

# UPG PORTFOLIO

2023-2024









REACHING

*We are*

CHANGE-MAKERS WITH BIG DREAMS.

THE

*We believe*

IN BREAKING BOUNDARIES AND FORGING NEW PATHS.

UNREACHED

*We won't*

STOP UNTIL EVERYONE HAS HEARD THE LIFE-CHANGING  
GOOD NEWS OF THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST.





# MISS





# SION

At the heart of the BLESS mission is **ONE** simple thing:  
Sharing the love of Jesus with people who have never heard His name.  
Matthew 28 commands us to go and make disciples of all nations.

**We are passionate about making this a reality!**

# THE GREAT COMMISSION



## THE JOURNEY WON'T BE EASY.

Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."

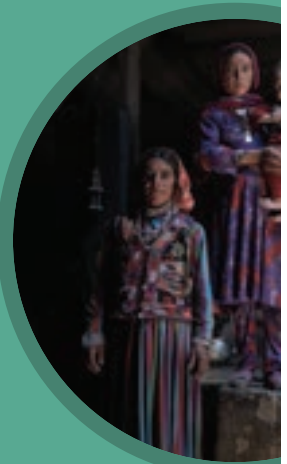
**MATTHEW 9:37-38**



## THROUGH HIM, YOU HAVE ALREADY WON. YOU CANNOT BE OVERCOME.

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

**ACTS 1:8**



## BUT THE PATH HAS BEEN LAID OUT BEFORE YOU.

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very ends of the age."

**MATTHEW 28:19-20**





# N JOURNEY

## HAVE A POWER THAT COME BY DARKNESS.

When the Holy Spirit comes on you;  
in Jerusalem, and in all Judea  
to the ends of the earth.”

LUKE 1:8



## YOU WON'T HAVE TO TAKE THE JOURNEY ALONE.

“Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree  
about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by  
my Father in heaven. For where two or three gather in my  
name, there am I with them.”

MATTHEW 18:19-20



## IN THE END, THE NAME OF JESUS WILL BE KNOWN BY EVERY TRIBE, TONGUE, AND NATION.

After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude  
that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and  
language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They  
were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches  
in their hands. And they cried out in a loud voice: “Salvation  
belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.”

All the angels were standing around the throne and around the  
elders and the four living creatures. They fell down on their faces  
before the throne and worshiped God, saying: “Amen! Praise and  
glory and wisdom and thanks and honor and power and strength  
be to our God for ever and ever. Amen!”

REVELATION 7:9-12



# WHY THE UNREACHED?





**3.4 BILLION  
PEOPLE**

*(2 out of every 5)  
have little or no access to the Gospel.*



**LESS THAN  
ONE PENNY**

*of every dollar given to missions  
goes to reaching the Unreached.*



**JUST ONE IN EVERY  
30 MISSIONARIES**

*makes it to Unreached  
people groups worldwide.*

# THE PROBLEM

## *Vetting*

When working among the Unreached, it is very difficult to know who to trust and how to actually make a difference.

## *Accountability*

It is challenging to get projects completed in the mission field. Leadership can often decrease or cease to exist after funding is received.

## *Honest Results*

It is difficult to get true numbers on what actually happened on the ground with projects. Numbers often get inflated or are simply inaccurate & honest reporting is not possible.

## *Vetting*

We have an extensive network and 25+ years of relationships & experience in our 3-stage vetting process, which help us identify who to work with and how to help them.



## *Accountability*

We only provide funding to trusted Mission Partners who are responsible for monitoring the fund execution and reporting of the ministry workers. Together, we oversee programming and offer support and collaboration to improve progress rates.



## *Honest Results*

Funding recipients are required to generate regular project reports that address both financial transparency and their progress in achieving the stated impact goals.



# THE SOLUTION



### ***Weak Leadership***

Many project leaders do not have the experience to complete projects or they simply do not have adequate support to complete projects. Most non-profits have weak leadership & poor execution.

### ***Funding***

Transferring money to unreached countries is difficult. Most groups are not able to actually transfer money into the banks and into currencies needed to actually fund projects.

### ***Short-Term vs. Long-Term***

One-off projects struggle to make a real long-term difference. Short-term assistance rarely makes a long-term impact.

### ***Weak Leadership***

We are able to offer a large network of experience in order to provide project leaders with advocacy and support they need to better execute projects.



### ***Funding***

We depend on a broad network of professional services to guarantee that funds are accurately transferred to the appropriate currencies, countries, & bank accounts of those who need them.



### ***Short-Term vs. Long-Term***

Making disciples & planting churches in unreached places requires long-term, sustainable, unrelenting funding. We make long-term commitments because we want to see long-lasting results.



# THE U PORT





# UPG FOLIO

A Powerful Strategy for Kingdom Investors to Create Lasting Gospel Impact:

..... Our diversified portfolio is comprised of Unreached people groups (UPGs) that BLESS is committed to supporting longterm as they move towards planting healthy, indigenous churches.

**OUR VISION IS TO SCALE THE UPG PORTFOLIO.**

As additional resources are invested into the portfolio, additional UPGs will be added.

# ASSET ALLOCATION

At BLESS, financial oversight and transparency are at the forefront of our priorities. We understand the significance of gaining your trust in matters concerning your investments. We diligently assess the progress of the UPGs quarterly through a system of financial ministry sectors, each designated for a specific purpose. Once budgets are approved by the BLESS board of directors, funds are promptly distributed to our UPGs.



## Access Ministry Setup & Sustainability

Building relationships is the foundation of reaching a community. Without trust, the potential for Kingdom work diminishes. Access ministry is business or social work that provides missionaries with a legitimate presence or permission to be in a country. This holds tremendous promise for effective community outreach by providing business acumen, education, social services, and community resources. This fosters ongoing engagement and trust-building. As trust flourishes, we embark on the journey of advancing God's Kingdom, spreading hope to every Unreached people group God gives us access to.

## Language & Culture Acquisition

Achieving proficiency in both language and culture is of paramount importance for front-line workers. Culture is a unique collective identity that communicates shared beliefs, values, traditions, language, art, and social norms. Understanding culture is key to communicating the Gospel in a contextualized way. Missionaries often must acquire proficiency in the nation's common language before learning the heart language of the UPG they are dedicated to serving.

## Community Care & Humanitarian Aid

When addressing the needs of the Unreached, it's essential to adopt a comprehensive approach. The individuals we aim to assist require more than just spiritual support; their requirements encompass emotional, physical, and social aspects. As a result, our commitment should extend to allocating resources that can address the entirety of their needs.

## Evangelism, Discipleship, Leadership, Training, Church Planting

The importance of having a healthy indigenous church cannot be overstated. As believers, our greatest desire is to see the Gospel spread and transform lives. This is not possible if we do not intentionally evangelize and share the love of Christ. Yet, evangelism is not enough. New believers must be discipled and equipped to live out their faith. This process of discipleship is essential for the growth and development of the church. In addition, we must prioritize leadership training to equip those who will guide and serve within the church. Finally, church planting is vital for the spreading of the Gospel and the expansion of the Kingdom.

## Bible Translation & Publication

Translating scripture and Bible training texts into the heart language of Unreached people is a vital aspect of this mission. It's not just a matter of providing the words in a language they can understand; it's about putting God's message into their hearts. Sometimes, this requires creating an entirely new alphabet for a language that still needs one. Literacy classes and training also play an important role in this effort, as we seek to empower individuals and communities to read and understand God's word for themselves.

## Headquarters Oversight & Support

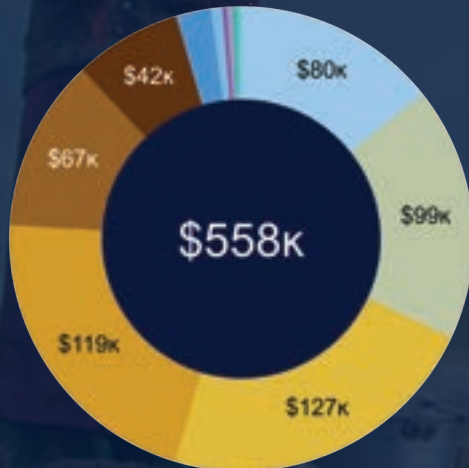
Mission Partner operation costs are necessary to keep everything running smoothly, ultimately helping us achieve our goals. We are grateful for their hard work and dedication! Our missionaries are often faced with isolation, cultural challenges, and emotional struggles. It is crucial that they receive ongoing training, counseling, and mental health support. By coming alongside them, we show our love and care, giving them the strength to carry out their divine mission. Their tireless efforts are an inspiration to all of us, and it's our honor to walk alongside them as they continue to spread God's love across the world.



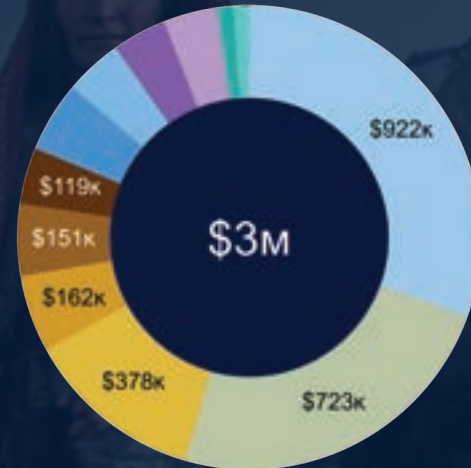
# CURRENT COMMITMENT

Once funding has been processed, we meticulously aggregate, organize, and summarize the outcomes. We are committed to honoring your generosity and ensuring that your investment has the greatest possible impact. As of 2023, our commitment of \$10 million dollars includes the following commitments to each sector.

