

# *To the Heart of the Nations*



## *Prayer Journal*

*Frederick Osborn*



[www.bfaBooks.com](http://www.bfaBooks.com)



*To the Heart of the Nations: Prayer Journal*

This prayer journal is designed to guide intercessors through the year in an attitude of prayer and worship with a focus on fulfilling the Great Commission of Matthew 28:19-20.

© Frederick Osborn, 2018, 2019

# Contents

The written material in this Prayer Journal was gleaned from two devotionals written by Frederick Osborn that are currently in print: *Jesus Over India* and *One Holy Passion*. This prayer journal is designed to guide intercessors through the year in an attitude of prayer and worship with a focus on fulfilling the Great Commission of Matthew 28:19-20.

This Prayer Journal contains 52 weekly readings and prayer points concerning one or more nations in the 1040 Window of the world.



# *Pray for the Nations*

*The Journey Begins...*

*There are two journeys in life: the inward journey and the outward journey. Unfortunately, many people take the outward journey first. The outward journey is forced on us by life, which we must take ready or not. The inward journey is entirely voluntary. Some will choose to never take it.” – Tom Bruno*

*This Prayer Guide is for those who choose to take the inward journey of discovery. Part of what we teach at The School of Global Missions is when we take the inward journey of the spiritual or heavenly man then we are better prepared to take the outward. The Lord desires that we live our lives with purpose, and that our outward and inward journeys be in perfect harmony with His will for us to be involved on some level with the fulfillment of His “Great Commission” for His Church (Matthew 28:19-20).*



# ***Hinduism and Creation***

*The concepts of creation found in Hindu mythology are as complex and as varied as the religion itself. In one version of creation, the universe was pure Self in the form of a man, existing eternally alone and without a Creator. It looked around and saw nothing but itself, shouted, "I am!" but then felt afraid, and "lacking delight" divided itself in two parts for company. The half that was She asked, "How can he unite with me, who am produced from himself?" Thus began a cosmic drama as the half that was She hid herself in the forms of various animals. Each time the half that was He found her and became the male counterpart of whatever animal she had become and united with her... and the world was thus populated.*

*The Biblical account of The Creation stands in stark contrast to the accounts of Hinduism. And in fact, no other religion or system of beliefs elevates the human race to the unique position in creation of bearing the very image of God. The phrase, "Let us make man in our image" (Genesis 1:26) separates the creation of the human race from all other created things. Unlike the rest of creation, mankind was intended to bear the image of their Creator the same way that a coin is stamped with the image of its king. A Christian knows that to be truly human as God created us to be means we must have His life in us. Man is a creature who owes his very existence to his Creator and therefore is responsible to God. Man's first and most important relationship is to his Creator; all other relationships are to be seen as directed and shaped by this one.*



# *Worship and Prayer*

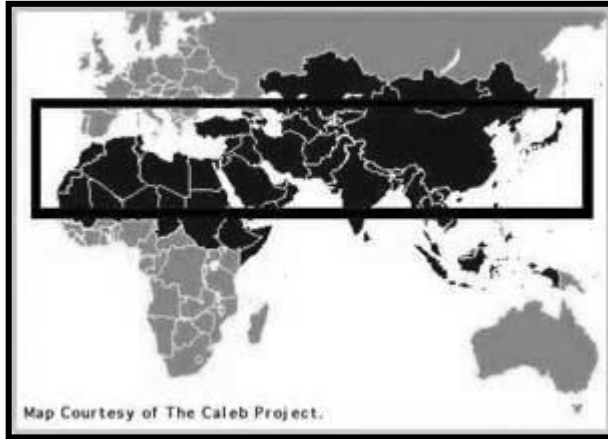
*When Christians enter into times of prayer and worship they can experience transcendent moments that touch the heavenly realms. Prayer and worship opens the life of the believer to the mystical qualities of the kingdom that Jesus came to show us (Matthew 13:11). There are three things that are essential for all Christians if they are to grow spiritually. One is Bible Study. The other two are prayer and worship. As the Christian studies their Bible, they are led to respond to God in prayer and worship. Prayer is the proper response to knowing who God is; worship is the proper response to knowing God. Both prayer and worship lead the believer back to the word of God where they get deeper and fresh revelations of God, which in turn lead them to a more effective prayer-life and more powerful and intense worship.*

*The great Bible scholar, Dr. James Boice pointed out that "We have a great responsibility in prayer. Prayer is not an empty exercise. It is vital. We have to take those verses at face value; if we don't receive, it's because we don't ask. If we ask according to God's will in the name of Christ, we will receive. Christians often say, and rightly so, 'if it be your will.' If we mean by that what we should mean – that we certainly don't want to ask for anything contrary to God's will, and that we want God to override our prayers if we are asking for the wrong things – then it's proper to use that phrase in our prayers." **Practical Christianity**, Editorial Director Ron Beers, Tyndale House Publishers, Wheaton, Ill., First Printing 1987, p415.*



# Christians in the 1040

## Window



*THE 1040 WINDOW is where most of the world's population dwells. It also has the fewest numbers of Christians and is the least evangelized region of the world. The School of Global Missions concentrates on praying for and ministering to these nations.*

<i>Afghanistan</i>	<i>Egypt</i>	<i>Japan</i>	<i>Mauritania</i>	<i>Sudan</i>
<i>Algeria</i>	<i>Eritrea</i>	<i>Jordan</i>	<i>Morocco</i>	<i>Syria</i>
<i>Bahrain</i>	<i>Ethiopia</i>	<i>Korea,</i>	<i>Myanmar</i>	<i>Taiwan</i>
<i>Bangladesh</i>	<i>Gambia</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>(Burma)</i>	<i>Tajikistan</i>
<i>Benin</i>	<i>Gibraltar</i>	<i>Korea,</i>	<i>Nepal</i>	<i>Thailand</i>
<i>Bhutan</i>	<i>Greece</i>	<i>South</i>	<i>Niger</i>	<i>Tunisia</i>
<i>Burkina</i>	<i>Guinea</i>	<i>Kuwait</i>	<i>Oman</i>	<i>Turkey</i>
<i>Faso</i>	<i>Guinea-</i>	<i>Laos</i>	<i>Pakistan</i>	<i>Turkmenistan</i>
<i>Cambodia</i>	<i>Bissau</i>	<i>Lebanon</i>	<i>Philippines</i>	<i>United Arab</i>
<i>Chad</i>	<i>India</i>	<i>Libya</i>	<i>Portugal</i>	<i>Emirates</i>
<i>China</i>	<i>Iran</i>	<i>Macau</i>	<i>Qatar</i>	<i>Vietnam</i>
<i>Cyprus</i>	<i>Iraq</i>	<i>Mali</i>	<i>Saudi</i>	<i>Western</i>
<i>Djibouti</i>	<i>Israel</i>	<i>Malta</i>	<i>Arabia</i>	<i>Sahara</i>
			<i>Senegal</i>	<i>Yemen</i>

