord has already sent these laborers into those fields and we want to see fruit for them and to see more raised up to go to them.

As you pray for these countries, you will see "unreached" peoples or areas being addressed. Unreached peoples are defined as any group of people where there is no community of believing Christians without proper resources to evangelize their own people without outside assistance by foreign missionaries or organizations. Most of these areas are less than 2% evangelical Christians. Many of these places are ready to hear the gospel while others have difficult soil. So as we pray for the Lord to make these fields ready to harvest, we also ask that He sends out laborers to preach the gospel to them in words and actions.



TANZANIA

The east African country of Tanzania has 29 unreached people groups, totaling six million people or roughly 10% of the population. Many of those unreached are followers of Islam or their inherited ethnic religions. Praise God that He has grown his church from two million in 1990 to over nine million in 2020. He has planted new churches and many of the unreached among Muslims and animist have heard the gospel and turned to Christ.

Despite all this growth and church plants, the church has had difficulty in being established and matured in biblical foundations. Ben Cornish continues to work towards these efforts among the church leadership. The church continues to struggle with their cultural expression of Christianity and not erring by mixing in ungodly elements of animism and witchcraft. Also, the prosperity theology of erroneous teaching that God promises health and wealth to His people has gripped the church. Prayer is a vital way to partner in the work in Tanzania.

1. Blessing & open doors to workers going to the difficult areas in Islamic people groups.
2. Biblical teaching and healthy cultural expressions of following Christ in the church, that leaders to have receptive hearts to develop strong biblical convictions.
3. Wisdom and compassion of the church to bring a wholistic transformational ministry to Tanzania where widespread poverty cripples many lives.



EASTERN EUROPE

One of the largest and yet unknown mission fields in the world is the several countries that make up Eastern Europe. Although it is a large "Christian" area, less than 5% of the 125 million people are Evangelical. Since the Christian Church is the state religion in these areas, many claim they are a part of that but very few are actively following Christ. Persecution in many of these areas has made growth very difficult with stringent rules on what they allow churches and ministries to do.

This makes Joe and Denise's work vital and we can be pleading for the Lord to pave their way. His work in printing and distributing literature is valuable in places like these. Furthermore, their specific location within Eastern Europe has been sending workers into the harvest for years. They are establishing their own sending agencies and networking to preach the gospel to those who assume that they understand and know it.

1. Through the difficult persecution, the Lord may grow the church and make their faith strong and vibrant throughout the areas.
2. Blessing, boldness, strength, and endurance to gospel workers advancing and for many more leaders to be raised for these churches.
3. Unity and love in the rich diversity that exists in the churches despite years of communal conflict in many of the regions.



INDIA

India is a very diverse and complex nation. Over 95% of their almost 1.4 billion people are in the 2,139 unreached areas of which 133 have over a million people. This makes reaching these areas, and supplying them with workers a very difficult task. Furthermore, most ministries target the tribal and extreme poverty areas, leaving the 350 million middle upper class people with little to no workers. There are only 27 million Indian Christians to be mobilized into the mission of God for each of these unreached peoples.

These dire numbers do not indicate the limits of God. Churches are being planted and people are coming to faith at an alarming rate. Our partners on the ground in India have planted several churches last year with many who have taken baptism and Christ has transformed their lives. They have asked us to continue in prayer for the work and the harvest would continue in their regions and those unreached areas.

1. Blessings for the 1,000 Indian missions agencies who are reaching the least of these, that more laborers will be sent into the harvest from these ministries.
2. Indian Christians to be effective ambassadors for Christ in every area of life, making disciples wherever they are sent.
3. Leaders to raise leaders for all the new church plants and for churches to be established and strengthened in the truth.



BRAZIL

Brazil has a strong Catholic presence, while the evangelical church makes up a quarter of over 200 million Brazilians. The church is strong and has a missionary zeal, sending thousands of workers into the harvest. But in the Amazon basin, where remote villages are only accessible by boat, there are still some of the most unreached areas in the world, home to 36,000 communities without a church. Also, due to the economic gulf, the very rich and ethnic minorities have very few Christians.

Bill Bachelor reports that the harvest is plentiful and workers are constantly going out to these unreached places. He and Kathy's primary work is to equip Brazilians to disciple and evangelize their neighbors, and to be ready to be sent around the world. We are able to partner with them and be coworkers in this mission by praying that these workers are equipped and strengthened for the work.

1. Continued zeal and passion for discipleship and mission among the Brazilian church, that they would long to make disciples who make disciples.
2. Workers to be raised up who would train leaders in godly character, strong ministry skills, and solid biblical education that is appropriate to their cultural circumstances.
3. Open doors to the many workers who are in the marketplace, businesses, and other communities, that they may be bold as His witnesses in those moments.



COSTA RICA

Costa Rica, a small country in Central America, is largely a Catholic community with three quarters of the population attending mass weekly. Less than 20% of the 5 million Costa Ricans are evangelical Christian. Yet there are still over 2,600 people who do not have an established church among them.

According to our partner, Rick Cornish, Costa Rican pastors have a strong and enthusiastic zeal for Christ and the spread of His gospel among their people. Church planting and evangelism are happening and the hearts of the people are being turned to Christ. Yet many of these pastors suffer from a lack of basic necessities for their families and struggle to persevere in the hard work of leading and shepherding churches. Also, they lack the theological depth and clarity needed to withstand attacks from false teachings and to challenge the traditions of Roman Catholicism.

1. Provision and success of church planters and pastors among the people of Costa Rica
2. Strength and establishment of the church in Costa Rica so that it can thrive and grow.
3. Laborers to be sent to the 2,600 unreached people of Costa Rica.



CHINA

The large nation of China is one of the most difficult nations to reach with the gospel. Almost 150 million Chinese are in the 443 unreached people groups. Many Chinese are searching for answers to life's difficult questions. Because Christians make up less than 8% of the population and society constantly barrages religion, those looking for answers are kept in the dark about the truth of Christ. This makes the Stickle's work with Chinese students who come into contact with them on campus an important ministry.

Despite the strong communist presence, the secret house church movement is growing and consistently bringing the gospel to these unreached areas. Though illegal, the church is willing to endure persecution for the sake of Christ and his message of peace and hope. The church needs our prayers in this crucial time.

1. Mature & culturally sensitive workers to grow and be sent from the majority Han churches to continue the work as more and more foreign workers are expelled from the country.
2. Chinese Christians (40 million) who are out of country to turn to Christ and then return to their homes and preach the gospel.
3. The church to withstand persecution, be strengthened in faith, for Christ to be glorified through their suffering, and protection of the house churches.
4. Perseverance and growth among Christian students who are facing more surveillance and inspections than ever. Campus evangelism has become almost impossible.



UNITED STATES

Believe it or not, the United States has over 15 million people in 97 unreached people groups. Many of these are in very close-knit Islamic, Buddhist, or other ethnic religions who have migrated here either as refugees or for work and education. There are still a number of Native American groups who are unreached.

Missions organizations frequently refer to this age as the most unique and largest opportunity for North American missions in the history of the church. With the influx of immigration and flow of refugees, the nations are coming to our doorstep. The American church must take these open doors that God is given to us and view this as massive missions opportunities instead of a threat. Join the global church in prayer to reach these people whom God has brought to us.

1. Open eyes to see ourselves as workers to be sent out into this harvest and that He would send us out to all the difficult unreached areas of America.
2. Compassion and strength to those serving international students and refugees, making the gospel come alive to them through their acts of mercy and welcoming.
3. Renewal and revival in the church to center all that do on Christ and making disciples in their