**Language & Culture Acquisition**



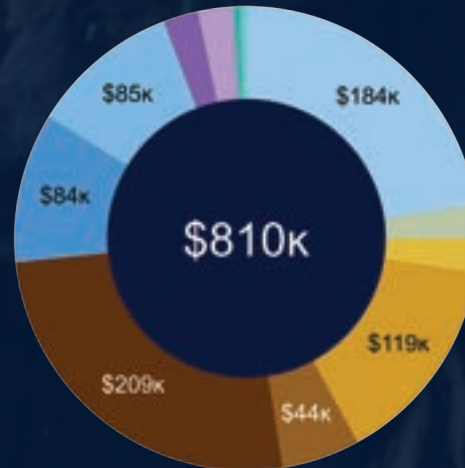
**Access Ministry & Sustainability**



**Bible Translation & Publication**



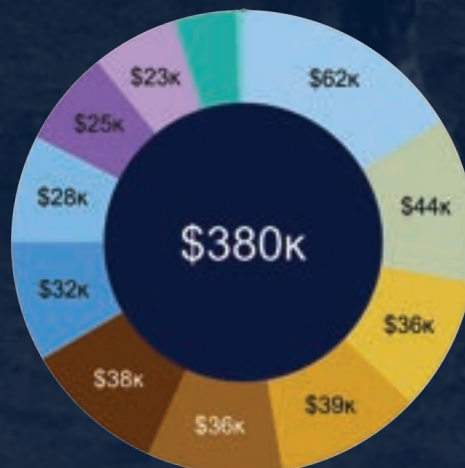
**Community Care & Humanitarian Aid**



**Evangelism, Discipleship, Leadership Training & Church Planting**



**HQ Oversight & Support**



YEAR

- 2023 ●
- 2024 ●
- 2025 ●
- 2026 ●
- 2027 ●
- 2028 ●
- 2029 ●
- 2030 ●
- 2031 ●
- 2032 ●
- 2033 ●
- 2034 ●

# PORTFOLIO VISION

The UPG Portfolio is designed to be scalable, with dozens of UPGs already vetted by BLESS and in need of funding. As additional resources are allocated to the portfolio, more UPGs will be incorporated and provided with strategic funding. Presently, there are over 7,000 Unreached people groups in the world.







# VETTING

## Mission Partners

Our Mission Partners are trusted mission organizations that help us identify UPG opportunities. We hold our Mission Partners to the highest standards of excellence and integrity because we genuinely believe in the power of accountability and transparency. With that in mind, we approach the vetting process with the utmost care and scrutiny. We are continually vetting our Mission Partners as well as their recommended UPG opportunities in order to ensure they align with the mission and vision of BLESS.





- ✓ **Mission & vision alignment**
- ✓ **501(c)(3) non-profit organization**
- ✓ **Serving Unreached people groups**
- ✓ **3-year vetting cycle**
- ✓ **Excellence In Giving performance report**
- ✓ **990 tax review**
- ✓ **Guidestar report**

# THE UPG SELECTION PROCESS: HOW WE CHOOSE UPGs

At BLESS, we have a thorough and rigorous process for selecting our UPGs. This process is designed to ensure that resources are used effectively and efficiently to have the greatest impact on the communities we serve. During the selection process, we analyze intentional data points in three stages.

## ***Stage 1: Portfolio Advisors***

- Portfolio Advisors are executive leaders inside of our Mission Partner organizations who are responsible for developing and presenting UPG opportunities.
- They require a detailed business plan, budget, timeline, sustainable strategy, and evaluation of culture, language, population and belief system.  
Assessment: Front-line Workers
  - Readiness • Calling • Spiritual maturity • Training • Physical well being
  - Mental health • Financial means • Church support structure

## ***Stage 2: BLESS Executive UPG Committee Vetting***

- This Board-appointed committee has diverse expertise and a comprehensive understanding of the UPG portfolio.
- They prayerfully evaluate UPG opportunities to assess portfolio placement in terms of timing, cost, current priorities, strategic diversity, and general viability.  
Assessment: UPG Plan
  - Cost to fund • Timeline • Potential impact • Geography and religion • Portfolio timing
  - Access ministry feasibility

## ***Stage 3: BLESS Board of Directors***

- The Board of Directors prayerfully provides a holistic review of all UPG recommendations.
- They make final UPG additions to the portfolio that best align with the ministry objectives and mission of BLESS.  
Assessment: Overall Portfolio Fit
  - Financial forecasting • Risk • Progress scale • Ministry sectors
  - Fundraising feasibility • Strategic diversity • Portfolio timing



# UPG DATA POINTS

*Belief System*



*Within Reached  
Progress Scale Level*



*Region*



*Population*



*Access Ministry  
Feasibility*





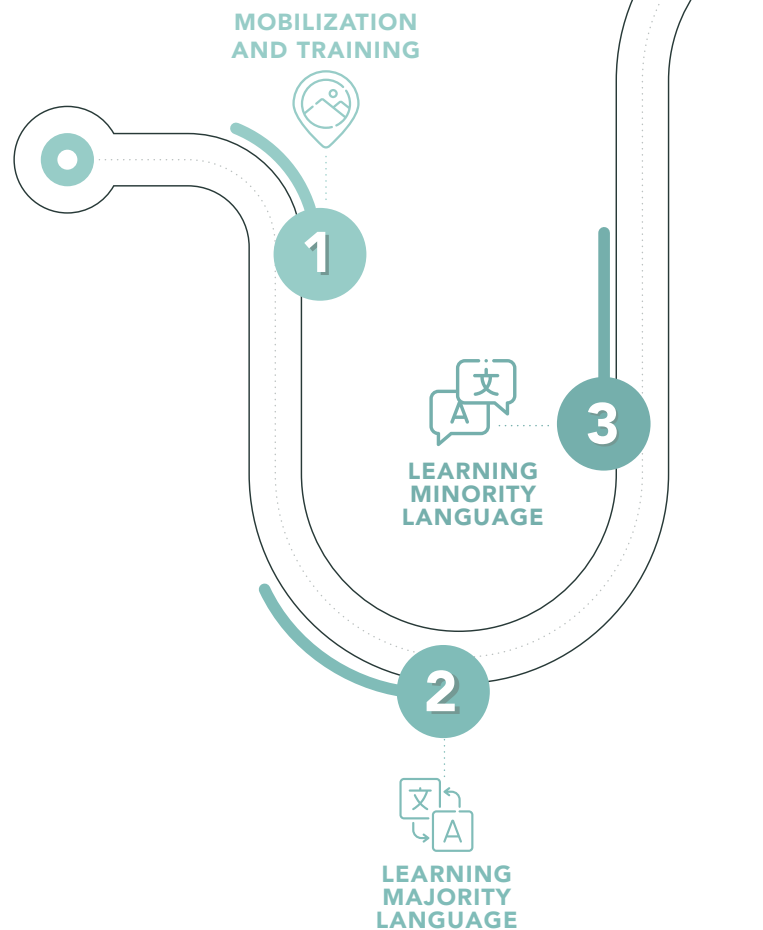


# PGs

Let's rise to the challenge and embrace this incredible opportunity. Your unwavering commitment, along with the relentless dedication of the front-line workers, will ignite a powerful discipleship movement that will multiply future generations.

..... **Together, we have the power to impact the world,  
one Unreached people group at a time.**

# WITHIN REACHED PROGRESS SCALE



24

UPGs

1



## MOBILIZATION AND TRAINING

Mobilization is a long and careful process that can take years to complete. It begins with a willingness to go to a UPG. It includes enlisting with a sending organization, biblical training, raising personal support, learning about other cultures, developing a heart for cross-cultural ministry, studying a new language, and completing initial fundraising.

2



## LEARNING MAJORITY LANGUAGE

A majority language is the primary language used in a country or across a large region. The majority language is typically used for conducting business and general communication in the metropolitan areas of an Unreached country. Learning this language is a vital step for cross-cultural workers to enter Unreached countries and to be able to communicate effectively, develop cultural sensitivities, and build trust with the local community.

3



## LEARNING MINORITY LANGUAGE

A minority language is a language spoken by a minority of the population of a territory, and typically isn't known or used by outsiders, including Christians. The minority language sits closest to the hearts of its local speakers, serving as the most personal way to make spiritual decisions and gain the deepest understanding of God's Word. In many countries, there are dozens or hundreds of minority languages. Learning the minority language is sometimes the only way to build relationships and share the Gospel among the Unreached.

4



## TRANSLATING SCRIPTURE

Scripture translation is a vital part of the Great Commission to bring God's Word to every tribe, tongue, and nation. Some UPGs don't yet have a Bible translated in their language. Translating Scripture is essential for personal study, evangelism, and discipleship. In some cases, there may not be a written version of the heart language, so an alphabet and basic grammar must be developed prior to translating scripture.

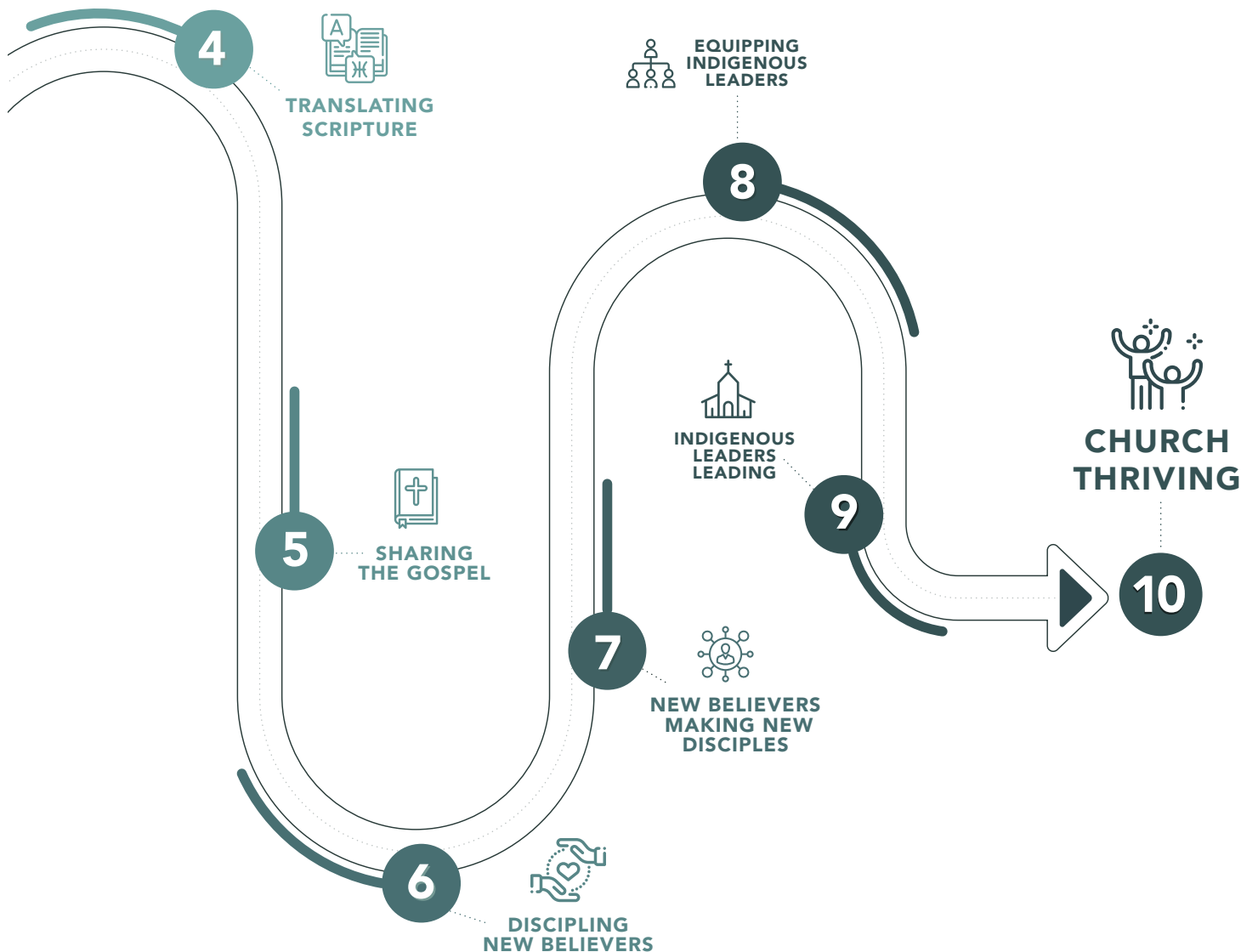
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## SHARING THE GOSPEL