# Week 4

January 22<sup>nd</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup>

---

*“I will offer to You the sacrifice of thanksgiving and will call upon the name of the Lord.” Psalm 116:17*

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

*Pray often, for prayer is a shield to the soul, a sacrifice to God, and a scourge for Satan. – John Bunyan*

# ***Christians in China***

*There are more Christians in prison in China than any other country. Although the Chinese government sees the suppression of independent house churches as a political issue and not an issue of religious freedom, the reality is that the government seeks to suppress the church and prevent the spread of Christianity by only allowing registered churches to legally operate. At the same time, the government only allows Bibles to be printed in limited numbers in State-controlled printing presses. So there is a lack of Bibles available to Chinese believers.*

*In spite of the oppression, the church in China continues to grow. There are of course no official records of the numbers of Christians, but independent Christian organizations estimate that there are as many 100,000,000 Chinese Christians. The faith and commitment of Chinese Christians is high and believers are now found in every stratum of Chinese society. The unity and strength of the Church in China is partly the result of persecution, but also showed itself in recent natural disasters; Christian relief workers came together to deliver aid to many who lived in the affected areas.*

*Chinese Christians also possess a strong vision for missions. Many are hard at work reaching the unreached minorities within China. At the same time, Chinese missionaries are reaching beyond their borders into some of the hard to reach un-evangelized nations around them.*

*"Tell the students to give up their small ambitions and come eastward to preach the gospel of Christ." – Francis Xavier, missionary to India, the Philippines, and Japan*



# *The "Horn of Africa"*

*The Horn of Africa is composed of four distinct nations: Djibouti, Eritria, Ethiopia, and Somalia. The Christians in each of these nations face different challenges. **Ethiopia** is the only Christian majority nation, but Christians there are facing increased hostility and pressure from the encroachment of surrounding Muslims. **Djibouti** is the most relaxed of the Muslim-majority nations in the Horn, but evangelism is strongly discouraged by the government. The presence of a large U.S. military base there allows foreigners more freedom of religion than the native population. **Eritria** is roughly split between Muslims and Christians, but all religions feel the interference from the Marxist government, which is controlled by one man at the top. Religious freedom remains a major issue in Eritria. In 2002 the government banned all religious groups from meeting and openly practicing their faith without official recognition, which it granted to only four groups. As a result many leaders and lay members are in prison or under house arrest. In spite of the persecution, Evangelicals are on the rise in Eritria. However, with so many of their leaders in prison or in exile, there is a great need for new leaders to come forward. **Somalia** is by far the most dangerous place for Christians in the Horn of Africa. The Islamist government inflicts what amounts to religious tyranny over the minority of Christians who remain there. Christians are under heavy persecution and face death for the slightest infraction of sharia law. Christians are often murdered by Muslim extremists.*

# Week 6

February 5<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup>

---

*"As long as there are millions destitute of the Word of God and knowledge of Jesus Christ, it will be impossible for me to devote time and energy to those who have both." – J. L. Ewen*

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

*"No one has the right to hear the gospel twice, while there remains someone who has not heard it once." – Oswald J. Smith*

# ***Fasting***

*The following excerpt is from a list of reasons to fast from an essay on fasting written by Dr. David Cooper, Senior Pastor of Mount Paran Church, Atlanta, GA:*

***Fasting To Confess Our Sins** (1 Samuel 7:6). "Fasting is connected with confession of our sins when we have wandered away from the Lord. Samuel led Israel in a time of confession and fasting which led to spiritual renewal. Confession means to openly admit our sins to God and to receive His forgiveness. Confession brings cleansing: 'If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness' (1 Jn 1:9). Confessing our sins to each other is an important part of real repentance: "Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective" (Jas 5:16). Confession brings healing into our lives." Fasting to confess our sins is also a primary means of spiritual restoration. Humbling ourselves in fasting frees the Holy Spirit to do His special work of bringing conviction in order to lead us to revival (John 16:7-11). When we yield to the Holy Spirit He changes our relationship with God forever and takes us into a deeper life with Christ. Fasting for the purpose of spiritual restoration gives us a greater awareness of God's reality and presence in our lives.*

*"Our spiritual power does not lie in money, genius, plans, or dedicated work. Rather, power for spiritual conquest comes from the Holy Spirit as people seek God's face in consecrated, diligent prayer with fasting."*

*Bill Bright*

# Week 7

February 12<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup>

*“When He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth...” John 16:13*

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

*Pray for Christians who are being persecuted in India today.*

# The Militant Hindu

*The popular picture of the Hindu in the West is that of a peaceful and tolerant person who embraces all and rejects no one. However, there is a militant brand of Hinduism that rivals the Islamic extremism that is at war with the West. Modern India was created as a secular state with constitutional guarantees of freedom of religion, but from the moment of its birth the ideal of a free, unified and tolerant democracy was shaken by communal violence. As the last remnants of colonial governance were swept away, India violently fractured into separate Hindu and Muslim nations. In the half century since its creation, India has erupted into mob violence on numerous occasions as neighbors fought along sectarian lines. The last wave of death and destruction was caused by devout Hindus' demand to rebuild a temple to Ram on the site of a mosque at Ayodhya; the issue swept the pro-Hindu BJP party into power in national elections during the 1990's. While in power the BJP enacted anti-conversion laws aimed primarily at the very small Christian minority in India who are seen as a threat to their dream of creating a Hindu "Rashtra" (nation). Their actions, which often include violence and threats of violence against Christians, are founded upon an intense nationalism that accepts Hindu culture as the only legitimate, culture of India. In many areas of India, Christians live in relative peace and security, as long as they keep to themselves and do not attempt to convert any Hindus to the faith. However central to our faith is our Lord's command to "go and make disciples" of every nation and not to rest until we have done all we can to bring every lost soul to the cross of Christ.*

# Week 8

February 19<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup>

*The Lord did not tell us to build beautiful churches, but to evangelize the world" – Oswald J. Smith*

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

*Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice, and let them say among the nations, "The LORD reigns!" 1 Chronicles 16:31*