The advancement of the gospel is sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ. Being able to communicate in the local language and share Scripture is the beginning of the evangelism process, which provides an opportunity to show God's love for all people, no matter what language they speak.





6



### DISCIPLING NEW BELIEVERS

Discipleship is the process by which someone grows in their knowledge and understanding of God and the Christian life. Making disciples involves teaching, mentoring, and modeling what it means to be a follower of Jesus. New believers are baptized and begin a lifelong journey of growing in their faith.

7



### NEW BELIEVERS MAKING NEW DISCIPLES

Local believers who have been trained and equipped to disciple others begin to play a role in evangelism and spreading the gospel in their communities. This is a significant step because it provides local testimonies and impact and begins to multiply the evangelism efforts to others.

8



### EQUIPPING INDIGENOUS LEADERS

Developing a leadership team is an important step in planting a church. Equipping leaders is the process by which local leaders are trained on how to develop and run a biblical church. Local leaders receive training in church governance, order of worship, ministry education, biblical knowledge, and other practical instruction.

9



### INDIGENOUS LEADERS LEADING

The church is now being led by indigenous believers. The cross-cultural workers are in the pews and not behind the pulpit. They have adequate access to Scripture in their heart language. Unreached people groups are now within reach. The gospel is going forth in power, and the church is being established in truth. The church is growing up, and the body of Christ is being built up.

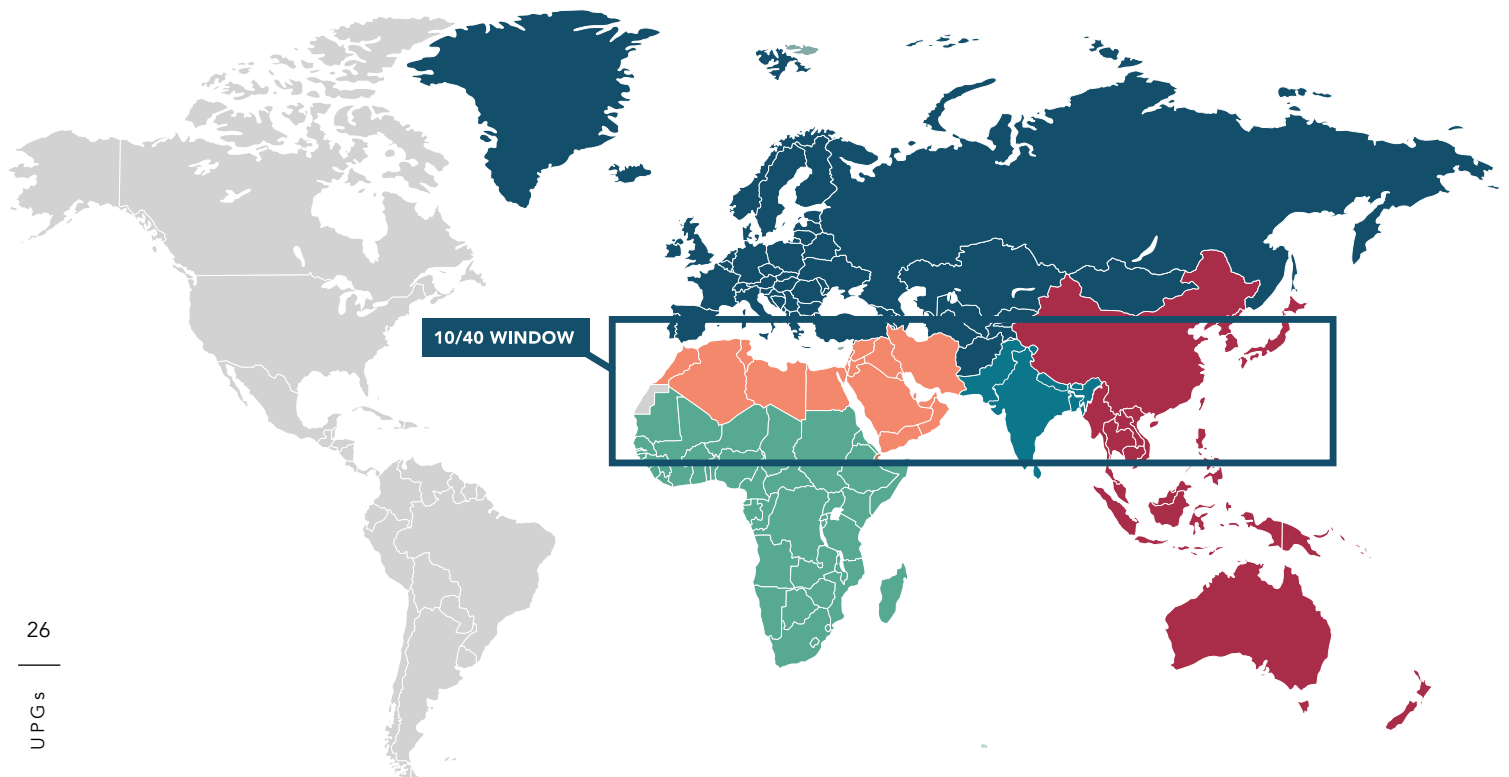
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### CHURCH THRIVING

This is a significant milestone and cause for celebration, the church has taken root. Indigenous elders have been appointed and are shepherding the flock. Cross-cultural workers are able to provide support, but are no longer being depended on for leadership. The church will serve as the center of worship, teaching, evangelism and discipleship, community service, and missions work to surrounding areas.

# UPG REGIONAL MAP



MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA

SOUTH ASIA

EUROPE & CENTRAL ASIA

EAST ASIA & PACIFIC

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

# BELIEF SYSTEMS



## **ANIMISM**

A belief system that thinks all things, including people, animals, geographic features, natural phenomena, and inanimate objects, possess a spirit that connects them to one another. The success or failure of one's life in the here and now depends on whether these spiritual beings are pleased. If one can please the spiritual powers by ceremonies and behavior, they will cause good things to happen. If not, they will punish them with misfortune. There is no god or salvation. Current existence is based on appeasing spirits.



## **BUDDHISM**

This belief system holds that all human life is suffering because, in this life, all will have desires. The key to ending this suffering is the realization that the true nature of reality is constantly changing and, therefore, human selves are not permanent or even real. A person who understands this will reach a state called "Nirvana" and end their painful cycle of death and rebirth. There is no god and no hope of salvation.



## **HINDUISM**

This belief system is built on the doctrine of reincarnation and karma. One of the key thoughts of Hinduism is "atman," or the belief in the soul. This philosophy holds that living creatures have a soul and are all part of the supreme soul. Hindus worship a plurality of gods, with the ultimate being Brahman. The end goal is to be absorbed back into Brahman. Works are required to appease multiple deities without any chance of salvation.



## **ISLAM**

This belief system says there is one god, Allah, who created all things and will judge his creation at the end of time. Judgment will be based on obedience during a lifetime, primarily by adherence to five pillars: A mantra about the identity of god and his prophet Mohammed, ritual prayer, giving to the poor, pilgrimage to Mecca, and an annual month-long fast. There is no way to know if works will be enough, and there is no personal relationship and no grace from Allah.



**Your generosity has enabled us to include 22 UPGs in our active portfolio, with additional UPGs on hold as we seek further funding.**

UPG NAME	PROGRESS JOURNEY										POPULATION	RELIGION
DINANGAT	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	2,000	ANIMISM
BURYAT	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	470,000	BUDDHISM
MAKHUWA MWINIKA	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	200,000	ISLAM
WANTAKIA	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	10,000	ANIMISM
N*	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	1,700	BUDDHISM
SUNDA (H-REGION)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	6,607,000	ISLAM
MALIYALI	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	3,500	ANIMISM
SUDANESE REFUGEES	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	5,000,000	ISLAM
TUNISIAN ARABS	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11,019,000	ISLAM
BALINESE	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	4,224,000	HINDUISM
JENTUBERI	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	30,700	ANIMISM
KAYKAR	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	170,000	ANIMISM
ROKOBKA	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	110,000	ISLAM
SAGSO	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	5,782,000	ISLAM
SHAMBALYG	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	2,275,000	BUDDHISM
URIDA	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	145,000	ISLAM
LAUNDSAR	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	866,000	ISLAM
ZHAU KU	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	554,000	BUDDHISM
ASMAT SAFAN	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	15,000	ANIMISM
KUYU	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	1,200	ANIMISM
NUKHU	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	9,000	ANIMISM
S*	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	93,000	ISLAM

UNREACHED PEOPLE GROUP

# KUYU

LOCATION

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

POPULATION

1,200

SECURITY RISK



LOW

RELIGION



**ANIMISM WITH  
FOLK CATHOLIC  
INFLUENCE**

PROGRESS SCALE



**2** LEARNING  
MAJORITY  
LANGUAGE

CONTACT



INBOUND  
TRAVEL?