# Nepal and Bhutan

*Nepal and Bhutan are neighboring states high up in the Himalayan Mountains and separated by only a thin strip of Indian Territory. Until recently, Nepal was a hereditary monarchy, but in 2008 became a constitutional republic. A strong Maoist faction is battling with other parties for control of the government which has led to much political instability in the land. In spite of much opposition and hostility, the church in Nepal has grown from only 29 believers in 1952 to almost one million today. Nepal is enjoying a window of opportunity for the gospel to be advanced and for souls to be saved. Although persecution against them still exists, Christians in Nepal are hoping and praying for their leaders to continue to exercise more grace, peace, and tolerance for religious activity in Nepal.*

*The state religion of Bhutan is a form of Tantric Buddhism that is believed to be a path to enlightenment or "god consciousness". There is little or no tolerance for other religious beliefs, making Bhutan one of the least evangelized nations in the world. Christians are not allowed build churches or openly practice their faith. The so-called Border Ministries are about the only way Christians are able to overcome the opposition to reaching the people of Bhutan. Bhutanese and Indian Christians are actively involved in evangelism and literature distribution along Bhutan's border and many Bhutanese have come to Christ through these ministries. A few fortunate Bhutanese students are fortunate to study abroad and have come into contact with Christians in this way. Scripture translations, audio recordings, and shortwave radio are able to penetrate the boarders of the country, and are making an impact. But still much needs to be done for the unreached people of Bhutan to have the opportunity to hear the "Good news" of salvation in Jesus Christ.*

# *Week 9*

February 26<sup>th</sup> – March 4<sup>th</sup>

---

*“You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only  
you shall serve.” Matthew 4:10*

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

*"Prayer is the mighty engine that is to move the missionary work."  
A.B. Simpson*

# North and South Korea

*The stories for Christians in North and South Korea are as different as night is from day. Repression from North Korea's eccentric dictator has all but wiped out Christians in the North. The few Christians that survived the murderous regimes of the North are either in prisons or are hiding deep underground. There is zero tolerance for missionaries and the Bible is a banned book. North Korea's mismanaged economy and isolationism has left the nation in ruins; the people are suffering from chronic food shortages and malnutrition which the centralized government is unable to cope with. After the devastation of the Korean War, South Korea slowly emerged as a modern industrialized nation and today is one of the richest countries in the world. The South's Christians experience total religious freedom and represent approximately 1/3 of the population. About 1/3 of the South's population are Buddhist, Ethno-religionist, Chinese, Bhai', and Muslim. The remaining South Koreans practice no formal religion, but many follow the teachings of Confucius. Most Christians in S. Korea are strong believers and the Korean church has developed a good reputation for sending out missionaries around the world. At the same time, Christian leaders in Korea have made a number of significant contributions to Korean society in politics and industry. The church in Korea is sustained by powerful, sacrificial and passionate prayer. Most Protestant churches begin and end each day with prayer meetings – some of which go on all through the night. Six of the ten largest churches in the world are found in South Korea. And some of the largest theological institutes in the world are also found there. Although Korea's Christians number only around 15 million, the Korean Church today sends out more missionaries than any other country except the U.S. In terms of missionaries per congregation, Korea sends one missionary for every 4.2 congregations, which places it 11th in the world. (The U.S. does not rank in the top 10.)*

# Week 10

March 5<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup>

---

*“For it is by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.” Ephesians 2:8, 9*

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

*“We talk of the Second Coming; half the world has never heard of the first.” – Oswald J. Smith*

# The Philippines

*The 7,250 islands that make up the Republic of the Philippines stretch across 300,000 sq. km of ocean. More than 92% of the population is Christian (76% of those are Roman Catholic). However, the nation is plagued with deep social and economic problems that keep most Filipinos living in hopeless poverty and despair (30% live below the poverty line). There is a massive gap between the rich and poor which is perpetuated by a corrupt government, corporate protectionism, and a lack of foreign investment. All of this leads to social and political unrest and high crime rates. A number of things are needed before the Christians in the Philippines can reach their full potential and receive the blessings God intends for them:*

- *A government filled with Christians who will actively pursue Justice and righteousness as public servants*
- *An end to the systemic corruption and graft that paralyses the economy and government services*
- *Large numbers of Christians (especially those of Roman Catholic backgrounds) need to turn away from long-held traditions steeped in superstition and witchcraft*
- *A new spiritual vitality in the Protestant churches that is rooted and grounded in a true biblical faith.*

*Because of Christianity's long history and the freedom of religion that believers enjoy, the Philippines nation has a great potential to become a spiritual and economic blessing – not only to its own people, but also to the surrounding nations.*

# ***Week 11***

**March 12<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup>**

---

*“He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years.” Revelation 20:2*

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

*“The Gospel is not an old, old story, freshly told. It is a fire in the Spirit, fed by the flame of Immortal Love; and woe unto us, if through our negligence to stir up the Gift of God which is within us, that fire burns low.” – Dr. R. Moffat Gautrey*

# Snakes Cows & Bulls

*Snakes, cows and bulls are sacred in Hindu religion. They have powerful symbolic meanings that help define the gods and goddesses associated with them. The snake (naga) is associated with Shiva because it is seen as both a destroyer and a protector of human life. The cobra has a special place in Hindu mythology; it is lethal, yet it adorns Shiva's neck as his protector. Snake deities are often depicted as half-human and half-snake, and offerings of milk, incense and food are left at sacred shrines in honor of the snake gods. The cow in Hindu mythology represents fertility and abundance. The cow is worshiped as the incarnate form of the Great Goddess who nourishes and sustains life. More recently, the cow has come to symbolize "Mother India", the mythical embodiment of the modern state of India. The great white bull, Nandi is Shiva's mount that he rides into battle against his enemies. To this day, devout worshipers of Shiva may honor with elaborate funerals the passing of large a white bull that resembles Nandi. In Deut. 4:15-40, God warns His people to beware of idolatry. Idol worship is more than bowing down to harmless bits of wood, stone, or metal; it is the worship of the attributes of the creature over its Creator. Through idols fallen humanity worships the strengths and attributes of mankind, animals, and the grandeur of the universe. Idols can also represent the evil characteristics and practices that worshiper sometimes hopes to quench and sometimes wants to reinforce depending upon what suits them. Deuteronomy offers hope to those who turn from idols: "... when you turn to the Lord your God and obey His voice..." He will not forsake you.*

*Someone asked, 'Will the heathen who have never heard the Gospel be saved?' It is more a question with me whether we – who have the Gospel and fail to give it to those who have not – can be saved."*

*Charles Spurgeon*

# Week 12

March 19<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup>

*“And he carried me away in the spirit... and showed me the great city, the holy Jerusalem.” Rev. 21:10*

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

*“The greatest missionary is the Bible in the mother tongue. It needs no furlough and is never considered a foreigner.” – William C. Townsend*

# **Christians in Israel**

*Although there is constant pressure from the ultra-Orthodox Jews to limit freedom of religion in Israel, all religions are free to minister within their own communities. Just recently, Messianic Jews who believe in Jesus have been given the freedom to register houses of prayer and religious bodies – allowing them to openly worship Jesus as their Messiah and Savior. Messianic Jews in Israel are small in numbers, but they are growing. Estimates of the numbers of Jews who believe in Jesus are as high as 15,000. But with increased visibility, comes increased persecution and hostility. Many Jews still hold today's Christians responsible for the sins of the past against Jews. Much work still needs to be done to convince Jews that the Gospel is the fulfillment of their Jewish heritage.*

*Israeli-Arab Christians consider Israel a “safe haven” for them in the Muslim world – in 1949 Israel had 34,000 citizens of that community. Today the number is 168,000. In February 2014, a bill that officially recognizes Arab Christians as a separate national identity passed in the Knesset. The law which is a major step in a series of steps needed to fully integrate Christians into Israeli society enables Arab Christians to identify solely as Christian and separate from the larger Arab community. The bill also allows an Israeli Christian Arab representative to the panel of the Advisory Committee for Equal Opportunity.*

*Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.”*

*Acts 2:36*

# Week 13

March 26<sup>th</sup> – April 1<sup>st</sup>

*“Your wisdom and your knowledge have warped you; and you have said in your heart, ‘I am, and there is no one else besides me.’”  
Isaiah 47:10*

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

*“Many of us are missing something in life because we are after the second best, I put before you what I have found to be the best – one who is worthy of all our devotion – Jesus Christ. He is the Savior for the young and the old. Lord, here I am” – Eric Liddell, Olympic gold medalist and missionary to China*

# **Christians in Thailand**

*Only 2% of Thai people are Christians; while the vast majority (85%) is Buddhist. Freedom of religion is guaranteed in the constitution, and except for the requirement for all new religious groups to come underneath one of the government-recognized religious organizations, religious freedom is being upheld. Political instability is fueled by deep divisions in the government and the constant threat of violent insurgents – especially in the Muslim dominated south. Thailand means “land of the free”. But spiritually speaking, Thailand is in deep bondage to spiritual forces of darkness that keep the people in fear and superstition to Buddhism, cultural tradition, and occultism that few Thais have been able to come out of. Thais believe that the guardian spirit, Phra Sayam Devadhiraj, is the protector of their land and its image can be seen everywhere.*

*In spite of the efforts of missionaries, very few Thais have chosen to become followers of Jesus Christ. Growth in the church is slow at best. At the same time, the spiritual growth of most believers has been stunted by syncretism, backsliding, prayerlessness, and lack of serious Bible study. The Evangelical Fellowship of Thailand joins more than 120 mission organizations, 55 church associations and seven Christian institutions; pray for those involved with the Fellowship and for those involved with mission work in Thailand to be united in faith, and effective in evangelizing the unreached people groups in Thailand. Pray for all Thai Christians to obtain a spiritual breakthrough so that, in the Lord Jesus, the Thai may be free indeed.*

# Week 14

April 2<sup>nd</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup>

---

*“...gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.” 1 Peter 1:13*

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

*“If a commission by an earthly king is considered a honor, how can a commission by a Heavenly King be considered a sacrifice?”*

*David Livingstone*

# Christians in Japan

*Japan has one of the lowest crime rates of the industrialized nations. However, a low crime rate does not address the spiritual emptiness and loss of direction reflected by the number of social problems. Throughout the 1990s unemployment remained high during a prolonged recession, which is one of the chief causes of an increase in homelessness in Japan. Tokyo and other major metropolises have thousands of homeless people. Mostly middle-aged and older men, they were brought to homelessness and poverty by alcoholism or mental illness. Sometimes men who lose their jobs or suffer the failure of a business feel too ashamed to face their families in Japan's tradition-bound society. These people often exile themselves to one of the many communities of newly homeless people. The combination of economic recession and the high desirability of consumer goods among the younger generation make crime a growing problem. Organized crime by mobsters known as yakuza continues to be a strong force in Japan, controlling prostitution, pornography, and gambling.*

*Japan was facing a spiritual crisis after World War II, but the church did not respond in large numbers. Only a few responded and started building the church. But the work languished and today, Christians are less than 2% of the population. Besides the obvious spiritual opposition, the message of the Bible is completely alien to Japanese culture, and Christianity is seen as an unwelcome Western influence that will corrupt a pure Japanese way of life.*

*“Better is a poor man who walks in his integrity than a rich man who is crooked in his ways.” Proverbs 28:6*

# Week 15

April 9<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup>

---

*“I am the Lord your God. You shall therefore consecrate yourselves, and you shall be holy; for I am holy.” Lev.11:44*

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

*“I believe that in each generation God has called enough men and women to evangelize all the yet unreached tribes of the earth. It is not God who does not call. It is man who will not respond!” – Isobel Kuhn, missionary to China and Thailand*

# Mali, Mauritania, and Senegal

*In essence, there are no Christians in the western African nations of **Mali** and **Mauritania**. Both are Islamic States and do not tolerate any evangelization of Muslims. The growth of the church in these neighboring countries is non-existent, and Mali is actually shrinking due to overall population growth that the church is not keeping pace with. There is a tremendous need for the Gospel to somehow reach these nations that remain in darkness. **Senegal** borders the Atlantic Ocean on the west with Mali and Mauritania to the east. Even with a 91% Muslim population, Senegal is a secular state boasting total religious freedom for its citizens. Christians are not restricted from sharing their faith, but have made little impact on non-Christians. Outreaches to the Senegalese have not been met with much response. Pray for the church in Senegal not to be discouraged, but to keep trying to break through the spiritual darkness that keeps the people in bondage. At the same time, attempts are being made by more radical, fundamentalist Muslims to turn Senegal into an Islamic state ruled by sharia law. Strong biblical training for pastors, missionaries, evangelists, and ministry leaders in Senegal is needed for all three of these nations. All of these nations are poor and there are few financial resources available to the church for outreach and giving to help the many destitute who live there. Pray for more effective means to communicate the gospel to reach these nations.*