**YES, BUT  
DIFFICULT**



ZOOM  
SAFELY?

**YES**



EAST ASIA & PACIFIC



## INSIGHT

Life in Kuyu is challenging. Situated at the northern end of the Adelbert Mountain range in the Madang province of Papua New Guinea, they are among several indigenous groups who are yet to grasp and embrace the Gospel of God's grace, despite exposure to various religious beliefs.

Motivated by their persistent requests for a missionary team, the Kuyu community welcomed the arrival of three families (the LeBlancs, DeValves, and Ames) in 2022. Their shared mission is to establish a thriving, self-sustaining indigenous church.

Despite the inability to read and write in their native language, the Kuyu people possess a profound desire to delve into God's Word on their own terms.

## STORY

Two days' journey away from the nearest aid post, a Kuyu family faced a desperate situation, seeking help for their sick baby. With limited medical options, they turned to the front-line families living with the Kuyu UPG. The baby's labored breathing indicated the severity of the situation, prompting the front-line workers to act quickly. They administered antibiotics and provided constant fluids, working against the clock to save the baby's life.

Unfortunately, the baby's health did not improve, causing concern within the community. The Kuyu family succumbed to community pressure and sought the help of a local shaman instead. Meetings were held to unravel the mystery of the illness, tension rose and accusations flew.

The following day, Kuyu men participated in a neighboring village's soccer tournament. After ten consecutive goalless games, the entire village became convinced that the same malevolent spirit that plagued the baby was now hindering their scoring efforts. One man claimed responsibility and demanded appeasement in the form of sacrifice—one pig and one young girl. They complied.

Despite the sacrifice, the baby's condition showed little improvement. With the infant's life hanging in the balance, the family finally agreed to a medevac, transporting the baby to a hospital for urgent care. The baby was treated and lived.

This incident made the front-line workers realize that understanding the Kuyu worldview will be an ongoing journey, with much more to learn and comprehend.



## LIVING CONDITIONS

The Kuyu people live in remote villages and scattered hamlets connected by miles of rugged trails and water crossings. They make their homes on the tops of narrow mountain ridges to avoid landslides and use the slopes of the mountains for their gardens. Access to town and viable health care is preceded by an arduous one-to-two-day hike, which often includes hand-carrying cash crops to market, such as vanilla and cocoa beans. Hiking is the only way for the Kuyu people to get in and out of their land. The difficult terrain of the area is a large reason why they have never been reached with the Gospel message.





## OBJECTIVES

**Helping as many of the Kuyu people as possible become literate** in their own language and in the trade language. Approx. 2 years

**Preaching the Gospel to the Kuyu people** in their mother tongue. 2-3 years

**Planting a church** in all of the six major communities. 10-20 years

Seeing Kuyu church planters that can **take the Gospel across cultural barriers**. 10-20 years

**Translate the entirety of the New Testament into Kuyu**. A long time...

## PROGRESS SCALE: 2- LEARNING MAJORITY LANGUAGE

A team of three missionary families are currently in the **process of allocation and house building**.

Our main goal right now is to **build deep relationships** and to learn the language so that we can effectively communicate.

We expect to **begin teaching the Kuyu people how to read and write** in their own language in two years.

**Teaching them God's Word** in their own language will follow.

The next step will be the **long road of discipleship**.



## CHALLENGES

Language & Culture—**The Kuyu language is rather difficult**, and their way of thinking is so foreign to us. When they hurt their back they may blame it on a certain spirit rather than on the fact that they had been working hard the day before.

The **location is only accessible by helicopter** or a two-day hike over three mountain ranges. This makes it very difficult to get supplies.

**Very few are literate in the trade language**, and none are literate in their own language. They also haven't been taught certain skills, such as critical thinking or how to save resources.

**We have already witnessed many of Satan's schemes for how he would like to derail the work here.** We know that he does not want to see God's Word take new ground, and he will therefore do whatever he can to stop this work.



## ACCESS MINISTRY: EDUCATION & VANILLA TRADE

Education on vanilla **production process is currently in progress.**

**Literacy training** for scripture engagement, employment, and the ability to record the history of the people group.

## PLEASE PRAY FOR

**Relationship strength** to allow better understanding between people.

**The team's eleven children** from different countries are all dealing with transitions.

**Protection against the enemy's plans** to disrupt their progress.



33  
UPGs





UNREACHED PEOPLE GROUP

# BALINESE

LOCATION

BALI

POPULATION

4,224,000

SECURITY RISK



MEDIUM

RELIGION



HINDUISM

PROGRESS SCALE



4 TRANSLATING  
SCRIPTURE

CONTACT



INBOUND  
TRAVEL?  
YES



ZOOM  
SAFELY?  
YES



## INSIGHT

The island of Bali is known as a tropical paradise. Its beauty, friendly people, exquisite art, and unique dance have made Bali a favorite destination for millions of tourists from around the world.

While most of the population in Indonesia is Muslim, the Balinese are Hindu. The Balinese have brought much of their original culture into their expression of Hinduism so it differs from Indian Hinduism. Balinese Hindus focus on the "Trimurti," a concept of three aspects of god: Brahma the creator, Vishnu the protector, and Shiva the destroyer. The Balinese also practice five types of ceremonies: (1) life cycle ceremonies, (2) ancestral ceremonies, (3) ceremonies to gods who save the world, (4) ordination of priests, and (5) ceremonies to protect against evil spirits.

Much of local village interactions are centered on Hindu worship in the temples and agricultural cooperatives in the surrounding fields. There is a schedule that the people follow each day, with prayers at the family temple, village temple, and other places of worship. Thousands of different gods are worshiped, with the goal of pursuing harmony in their families and villages. Yet, if you ask the Balinese if they have peace in their hearts and certainty that their sins can be forgiven, they will respond with: "All we can do is hope we have done enough. We have not yet experienced peace." Bondage to idol worship is intense.



## LIVING CONDITIONS

Most Balinese live in small villages with strong family, social, religious, and economic interrelationships. Originally, rice farming was the primary means of economic survival.

The face of the island has changed with the development of luxury hotels, souvenir shops, and other tourist-related industries. Along with these changes have come a variety of employment opportunities. The Balinese are known throughout the world for their artistic abilities. Many Balinese villages specialize in one particular form of art. Their artistic talents can be seen in the variety of their paintings, carvings, sculpting, dancing, and weaving.

## STORY

Hinduism teaches reincarnation, which states that whatever suffering you experience in this life is probably due to a wrong you committed in a past life.

In 2021, the impact through The Care for Children Program kept 176 students in school, helping Hindu children break free from the cycle of poor education. Since this program is led by eight national church planters pastoring churches in the area, the families of these children are hearing the gospel and seeing that God frees us from the consequences of our sins.

Dino is a young boy living in a remote village. His mom lamented, "Dino is a smart child, but as his mother, I feel guilty because I work a small job and can't guarantee his future. As his parents, we can't support him in his education."

Families in Dino's socio-economic bracket struggle to keep their children in school through grade nine. When kids do not continue their education, they are forced to enter the workforce prematurely; this can lead to many issues, including poverty and even human trafficking.

Fortunately, Dino is now able to attend The Care for Children Program. Dino's mom happily exclaims, "Now my child can go to school and learn. I hope with this program he can achieve the dream he wants."





# BALINESE

## OBJECTIVES

- To see **churches planted among the Hindu Balinese**, led by national pastors.
- To establish a movement of **reproducing churches** that is nationally led, with scripture in their language.
- To see local children stay in school and be able to **break the cycle of poverty** in their communities.
- To use an educational scholarship program as an access ministry for missionaries and our national church partners to **have a legitimate presence in Unreached areas** and an open door for relationships.

## PROGRESS SCALE: STAGE 4—TRANSLATION OF SCRIPTURE

- Missionaries have been on site since 2015.
- All language learning is complete for the core team members.
- There is some **translation of scriptures** completed.
- The **translation is ongoing**.
- Stages 5 & 6 have organically begun** and are in process.
- This journey is well positioned to **progress through stages 5 and 6 over the next 12-18 months**.
- There are now **8 national pastors integrated** into the Balinese team.
- Educational sponsorships for families are offered which give these pastors **legitimate access to Unreached communities**.

## ACCESS MINISTRY: KNOW INDO

- The **educational scholarship program** provides legitimate access to the Balinese and is called Know Indo.
- It is a **publicly-known organization** with a public website: [www.knowindo.com](http://www.knowindo.com).
- The vision of Know Indo is to **empower local communities** to know their purpose, potential, and worth.
- The teachers and school principals **help identify children who have dropped out of school** and whose families need the most financial assistance.
- For families to receive scholarships, they must meet with a Know Indo scholarship representative and **meet certain criteria** (e.g., report card grades, family income, etc.).
- The **village leaders provide insight** about the family and confirm all information is accurate.
- Know Indo hosts local community tours and trips. This makes Know Indo a great organization for **facilitating short-term trips that are legitimate** as tourism or foreign aid groups.
- In 2022, **39 children were selected** to have their first year of middle school education paid for.
- In 2023, the goal is to **sponsor underprivileged children** with 24 backpacks, 72 pairs of shoes, 288 outfits, and 72 school supplies packages, in addition to financial scholarships.



## CHALLENGES

**Hinduism religion's hold** on the people creates a lack of hope.

While most of the population in Indonesia is Muslim, **the Balinese are Hindu**. The influence of their original culture makes it different than Indian Hinduism.

**Balinese Hindus focus on the "Trimurti,"** a concept of three aspects of god:

- Brahma, the creator
- Vishnu, the protector
- Shiva, the destroyer

**The Balinese practice five types of ceremonies:**

- Life cycle ceremonies
- Ancestral ceremonies
- Ceremonies to gods who save the world
- Ordination of priests
- Ceremonies to protect against evil spirits

The **religion is deeply embedded** as people follow a strict schedule each day, with prayers at the family temple, village temple, and other places of worship.

**Thousands of different gods** are worshiped.

The **goal of faith is the pursuit of harmony** in their families and villages.

- Yet, if you ask the Balinese if they have peace in their hearts and certainty that their sins can be forgiven, they will respond: "All we can do is hope we have done enough; we have not yet experienced peace."

**Bondage to idol worship is strong.**

These traditions and the length of spiritual bondage lead to **spiritual warfare**.

- Without prayer, the spiritual forces blinding the local people won't relent.

Without the access ministry, it would be even **harder to find local communities accepting of Christians**.

Even when project members are accepted, **the communities often oppose any of their members who choose to leave Hinduism for Christianity**.

**New believers have to find a new community.**

## PLEASE PRAY FOR

**The protection of health for the front-line workers.** One team member recently had a mysterious allergic reaction that put him in the hospital for a few days, and their family has also just had another new child.

**Protection for new believers.** New believers are facing pressure from their families and communities. They need the Holy Spirit to indwell them and strengthen them. Pray that God would mature them and not let them fall away.

**Growth for local leaders.** Please ask God to strengthen and grow the national believers in this project. Pray that God prepares them to be leaders who can start a reproducing church-planting movement.

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UPGs





UNREACHED PEOPLE GROUP

# JENTUBERI

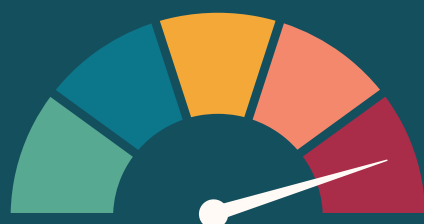
LOCATION

UNABLE TO DISCLOSE

POPULATION

30,700

SECURITY RISK



HIGH

RELIGION



ANIMISM

PROGRESS SCALE



3

LEARNING  
MINORITY  
LANGUAGE

CONTACT



INBOUND  
TRAVEL?

NO



ZOOM  
SAFELY?

NO





## INSIGHT

The Jentuberi people number about 30,700, living in the highlands of a remote area in SE Asia. Almost all of the Jentuberi are nominally Buddhist, though animism is the real underlying worldview that drives their lives.

Jentuberi people are born into and live their whole lives in fear of the spirit world around them. They believe that spirits have the power to do good things for them or evil, and they are constantly mindful of what they need to do to earn the spirits' pleasure. When they do the ceremonies that their spirits demand, then they believe good things will happen in their lives, and when the spirits are angry with them, sickness, relationship problems, and death are sure to follow.



## LIVING CONDITIONS

Subsistence farming, hunting, and gathering are part of every life. Recently, some low value cash crops (maize, barley, rice) have been introduced as a means of income. However, the slash-and-burn practices used to cultivate these crops commercially are not sustainable. Coffee, bananas, and sacha inchi nuts are now being introduced as a long-term solution.

## STORY

When my friend's baby girl was fussy at night for a few nights in a row, an answer had to be found. It couldn't just be that she had an upset stomach, or that she was teething. It had to be something bigger. My friend had to hire a shaman to perform a ceremony to see what unseen being had been offended and why that being was taking his anger out on this little one. I sat with her watching the shaman hold a group of sticks in his hand, alternating between chanting and blowing into the bunch of sticks and then tapping them on a shirt of the little baby. I watched my friend as she looked to the shaman with anticipation. "What does the spirit say?" she wanted to know. "What do I need to do?" The shaman replied that he couldn't say for sure what the reason was, but the house spirit had indeed been offended and it would take the killing of a chicken, a clay pot of rice wine, some rice, and 50,000 KIP (the equivalent of full day's work) in order for the spirit to be satisfied and leave her daughter alone. Again a shaman would need to be hired for this ceremony. Another friend who was there with us asked my friend, "Well, what did you do to cause this?" My friend shook her head in confusion... "I don't know, I can't think of anything we did, but at least now we know what the spirit wants." And off she went to start gathering the items needed to fix the problem.



UNREACHED PEOPLE GROUP

# JENTUBERI



## OBJECTIVES

- To **establish a healthy church** within 10 years.
- To complete a **Jentuberi culture and language study** within 3 years.
- To begin **Bible translation** within 4 years.
- To begin **Bible teaching** within 6 years.
- To develop **Bible narrative lessons** within 5 years.

## PROGRESS SCALE: STAGE 3—LEARNING MINORITY LANGUAGE

The Jentuberi people are a **Unreached (frontier) people group in SE Asia**.  
There are **no known believers among them** and no Bible translation.  
**Working to establish a healthy church** and then see them continue to reach out to their people.  
The first family that is **attempting to plant the first Jentuberi church** has recently arrived and is studying the language.  
Mission workers are **learning the Jentuberi language** and culture at a level high enough to communicate the Gospel.  
Workers are **translating the Bible** and preparing literacy and narrative Bible teaching.  
The hope is that at least two other families will join them in the future so that together they can **begin to work on building the necessary infrastructure for a future Jentuberi church**.



## CHALLENGES

Government opposition; **missionary activity is illegal**.

**Local opposition:** The people are Buddhists, and town authorities oppose Bible teaching.

**Lack of culture and language ability.**

The **physical environment is very difficult**, with extreme heat in a jungle climate and mosquitoes.

There is a **challenging business environment due to corruption**, lack of infrastructure, and unskilled workers.

## ACCESS MINISTRY: AGRICULTURE

**Set-up an agricultural business** to obtain long-term residential working visas.

**Educate the local people about different crops** that can be grown in their area for sale.

**Purchase the agricultural products** that are grown there for a fairer price than they currently receive.

Process the agricultural products, **hiring locals to work at the processing center**.

## PLEASE PRAY FOR

**The physical health of the mission workers, including their children.** They have just moved into the Jentuberi area and have been ill.

The Lord to bring **comfort and strength to the team** in this area! Poor health, isolation, and a challenging new language can be very discouraging.

The families who are planning to go out to join this team will complete their **study of the national language and culture** quickly so that the team can be together.

The **Holy Spirit will begin to work on the hearts of the Jentuberi people** so that they will see the team as a blessing and want to hear what they have to say when they are ready to teach.





UNREACHED PEOPLE GROUP

N\*

LOCATION

UNABLE TO DISCLOSE

POPULATION

1,700

SECURITY RISK



MEDIUM

RELIGION



**BUDDHISM**

PROGRESS SCALE



**6** DISCIPLING  
NEW  
BELIEVERS

CONTACT



INBOUND  
TRAVEL?

**YES, BUT  
DIFFICULT**



ZOOM  
SAFELY?

**YES**





## INSIGHT

The N\* live in a very isolated area. They practice a form of Buddhism that includes animistic elements, believing that animals and plants can possess spirits and evil spirits must be appeased through prayer and ritual. There is an endless cycle of reincarnation, which means how faithful they are to live correctly influences their reincarnation. Children especially face numerous challenges in this remote region. The infant mortality rate is improving, but after surviving early childhood, it is difficult for them to thrive. Children are often needed at home, so many are not sent to school, especially girls. When children do attend school, they live outside of their village for most of the year. An alternative to children attending school is for them to live in a monastery and be raised as a monk. This is a common religious practice as there is a social expectation for each family to give one child to the Buddhist monastery.



## LIVING CONDITIONS

The N\* live in villages scattered throughout the region. They struggle to grow their food at a high altitude, which means many suffer from hunger and live in poverty. They shepherd yaks, goats, and sheep for additional food, clothing, and barter.

Most families live in one-room houses made of stone and wood. The men often travel down the mountains and into the cities to work for long periods, separated from their families.

## UPDATE FROM THE FIELD

This year we celebrated our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary living and working with the N\* people! This represents the faithfulness of God, and we are so thankful for all that God has done over the past 20 years of ministry. Our program provides a loving home for students between the ages of 6 and 16, a place for them to be safe, receive a good education, as well as hear the gospel and be nurtured in their spiritual life. Funding for our project has been unreliable for years leading up to again. For many years we have not had the financial provision to add students. The BLESS funds have kept our current kids in our school and have put us in a place financially where we can start adding new students.

This year the Lord has provided us with the funding to add three new needy students. When we take these children into our family we are committing to love, care and provide for them in various ways over the 10+ years they will be with us. It is not a decision we take lightly. We will also be adding another young boy from a very remote area and are awaiting the necessary government paperwork to be completed before we can admit him.

Since we can now count on a reliable stream of funding, we can lift our eyes and look towards the future as we create a strategic plan for our ministry. We anticipate the number of children in our education program to increase, so we are preparing to serve them and their families. In addition, we are planning to host the first outreach camp for students. We are expecting approximately 100 students from 5-7 different N\* communities.



## OBJECTIVES

To see **churches planted among the Buddhist N\***, led by national pastors.

To **establish a movement of reproducing churches** that is nationally led, with scripture in their language.

To **see children in the local community stay in school** and be able to break the cycle of poverty in their communities.

To **see children in the home disciplined to come to faith**. (Note: To date, all but three children who have gone through this program have come to faith).

To use the **children's home and educational program to care** for 20-30 children throughout their whole educational experience.

## CHALLENGES

**Geographic isolation** in the mountains.

**Low population** numbers.

Extreme **poverty**.

**Lack of education and job** opportunities.

**Language barriers** within N\* people group.

Buddhist Monasteries & the **religious hold on the people**:

- Proclaiming the Gospel in this area means confronting long traditions of spiritual bondage and spiritual strongholds.
- Spiritual oppression can often be felt physically.
- The government and nationalist Hindu populist movements often act against any public indications that the church is growing.
- Westerners must be very careful to avoid being expelled.
- National believers must be very careful to keep from having their livelihoods destroyed.



## PROGRESS SCALE: STAGE 6 - DISCIPLING NEW BELIEVERS

New **believers are being equipped** and trained to share their faith.

All **language learning is complete** for the core team members involved in the project.

**Some translations of scriptures are completed**, and translation is ongoing.

The **early stages of 7 have begun**, as team members in this project are integrated into the existing local church.

## ACCESS MINISTRY: CHILDREN'S EDUCATION & DISCIPLESHIP

Because of the geographical challenges of this area and the extreme poverty, **it is a cultural norm for children to live outside of their villages** and away from their families to attend school.

The **team raises these children in a loving Christian home**, allowing them to hear the Gospel and learn essential life and professional skills as they receive their education.