*It's not that God has a mission for his Church in the world, but that God has Church for his mission in the world" – Chris Wright*

# Week 16

April 16<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup>

---

*“Now when the people saw what Paul had done, they raised their voices, saying... ‘The gods have come down to us in the likeness of men.’” Acts 14:11*

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

*Pray for the people of India to be protected from deceiving spirits.*

# Yogic Powers

*Eastern religions are saturated with incredible tales of holy men who acquired for themselves supernatural powers of mythical proportions. These accomplishments, known as "siddhis", may be attained with the aid of mind-altering herbs like cannabis, ritual, mantras, magic, or secret "elixirs." Ascetics adept in these yogic arts are as much feared as respected in India. Stories abound describing the feats of determined yogis who can foretell future events, grow to the size of a mountain, shrink to the size of a grain of sand, levitate, or produce fire from their bodies. Yogis can assume any form, and it is said the most powerful can even dissolve the universe. The yogic texts consider these godlike powers to be the simple byproducts of anyone who is on the path to spiritual enlightenment. The Buddha did not encourage the practice of these yogic arts, declaring them to be more of an obstacle than an aid to concentration. But the Hindu tradition recognizes certain of these powers as the marks of a true adept. There is a huge difference between the miracles of the Bible and the feats associated with the yogis. The supernatural events of the Bible do not originate with the men and women who were involved with them; God and God alone was the source of every miracle and the human agent – prophet, priest, king or apostle – was one God chose to work through. No miracle in the Bible was ever implied to be the result of a human agent, and in fact this type of miracle is strictly prohibited as witchcraft, "For all who do these things are an abomination to the Lord, and because of these abominations the Lord your God drives them out from before you" (Deut.18:12).*

# Week 17

April 23<sup>rd</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup>

---

*“Give us day by day our daily bread.” Luke 11:3*

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

*“Radical obedience to Christ is not easy... It’s not comfort, not health, not wealth, and not prosperity in this world. Radical obedience to Christ risks losing all these things. But in the end, such risk finds its reward in Christ. And he is more than enough for us.” — David Platt, Radical*

# **Christians in Turkey**

*Turkey is strategically located on the dividing line between Europe and Asia. Turkey's population is an ethnically diverse group of Turkic, Iranian-Median, Arab, and Eurasian peoples, but they are 96% Muslims. Once the proud bastion of Christianity, with the collapse of the Byzantine Empire, came the invasion of the followers of Mohammed. The region was swallowed up by the Muslims and for several centuries ruled the largest territory in West Asia, known as the Ottoman Empire.*

*Modern Turkey began to emerge out of the ruins of WWI. Turkey fought on the losing side and was stripped of much of its territory by the victorious British and French. Today, Turkey is a part of NATO and is slowly earning respect and trust as leaning more towards the West than towards Mecca. But Turkey is a nation torn between forces of secular nationalism and Islamism. Christians need to pray that Turkey's leaders will act justly and wisely for the welfare of all of its citizens and not cave into the pressures of radical Muslims who want to turn the country into a Muslim state. Less than 1% of Turkey's population is now Christian. The nation's long, bitter, and bloody wars with "Christian Europe" resulted with the purging of practically all Christians from the region. The early part of the 20th century saw the massacre and harsh suppression of Christian Armenian, Assyrian, and Greek ethnic groups - only a small remnant survives today. Attitudes towards Christians in Turkey make it almost impossible to evangelize non-Christians in Turkey. Only a miraculous rekindling of faith with the power of the Holy Spirit behind it can bring about a resurgence of the church in this land.*

# Week 18

April 30<sup>th</sup> – May 6<sup>th</sup>

*“He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.” John 7:38*

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

*“Somewhere along the way we have subtly and tragically taken the costly commands of Christ to go, baptize, and teach all nations and mutated it into a comfortable call for Christians to come, be baptized, and listen in one location.” – David Platt*

# The Heart of Worship

*Although the word of God commands us to worship (Ps. 29:2; 96:9; Jer. 7:2; Mat 4:10; and Luke 4:8), it is not enough to worship simply out of a religious duty. In fact, worship motivated solely out of obligation is really not worship at all. In Revelation 5, John gives us a heavenly glance at true worship before the throne of God in heaven. He says in part: "Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne, the living creatures, and the elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands, saying with a loud voice: 'Worthy is the Lamb who was slain To receive power and riches and wisdom, And strength and honor and glory and blessing!'" This passage reveals that worship, when it is done from the right motives, is just and right; we owe Him that honor simply based upon who He is. True worship incorporates the whole being – body, soul, and spirit. R.C. Sproul said, "We are created in such a manner that our own humanity is fulfilled through this highest expression of love and devotion of which human beings are capable, namely love and devotion toward God." When worship becomes fixed and static, it loses its vitality; that is precisely what happened to Israel's worship by the time of Jesus. He came onto the scene at a time when the religious leaders had constricted worship within ritualistic formalities. Certain Christian denominations have been guilty of doing the same. On the other hand, the Bible teaches us that God is a God of order and decency (1 Cor. 14:40). Therefore, all worship must be done in a reverent and dignified manner as fitting a holy, righteous God.*

# Week 19

May 7<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup>

*“...and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.” 1 Thess. 5:23*

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

*“Going to church doesn’t make you a Christian any more than going to McDonald’s makes you a hamburger.” – Keith Green.*

# Gibraltar, Portugal, and Spain

*Gibraltar's tiny population depended for a long time on the presence of the British military to help this strategic piece of land overlooking the straits between Spain and North Africa. Because of tourism, Gibraltar is well positioned for outreach to the large numbers of tourists who come there every year from Europe, Africa, and the Middle East.*

*90% of Portuguese are Roman Catholic and it has only been in more recent times that religious freedom had allowed Protestants to openly meet, pray, and evangelize those who do not know Jesus Christ. However, the opening of religious freedom brought with it a number of Christian cults and New Age practitioners. Portugal's Protestant evangelicals need strength, encouragement and Biblically sound teachings to keep them moving down the right track.*

*The 50 million people who live in Spain are 75% Roman Catholic; while Protestants are only 1%. Up until the 1970s Roman Catholicism was the State religion and all others were discriminated against. Spain is now experiencing the longest period of religious freedom in its history, and a surge in Evangelical growth has followed because of it. Although still very small in numbers, Evangelicals are moving forward in the face of tremendous resistance from secular forces on the one side and the Roman Catholic Church on the other – neither of whom want to see an increase in the numbers and influence of Evangelicals in the nation.*



# Afghanistan

*Since 1973, Afghanistan has experienced almost constant strife, civil war, and invasion. The almost constant warfare has left the country's infrastructure devastated. Although the U.S. helped the Afghans rebuild their government and hold fair elections, much of the country is still controlled by petty local warlords – many of whom make large sums of money from illegal trade in opium.*

*There are practically zero Christians in Afghanistan today. The few that were there before 1970 were killed or driven out – first by the Communist regime, and then by the brutal reign of the Taliban. A new Islamic Constitution was signed in 2004. There is at least, freedom for non-Muslims to practice their religion, but the propagation of Christianity is strictly forbidden. In spite of the grave dangers to any Muslim who dares to convert to Christianity, the numbers of Christians are slowly beginning to rise. Christians have grown to several thousand in the past few years. Still there is a long, long way to go for the Christians in Afghanistan – and the road ahead for them is filled with dangers. Afghanistan remains one of the most unreached nations in the world today. There are no known missionaries in Afghanistan, but Christian radio, satellite TV, audio recordings, websites, and literature are making their way to the Afghans. Pray for better and more effective means to reach the nation to be developed and put into the hands of Afghan Christians.*

*"Jesus will judge us not only for what we did, but also for what we could have done and didn't." – George Otis*

# Week 21

May 21<sup>st</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup>

---

*“Like the appearance of a rainbow in a cloud on a rainy day... This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the Lord.”*  
Ezekiel 1:28

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

*"God is pursuing with omnipotent passion a worldwide purpose of gathering joyful worshipers for Himself from every tribe and tongue and people and nation. He has an inexhaustible enthusiasm for the supremacy of His name among the nations. Therefore, let us bring our affections into line with His, and for the sake of His name, let us renounce the quest for worldly comforts and join His global purpose." John Piper*

# Christians in Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam

*The fact that Buddhism has been Cambodia's national religion since the 15th century helps to explain why 84% of the population remains Buddhist even after the horrible reign of terror by the former Khmer Rouge government slaughtered 90% of the of the Buddhist leaders along with most Christians. Since the end of the Communist reign there have been periods of more tolerance for Christians in Cambodia, and since 1990 Christians have been allowed to worship openly, but there are still restrictions on mission activity.*

*Laos' Communist government does not allow free political or religious expression in the country. There have been periods of harsh repression of Christians by the government, but recently, there has been a slight easing of persecution. Still, the church in Cambodia is closely watched. Although the church in Laos is growing, most of the country remains un-evangelized.*

*The long and devastating war between North and South (with the U.S. supporting the defeated South) left the Communist government in firm control of the country. The authoritarian regime does not tolerate any dissent or religious freedom. Only registered churches are allowed to operate in Vietnam, but the government denies almost all attempts to register any church. Christians in Vietnam routinely suffer official harassment, discrimination, and sometimes overt persecution.*

# Week 22

May 28<sup>th</sup> – June 3<sup>rd</sup>

---

*"...for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God." Hebrews 11:10*

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

*"Does it not stir up our hearts, to go forth and help them, does it not make us long to leave our luxury, our exceeding abundant light, and go to them that sit in darkness?" – Amy Carmichael*

# Hong Kong, Macao, Taiwan

*Hong Kong and Macao are Special Administrative Regions of China. Formerly colonies of the British and Portuguese, respectively, they are now under Chinese administration. For now at least, both Regions enjoy much greater freedom than the other provinces of China. Christians in Hong Kong have made an impact in China and the Far East that is far greater than their small numbers. Hong Kong has become a starting point for many missionaries traveling deep into China. It is also a center for funding mission outreaches; and for discipling, media, and printed materials to the Chinese-speaking peoples. Macau has sunk from being a Catholic colony, to a modern-day "City of Sin" plagued by gambling, prostitution, drugs and alcohol. There is a tiny community of Protestants living and ministering in the Region.*

*Taiwan is an island Republic formed by the remnants of Chinese fleeing the Communist take-over of the mainland in 1949. A secular state with freedom of religion, Taiwan has yet to be impacted by the Gospel. Most of the inhabitants of the island are a blend of Buddhism, Daoism, and Taiwanese folk religion; only 6% are Christians. In order for Christianity to advance in Taiwan, it must overcome a vast array of spiritual forces that keep the people in bondage to fear and superstitions. Embracing the Gospel means a total break from one's past and family traditions – and that presents a real challenge for missionaries to Taiwan. Taiwanese Christians need to develop a great sense of unity and a sense of commitment to reach the unreached minority groups that are native to the island.*

# Week 23

June 4<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup>

*"Have I not written to you excellent things of councils and knowledge?" Proverbs 22:20*

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

*"Missionary zeal does not grow out of intellectual beliefs, nor out of theological arguments, but out of love" – Roland Allen*

# The Mahabharata

*The Mahabharata is an expansive Hindu epic poem of around 100,000 verses, making it the longest literary work in the world. It was written over a period of centuries and was not completed until the 4<sup>th</sup> century A.D. The epic was intended to encourage worship of Krishna, favored by the kshatriya cast of warriors and rulers emerging at the time the work was being written. The Mahabharata tells the complex story of a dynastic rivalry between two opposing royal lines, the virtuous Pandavas and the wicked Kauravas. The story reaches its climax in the catastrophic battle at Kurukshetra where the Pandavas come out victorious. Always overseeing these events is the god Vishnu, preserver and protector of humanity. At times Vishnu will participate in the events as lord Krishna, one of his incarnations (avatars) who has taken human shape to insure that right prevails. The most popular section of the work is known as the Bhagavad Gita, Krishna's sermon to the Pandavan hero Arjuna just before the final battle. In his sermon, Krishna describes the paths to enlightenment available to mankind, prescribing a path for Arjuna based upon the abandonment of desire. An enlightened mind he told Arjuna, is indifferent to pleasure and pain, gain and loss. "Prepare yourself for the fight... And whatever you do, do it as an offering to me." Today many Hindus are inspired to follow Krishna's council and enter life's battles free from any attachments to what they are told is a world of illusion. When Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth and the life," His call was upon all men to follow Him that they might have life: the fullness in this life and life eternally.*

# Week 24

June 11<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup>

---

*“And when Jesus went out He saw a great multitude; and He was moved with compassion for them...” Matthew 14:14*