The **discipleship program reaches these children** with the Good News by caring for the most vulnerable—the children.

The **home was created to engage the N\* community**.

Education, nutrition, & the love of Jesus are **breaking down generational cycles of poverty, abuse, & spiritual darkness**.

## IMPACT

**26 students have graduated** from high school.

At least **two young children were saved from life-threatening malnourishment** through this project.

**Girls make up two-thirds of the students**, helping to end the stereotype that girls don't attend school.

Parents have an **alternative to giving their children to Buddhist monks**.

Through discipleship, **23 students have come to faith**.

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UPGS

## PLEASE PRAY FOR

**The provision of new teammates.** This project and ministry are all demanding. They need a local accountant to help them manage this program as they oversee everything.

For the protection of the ministry and everyone involved in it.

Pray that God would give this team and its **ministry favor in the eyes of the local government** officials and community.

**Growth for local leaders.** Please ask God to strengthen and grow the national believers in this project, preparing them to be leaders who could start a reproducing church planting movement.



UNREACHED PEOPLE GROUP

# KAYKAR

LOCATION

UNABLE TO DISCLOSE

POPULATION

170,000

SECURITY RISK



MEDIUM

RELIGION



ANIMISM

PROGRESS SCALE



3

LEARNING  
MINORITY  
LANGUAGE

CONTACT



INBOUND  
TRAVEL?

YES, BUT  
DIFFICULT



ZOOM  
SAFELY?

NO





## INSIGHT

The Kaykar people are currently living in a spiritual void, unable to access the Gospel in their own language. Instead, they practice animism and have altars in every home to appease deities. There are many superstitious beliefs and rituals, such as having land deities watch the home's threshold from gate-side altars, appeasing spirits by paying Shamans, placing straw dolls in bark boats to carry away bad luck or temporarily possessing another's body to complain after death. Ceremonies are also performed to call the soul back for a proper funeral if the person dies outside of the home.



## LIVING CONDITIONS

The Kaykar people are warm, friendly, and respectful and value family above all else. It's not uncommon to see several generations living together under one roof, working, eating, and thriving side-by-side. For centuries, they relied on a limited diet of sticky rice, cassava, and bamboo shoots, which unfortunately has led to starvation during times of war and the inability to cultivate other crops. Luckily, the Kaykar people have learned to adapt and have started growing a variety of new crops, including short-grain white rice, peanuts, sugarcane, and maize. They have even taken to growing their own produce like leafy greens, tomatoes, sweet potatoes, eggplants, gourds, and herbs.

The Kaykar people lead complex lives, supplementing their farming livelihood with various jobs in tourism, manual labor, weaving, embroidery, and bamboo production. However, despite their hard work, they struggle financially due to the immense responsibility of caring for their households, paying for their children's education, and caring for the elderly and ill. Adding to their struggles is the fact that they have a higher death rate and lower life expectancy than those living in cities. The constant barrage of deaths has left them with a numbed sense of mourning, making their circumstances all the more heart-wrenching.



# KAYKAR



## OBJECTIVES

- To **establish a healthy church** within 10 years.
- To **complete a culture and language study** within 2 ½ years.
- To **begin Bible translation** within 3 ½ years.
- To **develop Bible narrative lessons** and deploy within 4 ½ years.
- To **begin Bible teaching** within 5 years.

## PROGRESS SCALE: STAGE 3—LEARNING MINORITY LANGUAGE

The Kaykar people are a **Frontier people group in SE Asia**.

There are no **known believers among them** and no Bible translation.

**Working to establish a healthy church** and then see them continue to reach out to their people.

The **original family** within the team have recently arrived in their location in **attempts to plant the first church** and have begun studying the language.

The **second family has committed to join** and hopes to move out in the next few months as they complete their study of the national language.

The team **hopes that 1-2 additional families will join them** so that together they can begin to work on building the necessary infrastructure for a future church.

**Learn the language and culture** to a level high enough for them to communicate the Gospel.

**Translate the Bible and prepare literacy** and narrative Bible teaching.

## ACCESS MINISTRY: TOURISM-RELATED

The **team is working to set up and establish a tourism-related business** to obtain long-term residential working visas.

It will **benefit local people** by earning money from the tourists.

The **tourism business employs local people** as guides, cultural experts, etc.

The **local government is very happy to see a tourism business** operating in their area, building the local economy.

## CHALLENGES

**Government opposition**—missionary activity is illegal.

**Local opposition**, the people are animistic Buddhists, and town authorities oppose Bible teaching.

Lack of culture and **language ability**.

The **physical environment is very difficult** with extreme heat in a jungle climate and plenty of mosquitoes.

**Challenging business environment** due to corruption, lack of infrastructure, and untrained workers.



## PLEASE PRAY FOR

The **children of the mission workers**. Ask for them to do well in homeschooling and to remain healthy!

The Lord to bring **comfort and strength to the team** in this area.

**Poor health, isolation, and translation of a new language**, which can be very discouraging.

The **2nd family who is planning to go out to join this team**, that they will complete their study of the national language and culture quickly so that the team can be together.

The Holy Spirit to begin to work on the **hearts of the Kaykar people** so that they will see the team as a blessing and want to hear what they have to say when they are ready to teach.



UNREACHED PEOPLE GROUP

# TUNISIAN ARABS

LOCATION

TUNISIA

POPULATION

11,019,000

SECURITY RISK



LOW

RELIGION



ISLAM

PROGRESS SCALE



5 SHARE THE GOSPEL

CONTACT



INBOUND  
TRAVEL?  
YES



ZOOM  
SAFELY?  
YES



## INSIGHT

Tunisia is the smallest country in North Africa and has a rich history of religious diversity. In the early centuries after Christ, Christianity flourished in the area that is now modern-day Tunisia. However, the arrival of Arab invaders in the 7th century led to the quick spread of Islam throughout the region. Today, nearly all Tunisian Arabs are Muslim and speak Tunisian Arabic. Interestingly, despite its religious roots, Tunisian culture has become increasingly secular, allowing women to occupy important political positions and attempts being made to remove mentions of Islam from the country's constitution.

There is a growing trend towards religious openness as people are becoming disillusioned with radical Islamic militants. Christian media outreach has also sparked interest in Jesus, and some Tunisians have even reported having dreams of Him. While there are currently only a few hundred believers in Tunisia, becoming a Christian still comes with significant risks such as losing your job or social standing and facing persecution from family and friends.



## STORY

We received a touching message from someone who reached out to us through our digital media outreach. And she has a beautiful story to share. She shared that she found Jesus through a young man who had learned about Him from our Facebook page. After reading the Bible, she experienced healing from past hurts and decided to reach out to us.

Her journey to find hope in Jesus was not an easy one. She shared that she experienced abuse as a child and even attempted to take her own life multiple times. However, while in a coma, she had an experience where someone said He was saving her life. She recently lost her father and has been struggling with severe depression. Despite everything she has been through, she found comfort in the love of Jesus and was recently baptized.

We are inspired by her strength and bravery in reaching out to us. Her story is a testament to the power of digital media outreach and how it can impact lives.

## LIVING CONDITIONS

Tunisia is a country where agriculture, phosphate mining, and tourism dominate the economy. The lush landscapes that were once deemed Rome's "bread basket" are still famous for producing mouth-watering fruits, vegetables, and grains. Surprisingly, despite living in a technologically advanced world, most farmers still resort to traditional farming methods. On the other hand, with the dawn of cell phones, the Internet, and Facebook, the manner in which Tunisians connect and perceive the world is rapidly evolving.

Tunisian Arabs have a deep-rooted connection to their family and value the importance of kinship. They are friendly and welcoming people, known for their hospitality. In addition, Tunisia boasts a youthful population that leans towards higher education. However, this demographic is not without its challenges, as there is a high rate of unemployment among the younger generation. Frustration over this issue, along with government corruption, ignited a revolution in 2011.

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UPGs



# TUNISIAN ARABS

## OBJECTIVES

- To **establish a movement of reproducing nationally led churches** with scripture in their language.
- To **see churches planted among the Tunisian Arabs**, led by national pastors.
- To **further Bible translation** in partnership with other agencies and local partners.
- To **engage as many Tunisians as possible on-line** to provide a safe way for spiritually open Tunisians to have conversations.
- To **establish several access ministries through local businesses**; disability care and a community center to provide legitimate access to a growing number of missionaries and national believers.

## PROGRESS SCALE: STAGE 5—SHARING THE GOSPEL

- The **mission workers are on-site**.
- All language **learning is complete for the core team members**.
- Some translation of scriptures exist**, and further translation is ongoing.
- The **Good News is being shared** in the local language.
- They are **transitioning into Stage 6**, where new believers are baptized, discipled, and equipped to evangelize themselves, some of this is already happening.
- Scripture **translation will likely be an ongoing process**.
- Reaching large people groups** takes outreach methods that can scale.
- The use of digital media, including Facebook ads on topics like dreams about Jesus, depression, and prayer, can **spark on-line conversations on spiritual topics**.
- Tunisian Arabs that are genuinely seeking the Truth about Jesus Christ can then be passed on for **face-to-face meetings with a missionary or local believer**.

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UPGs

## CHALLENGES

- Virtually all **Tunisian Arabs are Muslim** and speak Tunisian Arabic.
- In urban areas, many are now nominal Muslims or would consider themselves to be secular. Still, **Islam heavily influences every aspect of Tunisian culture**.
- Some even still believe in Jinn**, which are spirits that are believed to be capable of exercising influence over people.
- Becoming a Christian in Tunisia often results in significant persecution** from family and friends.
- New **believers risk losing their jobs** and social standing.
- The new **believers experience pressure from authorities** to prevent the spread of Christianity.
- Many new **Christians find themselves living far from other believers**.
- National believers will also need **businesses or nonprofits to provide livelihoods and legitimacy in the community** that can be hard to find after leaving their Muslim families.
- Due to the large size of this people group, the leaders of the Tunisian Arab project will be investing time and resources into **developing further access ministries** to support the presence of a growing missionary workforce.



## ACCESS MINISTRY #1: COMMUNITY CARE AND SERVICES.

Create a legitimate means of access to Tunisians.

Establish relationships with Tunisian associations focused on skill development, teenage pregnancy, and disabilities.