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

*Pray that the Hindus will come to worship only Jesus, the sinless Son of God.*

# Christians on Cyprus

*For more than three thousand years the island of Cyprus has been subjected to numerous invasions. Cyprus was granted independence from Britain in 1960 but interference in their internal affairs from Greece and Turkey ended with another invasion in 1974 – this time from Turkey. Since then the island has been partitioned between Turkey (Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus) and the independent Republic of Cyprus that composes most of the island.*

*There are stark contrasts between the TRNC and the ROC:*

- *The TRNC is 99% Muslim, while the ROC is 94% Christian.*
- *The economy of the TRNC is heavily dependent upon Turkish subsidies and trade due to isolation from EU states that refuse to recognize Turkish control of the north. The ROC's economy quickly recovered after the seizure of the north by Turkey. Trade and tourism helps to keep the economy moving, and one-sixth of the world's merchant ships are registered in Cyprus.*
- *The ROC protects religious freedoms and is a major base for Christian organizations ministering to the Middle East. Although the TRNC is a secular republic, longstanding ethnic and cultural prejudices against Christians does not allow openness to the Gospel.*

*Two large British military bases are located in the ROC which adds to the large presence of foreign tourists that visit the island. There is also a large population of foreign workers from Asia, Africa, Eastern Europe, and the Middle East; many of these workers are Christians, but many who are not Christians are open to hear the Gospel if someone will come and share it with them.*

*"Believers who have the gospel keep mumbling it over and over to themselves. Meanwhile, millions who have never heard it once fall into the flames of eternal hell without ever hearing the salvation story." – K.P. Yohannan, founder of Gospel for Asia Bible Society*

# Week 25

June 18<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup>

---

*"He brought me to the banqueting house, and his banner over me was love." Song 2:4*

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

*"If the Church is 'in Christ,' she is involved in mission. Her whole existence then has a missionary character. Her conduct as well as her words will convince the unbelievers and put their ignorance and stupidity to silence." – David Bosch*

# Christians in Greece

*The Greek Orthodox Church has been protected by the state since the early years of Christianity. As the gateway to Europe from the Middle East, Greece has often been on the front lines of holding back invasions of Muslim forces bent on spreading their religion by force. 400 years of Turkish rule ended in 1827, but since then Greece has experienced a lot of political instability and ethnic tensions. Hostility against Turkey reached a boiling point over the Turkish invasion of Cyprus in 1974. Since that time hostilities have subsided, but Greece's internal problems have increased over their economic woes. The split between East and West left Greece in the hands of the Greek Orthodox Church. Over the centuries Greek Orthodoxy became deeply ingrained into the cultural fabric of the nation and is an important part of their cultural heritage. This has led to a poor spiritual condition of the Church: less than 3% of the people regularly attend Church and few truly know what the Gospel of salvation is truly about. There is a great need for the re-evangelization of Greece. There is a growing recognition within the Orthodox leadership that something needs to be done, but they see the work of Evangelicals as a threat to the power and position of the Greek Orthodox Church. Christians need to be praying for increased trust and unity between all believers in Greece. At the same time, there needs to be calls from both Greek Orthodox and Protestant leaders for a spiritual revival among the Greek Orthodox congregations. Protestants need to be encouraged, educated, and equipped to go and evangelize the lost in Greece.*

# Week 26

June 25<sup>th</sup> – July 1<sup>st</sup>

---

*"He teaches my hands to make war, so that my arms can bend a bow of bronze." Psalm 18:34*

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

*"Two distinguishing marks of the early church were: 1) Poverty 2) Power." – T.J. Bach*

# Ramayana

*The Ramayana is the second of the two great epic poems of Hindu India. Written in Sanskrit, the classical and literary language of India, it can be read in its original language only by the priestly, learned, cultivated castes in India. However, scenes from the Ramayana are a favorite topic in Indian art and the story is performed in many forms in modern India. The annual Hindu festival of Dasahra celebrates Rama's victory over the evil king Ravana and his demon army. The festival encompasses nine days of fasting throughout India, during which the epic tale of Rama and his wife Sita is narrated. The story is acted out as the "Ramalila", a drama with music, dance, and elaborate costumes. In villages, small towns and big cities huge effigies of Ravana, his brother, and his son are paraded through the streets. Stuffed with fireworks, they explode in bright colors when set alight by an effigy of Rama. The central theme of the Ramayana is the great love of Rama and Sita expressed in pure marital bliss – a love disturbed by the interference of the greatest demon, Ravana who kidnaps Sita, forcing Rama to spend many long years in search of her. Finally, with the aid of the powerful and benevolent monkey god, Hanuman and his forces, Rama is able to rescue his beloved Sita and destroy Ravana with his demon forces. The Song of Songs in the Bible is another divine love song. In it we see the reflection of Jesus, the perfect lover of our souls, and every description of love in the Song finds fulfillment in Him. He is the one among ten thousand, the Rose of Sharon, the Lily of the Valley – altogether lovely and wanting us to be as lovingly faithful to Him as he is to us.*

# Week 27

July 2<sup>nd</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup>

---

*“... Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”*  
*John 20:29*

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

*Pray that the billions of people who have not yet heard the Gospel of the kingdom will have the opportunity hear it.*

# Children in the 1040

## Window

*The most of the children who live in the 69 nations of the 1040 Window are found across northern Africa, the Middle East and Central and South Asia. 90% of the world's poorest of the poor children struggle to survive in this Window. Most of them will grow up and die without ever having had the chance to hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ - not even once!*

- *Two-thirds of the world's children live in the 10/40 Window. Most do not have adequate health care, education, food, access to clean drinking water, etc.*
- *95% are not evangelized.*
- *87% are living on an average of less than \$1 per day per family.*
- *In many of these nations witnessing the Christian Gospel to these children is illegal and will result in imprisonment or death.*
- *45 of the 50 worst countries in the world for persecution of Christians are in the 10/40 Window.*
- *Child prostitution and child slavery run rampant in many of these nations.*
- *Horrific abuse of women and children remains unchecked, including an epidemic of pedophilia.*
- *A majority of the world's terrorist organizations are based in the 10/40 Window, and children as young as 18 months old are trained to be Jihad soldiers.*

*Though the needs are both and desperate and urgent, only 5¢ out of every \$100 spent on missions globally is directed toward the 10/40 Window. That's 0.0005% of all missions money designated to bring the Gospel to the great majority of the world's population of children!*

*"Let my heart be broken with the things that break God's heart"  
Bob Pierce, World Vision founder*

# ***Week 28***

**July 9<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup>**

---

*“Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow...and yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.” Matthew 6:28, 29*