Create opportunities for access that other missionaries and national believers could easily partner with if they have the proper skill set. The need is certainly significant.

Community centers that engage all facets of families. Due to the segregation of men from women and children that can occur in public settings in the Arab world, the community center provides a place where whole families can come together.

Helps local families thrive and receive education in English language classes, art, singing, and theater.

## ACCESS MINISTRY #2: A COMMUNITY CENTER AND NETWORK

A local believer started this **Community center which engages all facets of the family.**

Due to the **segregation of men from women and children** that can occur in public settings in the Arab world, this provides a place where whole families can come together.

**Helps local families thrive** and receive a greater education than they might otherwise. Offerings include:

- English language classes and conversation hours
- Classes in art, theater, and singing

There are **three believers working at this center.**

## IMPACT

Tunisian digital media outreach led to **1,556 active conversations.**

Of these, **473 Bibles were distributed.**



## PLEASE PRAY FOR

**God to unite his people**, missionaries from many different agencies, and the local church, to be unified in reaching the Tunisian Arabs.

**Protection over new believers.** Example: One young man recently found freedom from Islam and his family's old beliefs that talismans will keep them safe from evil spirits. He was recently able to lead his mother to faith, but they face opposition from their wider family.



UNREACHED PEOPLE GROUP

**G\***

LOCATION

**UNABLE TO DISCLOSE**

POPULATION

**661,000**

SECURITY RISK



**HIGH**

RELIGION



**HINDUISM**

PROGRESS SCALE



**5** SHARE THE  
GOSPEL

CONTACT



INBOUND  
TRAVEL?  
**YES**



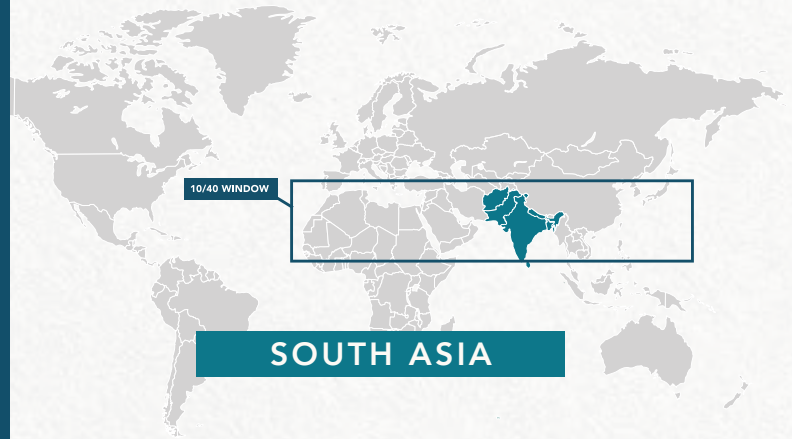
ZOOM  
SAFELY?  
**YES**

**FUNDING CONTINGENT  
ON RESOURCE AVAILABILITY**



## INSIGHT

The G\* people reside in a mountainous region of South Asia, with an estimated 60 people groups. This area, characterized by its formidable terrain, remained unconquered throughout history due to its remoteness from major strategic cities. Unfortunately, the G\* people have endured centuries of isolation, lacking essential community development necessities like education, electricity, road access, and basic infrastructure.



## STORY

"Raddhi" and "Kavisha" are two trainees who were led to faith through the witness of our master trainer during a health training course. The two new believers married and decided to serve in a new area where there was no Christian church or witness. They have worked together to form local women's health groups where they teach about spiritual and physical health and pray together. They have seen many people healed in their village through this ministry. Excitingly, at least four of their health workers came to faith and were baptized. Now, there is a small group of committed believers that meet in the village to learn about Jesus. We praise God that through this health ministry, His church is being planted!



## LIVING CONDITIONS

The rural population forms the majority, with a heavy reliance on agriculture. Moreover, this mountainous area suffers from numerous challenges including poor social development indicators, high illiteracy rates, and maternal mortality. Poverty affects at least a quarter of the population. Exploitation of the sick is rampant, where significant sums are demanded for the lifting of curses or provision of magical remedies. Mental illness is prevalent and often connected to spiritual oppression.



FUNDING CONTINGENT  
ON RESOURCE AVAILABILITY

## OBJECTIVES

To **establish a strong indigenous church** that is self-supporting, self-governing, and self-propagating in an area where witness over the years has been sporadic, disorganized, and met with resistance and opposition coordinated by educated higher castes and Hindu fundamentalists.

To **help people find freedom from the oppressiveness of casteism**, gods, and goddesses, as well as kin and society, by providing the truth of the Gospel.

## PROGRESS SCALE: STAGE 5—SHARING THE GOSPEL

There are **missionaries on site**.

The **team** operating the G\* project is **completely made up of nationals!**

**Language learning is complete** for the core members of the project.

The **Gospel can be shared in G\* language**, and the New Testament provided in G\* as well.

The **New Testament has been translated**, but given the various dialects in the region, further groundwork is required to determine the extent of additional scripture translation needed.

**Sharing the Gospel with people in isolated areas** is the current priority.

**New believers will be closely disciplined by staff** in order to help them understand their faith and be integrated into the local churches that exist. It is exciting to report that church formation is in progress!

**Indigenous leaders will participate in a one-year Bible training course** that is facilitated by a respected Bible training institute in the state capital city.

## CHALLENGES

- Since most of the population lives in remote rural areas there has been **little to no contact with Christian witness**.
- There is no established church and only **minimal consistent witness to the Gospel** amongst this people group.
- There is **significant opposition to the Bible** coordinated by educated higher castes and Hindu fundamentalists.
- Recent anti-conversion laws were passed that make **preaching the Gospel very dangerous**.

## ACCESS MINISTRY: COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS & SCHOOLS

A **faith-based health, development, and church-planting network**.

These centers and schools are **rooted in holistic ministry and prioritize community health, specializing in disability care**.

**Education helps break cycles of poverty and trafficking**; while it does not specifically aid victims of trafficking, it provides essential humanitarian work in areas where church planting is dangerous.

Through the six schools and 40 educators, we will **equip, support and create opportunities to share the message of Jesus**.

**House church meetings will be facilitated**, allowing our fellow believers to gather and grow in their faith.

**Christian teachers and staff will stay in the village to build relationships and trust**.

**Fifteen passionate health trainers will support and witness** to more than 600 health volunteers across 550 villages.

These workers will be equipped through regular meetings and **provide essential tools to address the physical and spiritual needs of those in their area**. Through well-equipped small clinics and effective delivery of health promotion messages, our workers will provide much-needed care to those in need. Scheduled retreats and Bible training for our staff and volunteers will educate them on how to care for people both physically and spiritually.

**Christian literature will be produced in the local language**. This will involve educational material and health training materials that have firm Christian values and draw from Biblical stories and characters.

**Family retreat programs and vacation Bible programs will be run regularly** in central areas, providing a space for villagers to rest at a safe place for recreation and sharing, as well as rejuvenating their spiritual and mental health issues that arise from poverty and disharmony.

## PLEASE PRAY FOR

God's protection & provision for our families, teams, and ministries.

Specifically for a new couple who will be visiting with the intention of returning long-term to support the program.

The ongoing supreme court case involving staff from one of our projects. Pray it will set a precedent to protect minorities.

For those of our staff who are on bail and awaiting trial for charges under the anti-conversion Act.



# CURRENT UPG PORTFOLIO



## ASMAT SAFAN

**BELIEF SYSTEM:** Animism

**PROGRESS SCALE:** 2

**REGION:** East Asia & Pacific

**POPULATION:** 15,000

**PRAYER REQUEST:** Progress in language learning  
• Open the hearts of Asmat Safan people



## BALINESE

**BELIEF SYSTEM:** Hinduism

**PROGRESS SCALE:** 4

**REGION:** East Asia & Pacific

**POPULATION:** 4,224,000

**ACCESS MINISTRY:** Education

**PRAYER REQUEST:** Protection of workers, new believers  
as they accept Christ and growth of new local leaders.





## BURYAT

**BELIEF SYSTEM:** Buddhism

**PROGRESS SCALE:** 8

**REGION:** Europe & Central Asia

**POPULATION:** 470,000

**ACCESS MINISTRY:** Education & Business

**PRAYER REQUEST:** Protection from spiritual strongholds of local belief systems • Faithful leadership of a fledgling church



## DINANGAT

**BELIEF SYSTEM:** Animism

**POPULATION:** 2,000

**REGION:** East Asia & Pacific

**PROGRESS SCALE:** 9

**PRAYER REQUEST:** • Health for the three missionary families • God will raise up more Dinangat people who can take gospel to other villages & church plant • Wisdom & insight for Gospel translation



## JENTUBERI

**BELIEF SYSTEM:** Animism

**PROGRESS SCALE:** 3

**POPULATION:** 30,700

**REGION:** East Asia & Pacific

**ACCESS MINISTRY:** Agricultural

**PRAYER REQUEST:** • Physical & mental health for Mission Workers and their families  
• Quick study of the language, hearts of Jentuberi



## KAYKAR

**BELIEF SYSTEM:** Animism

**PROGRESS SCALE:** 3

**POPULATION:** 17,000

**REGION:** East Asia & Pacific

**ACCESS MINISTRY:** Tourism

**PRAYER REQUEST:** • Children of the workers  
• Strength and comfort for workers as they battle poor health, isolation, and the challenge of language learning  
• Learning curve for new team members





## KUYU

**BELIEF SYSTEM:** Animism

**PROGRESS SCALE:** 2

**REGION:** East Asia & Pacific

**POPULATION:** 1,200

**PRAYER REQUEST:** Strengthen Mission Worker relationships among the Kuyu people • Language learning • Missionary families with small children



## LAUNDSAR

**BELIEF SYSTEM:** Islam

**PROGRESS SCALE:** 3

**REGION:** Central Asia

**POPULATION:** 866,000

**ACCESS MINISTRY:** Discovery phase: Considering Agriculture, Education & Hospitality Businesses

**PRAYER REQUEST:** • Development of a viable access ministry business plan • Resolution of ongoing literacy • Bible translation challenges



## MAKHUWA MWINIKA

**BELIEF SYSTEM:** Islam

**PROGRESS SCALE:** 8

**REGION:** Sub-Saharan Africa

**POPULATION:** 200,000

**PRAYER REQUEST:** Local leaders sharing the gospel and engaging community • Local leaders equipping leaders for further engagement



## MALIYALI

**BELIEF SYSTEM:** Animism

**PROGRESS SCALE:** 5

**REGION:** East Asia & Pacific

**POPULATION:** 3,500

**PRAYER REQUEST:** Patience, wisdom, and discernment as we pour into a fledgling church with new disciples



N\*

**BELIEF SYSTEM:** Buddhism

**PROGRESS SCALE:** 6

**REGION:** South Asia

**POPULATION:** 1,700

**ACCESS MINISTRY:** Education

**PRAYER REQUEST:** • Provision for new teammates, favor in the eyes of local government & community  
• Protection & growth of local leaders preparing them to one day start a reproducing church planting movement



NUKHU

**BELIEF SYSTEM:** Animism

**PROGRESS SCALE:** 2

**REGION:** East Asia & Pacific

**POPULATION:** 9,000

**ACCESS MINISTRY:** Discovery phase: Agriculture & Tourism

**PRAYER REQUEST:** Workers learning the language  
• Open doors for workers to gain access to this very challenging area



ROKOBKA

**BELIEF SYSTEM:** Islam

**PROGRESS SCALE:** 3

**REGION:** East Asia & Pacific

**POPULATION:** 110,000

**ACCESS MINISTRY:** Agriculture

**PRAYER REQUEST:** Language study for front-line families on-site • Arrival of two more families • Holy Spirit to prepare the hearts of the Rokobka to hear the Gospel for the first time



S\*

**BELIEF SYSTEM:** Islam

**PROGRESS SCALE:** 2

**REGION:** East Asia & Pacific

**POPULATION:** 93,000

**ACCESS MINISTRY:** Agriculture

**PRAYER REQUEST:** Opportunities for spiritual conversations • The Lord would remove obstacles for the success of the business





## SAGSO

**BELIEF SYSTEM:** Islam

**PROGRESS SCALE:** 3

**REGION:** East Asia & Pacific

**POPULATION:** 5,782,000

**ACCESS MINISTRY:** Agriculture

**PRAYER REQUEST:** Our team to finish learning the Sagso language & culture • The coconut oil business grow customer base & provide a solid identity • The Holy Spirit to cause a hunger for God's Word



## SHAMBALYG

**BELIEF SYSTEM:** Buddhism

**PROGRESS SCALE:** 3

**REGION:** East Asia & Pacific

**POPULATION:** 2,275,000

**ACCESS MINISTRY:** Hospitality & Agriculture

**PRAYER REQUEST:** The freedom to remain in this area  
• Translation to continue despite extreme challenges.



## SUDANESE REFUGEES

**BELIEF SYSTEM:** Islam

**PROGRESS SCALE:** 5

**REGION:** Middle East & North Africa

**POPULATION:** 5,000,000

**ACCESS MINISTRY:** Community Care

**PRAYER REQUEST:** The hearts of government officials  
Protection of believers • Preparation for national believers  
to lead a church planting movement



## SUNDA (H-REGION)

**BELIEF SYSTEM:** Islam

**PROGRESS SCALE:** 6

**REGION:** East Asia & Pacific

**POPULATION:** 6,607,000

**ACCESS MINISTRY:** Agriculture

**PRAYER REQUEST:** The success of the agricultural  
program • Protection of missionaries and new believers  
• Growth of local leaders



## TUNISIAN ARABS

**BELIEF SYSTEM:** Islam

**PROGRESS SCALE:** 5

**REGION:** Middle East & North Africa

**POPULATION:** 11,019,000

**ACCESS MINISTRY:** Community Care & Services

**PRAYER REQUEST:** Protection for new local believers  
• Spiritual growth of national leaders as they consider the start of a church planting movement



## URIDA

**BELIEF SYSTEM:** Islam

**PROGRESS SCALE:** 3

**REGION:** East Asia & Pacific

**POPULATION:** 145,000

**ACCESS MINISTRY:** Discovery Phase: Agriculture

**PRAYER REQUEST:** Quick learning of the language  
Wisdom in deciding on an access ministry option



## WANTAKIA

**BELIEF SYSTEM:** Animism

**PROGRESS SCALE:** 7

**POPULATION:** 10,000

**REGION:** East Asia & Pacific

**PRAYER REQUEST:** Front-line workers as they teach the Bible in the Wantakian language • Next bullet: Growth of the existing churches and believers



## ZHAU KU

**BELIEF SYSTEM:** Buddhism

**PROGRESS SCALE:** 3

**POPULATION:** 554,000

**REGION:** East Asia & Pacific

**ACCESS MINISTRY:** Hospitality & Education

**PRAYER REQUEST:** Opportunities to share the Gospel  
• Ability to move to the heart of the city where most of the locals live



# COMMI



# MISSION

Embracing the Great Commission gives us an opportunity to boldly spread the message of Jesus Christ to the ends of the earth. By proclaiming the truth of His saving grace to those who do not know Him, we demonstrate our deep love for God and His creation.

Join us in our mission of Reaching the Unreached.



# FOUNDERS LETTER

Dear BLESS Family,

To go **deeper** is to extend far down from the surface. In the spring of 2022, God told us to go **deeper**. **Deeper** in our dependence on Him, **deeper** in our desire to fulfill His Great Commission and **deeper** in our role of reaching the Unreached.

Through going **deeper** in prayer, God revealed a clear vision of the **UPG Portfolio**.

This **unprecedented** approach is an expert-curated portfolio of **actual identified Unreached People Groups**, where we've identified and vetted healthy teams of believers living and working among the front lines of Gospel poverty. Never before have front-line workers had the long-term support system, the vital accountability, and the essential resources that this strategy provides to advancing the Gospel to the Unreached. Through deliberate diversification, expert collaboration and calculated shared resources, this strategy creates unprecedented acceleration to the work being done on the front lines of Gospel poverty.

Inside this portfolio you will find real people groups from many different religions, scattered across the 10/40 Window and beyond. Each is a unique story, in a unique setting with a unique approach to planting a healthy church lead by indigenous leaders. **Let's cover these pages in prayer, together, crying out to God to soften hearts to His Gospel.**

Working among the Unreached means working in the hardest, darkest places on Earth. We have the faith and confidence to tactically invest in this work because God tells us in Phil. 2:10-11 that every knee shall bow, and every tongue shall confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.

Currently, The UPG Portfolio is a \$10M fund. God has given us a vision to grow this fund exponentially, so that more UPGs will have access to hope in Jesus. So, as you learn, pray, and share with others about our God-led strategy of ending Gospel poverty, know that the Holy Spirit is leading the way. Together, our resources go **deeper**, creating more impact for the Kingdom that as individuals we could never accomplish.

It is an honor to go **deeper** with you,



Heath Hale  
Founder / Board President



PHOTO: Tabitha & Heath Hale, BLESS  
Founders trekking the Himalayas,  
visiting the frontlines, Jan. 2023.







**OUR  
VISION IS  
NOT JUST  
A DISTANT  
DREAM,  
BUT AN  
INEVITABLE  
REALITY.**

**T**he day will come when every Unreached people group will hear the name of Jesus, and the gospel message will reach the furthest corners of the earth. We envision a world where every tribe, tongue, and nation will have access to the transformative power of God's love and grace. The impact of this global movement will be unprecedented, as millions of lives will be changed forever by the message of hope and redemption. We firmly believe that this vision will not only be achieved but will also exceed our wildest expectations. With a steadfast commitment to this cause, we will work tirelessly to make this dream a reality. Together, we can be a part of the greatest movement in history, as the name of Jesus is proclaimed to every nation on earth.

Our ultimate goal is to see healthy churches planted in the hardest places. We know this is only possible by the powerful movement of a loving God. In His kindness, he has invited Christians to be a part of His plan to spread the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ to the ends of the earth. Participating in God's work is not just a privilege for Christians; it's a biblical command. Will you join us as we hold the rope for other Christians who are going to the front lines to bring light to the darkest places? Your partnership is desperately needed. Join us in the honor of obeying God's call and engaging in the Great Commission to make disciples of all nations. We are passionate about this mission and would love for you to join us.



# DEFINITION OF TERMS

## **10/40 WINDOW**

The rectangular area of North Africa, the Middle East, and Asia between 10 degrees north and 40 degrees north latitude. The 10/40 Window is often called “The Resistant Belt” and includes the majority of the world’s Muslims, Hindus, and Buddhists. The 10/40 Window is home to some of the largest unreached people groups in the world.

(source: <https://joshuaproject.net/help/definitions>)

## **ACCESS MINISTRY**

Business or social work that provides missionaries with a legitimate presence or permission to be in a closed country. This holds tremendous promise for effective community outreach by providing business acumen, education, social services, and community resources.

## **FRONT-LINE WORKER**

Individuals & often families who live and work directly in UPG communities.

## **MISSION PARTNER**

A trusted and vetted Mission organization that we collaborate with to make a real and lasting impact in the lives of Unreached people groups. Our Mission Partners are held to the highest standards of integrity, accountability, and transparency, ensuring that our shared mission and vision are aligned.

## **10/40 CLUB**

Members are cornerstone partners who passionately support our mission of Reaching the Unreached. They commit to an annual minimum gift of \$10k to cover operations and mobilization so that any additional giving can be directed towards Unreached People Groups (UPGs) in the UPG Portfolio.

## **BLESS FAMILY**

We consider our donors, volunteers, and 10/40 club members a part of the BLESS family.

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Todd Ahrend, Dirk Dozier, David Gonzales, Heath Hale, Tabitha Hale, Teresa McCarty, Jonathan Patton

## **RESOURCE PARTNER**

BLESS family and donors seeking to fund the BLESS mission.

## **UNREACHED PEOPLE GROUP**

A people group among which there is no indigenous community of believing Christians with adequate numbers and resources to evangelize this people group without outside assistance.

(source: <https://joshuaproject.net/help/definitions>)

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A group of African children and a woman are looking out from a doorway of a building with a rough, reddish-brown wall. The children are of various ages, some sitting on the ledge of the doorway, others standing. One child is holding a baby. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting daylight. The overall mood is one of curiosity and observation.

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