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

*"The average pastor views his church as a local church with a missions program; while he ought to realize that if he is in fact pastoring a church, it is to be a global church with a missions purpose." – Unknown*

# **Tajikistan, Turkmenistan**

*Tajikistan and Turkmenistan are both former Republics of the Soviet Union. After independence, many Christians fled Tajikistan as the result of the civil war that broke out there. Russian Orthodox Christians are allowed to remain in Turkmenistan, but in both countries Christians are severely discriminated against. Both Tajikistan and Turkmenistan are well over 90% Muslim, which makes them dangerous for Christians to openly share their faith with others.*

*Only a handful of faithful Christians exist in these countries. Most of the Christians who remain are cultural/nominal Christians who have little or no desire to share the Gospel with their neighbors. Many of the Muslims in these countries are still influenced by folk superstitions and ancient Zoroastrian beliefs. The hope and freedom from fear that Jesus Christ brings would be welcomed news for them if only someone would be able to go to them and preach the "good news" to them.*

*Turkmenistan has seen a small window of opportunity open to them as just recently there has been a slight easing of restrictions and a few churches have been allowed to register and operate there.*

*There are at around five registered organizations of Baptists in Tajikistan. Although it is illegal to distribute any Christian literature, some foreign missionary activity has taken place: there is at least one congregation of Korean Protestants. But the government has banned all forms of foreign aid to Christians in Tajikistan.*

*"The gospel is only good news if it gets there in time"*  
*Carl F. H. Henry*

# *Week 29*

July 16<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup>

*“Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you, wherever you go.”  
Joshua 1:9*

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

*Missions is not about “What can I spare?” The question is “What’s it going to take?” Risk. Abandon. Sacrifice. Radical dependence on Christ. Everything. Are you passionately committed to God’s glory among all peoples? — AsiaLink Worker*

# Sikhism

*Although Sikhs are found throughout India, 80% of all Sikhs are found in the State of Punjab in India's northwest corner bordering Pakistan. The founder of the Sikh religion, Guru Nanak (1469-1539), rejected the teachings of all the major religions, but drew inspiration from the two major religions surrounding him: Hinduism and Islam. He preached monotheism and required his followers to abide by a strict moral code, while proclaiming freedom from the cycle of rebirths through meditation on the many names of their god, borrowed from both Hindu and Islamic traditions. The Sikh's one, transcendent, god is a concept closer to the Hindu "Brahman" (an inexpressible and formless deity who is manifest everywhere in the world he created) than to Islam's "Allah". In 1579 the Mughal emperor Akbar granted a plot of land to the growing sect so they could build themselves a capital. The result was the establishment of the city of Amritsar with the beautiful "Golden Temple" which houses the original writings of the Sikhs' founder in an ornate structure overlaid with gold foil. Sikhism started as a pacifist religion, but by the time of the tenth Guru, Govind Singh, the Sikhs reconstituted as a military order in response to a period of violent persecution against them. Today the Sikhs are known for their prowess on the battlefield and they play a prominent role in the modern Indian Army. Joshua, Judges, Kings and Chronicles describe many ordinary men who became mighty men of valor and extraordinary courage. They overcame their enemies by the Spirit of God that they might conquer the Promised Land and deliver His people in times of trouble.*

# Week 30

July 23<sup>rd</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup>

---

*“Counsel is mine, and sound wisdom; I am understanding; I have strength. By me kings reign, and rulers decree justice.”*

*Proverbs 8:14, 15*

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

*Pray for Christians in India to have Godly wisdom and understanding in all their ways.*

# **Christians in Bangladesh**

*The great missionary and founder of the Worldwide Evangelism Crusade (WEC), C.T. Studd once said, "Some wish to live within the sound of a chapel bell; I wish to run a rescue mission within a yard of hell." And Bangladesh certainly qualifies as one of those places in the world where the people live and die within a yard of hell. One of the poorest nations in the world, Bangladesh is 90% Muslim, 9% Hindu, and less than 1% Christian. The nation suffers from overpopulation, poor infrastructures, and frequent natural disasters from annual flooding and cyclones. The masses live under the heavy burden of deep poverty (more than half the population lives on less than \$1 per day). Disease, hunger, the devastation brought on by nature claims the lives of many of Bangladesh's most vulnerable citizens.*

*The government of Bangladesh is rated one of the most corrupt in the world. Political unrest and longstanding rivalries between factions keep the nation on uncertain path for the future. Border tensions with Hindu majority India adds to the instability; while extremist Islamic elements inside the nation are a constant threat to make moves to take over the government should it collapse. Although their Constitution secures freedom of religion, pressure from Islamists and a corrupt and inadequate justice system leaves almost no safeguards for Bangladesh's religious minorities.*

*In the vast plain to the north I have sometimes seen, in the morning sun,  
the smoke of a thousand villages where no missionary has ever been."*

*Robert Moffat*



# **Christians in Pakistan**

*Pakistan is in the center of the unreached nations in the 1040 Window. Of its 185 million people, 96% are Muslims. The people of Pakistan have suffered from constant political and social upheavals. Pakistan has become a haven for the training of the Taliban in their war against Afghanistan. After the Russians withdrew, the Taliban took over Afghanistan, but continued their strong presence inside Pakistan. After the U.S. military invaded Afghanistan and attacked the Taliban strongholds in retaliation for the 9/11 terrorist attack, the Taliban was forced back into Pakistan where they have remained relatively undisturbed. Christians have been caught in the crossfire of the warring factions within Pakistan. The small Christian community suffers from official government discrimination; they are not protected from attack by fundamentalist Muslims who routinely destroy lives and property of Christians under the slightest pretext. Pakistan's notorious "blasphemy law" imposes the death penalty on anyone who they claim "defames" Mohammed in any way. Life in prison awaits anyone that the extremists accuse of defiling the Quran. Extremists often use this law as a pretext to seize Christians' property, close churches, and incite mob violence against the unprotected minority of Christians. Christians in Pakistan live under a constant shadow of intimidation and fear; they are often the victims of violent crimes, but do not dare complain to officials because many of them are friends and relatives of the perpetrators. The Christians in Pakistan need the support encouragement and prayers of their brothers and sisters in Christ.*



# Christians in Myanmar

*The nation of Burma, officially the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, is bordered by Bangladesh, India, China, Laos and Thailand. One third of Burma's total perimeter forms an uninterrupted coastline along the Bay of Bengal and the Andaman Sea. Burma is the world's 25th most populous country; it is the world's 40th largest country and the second largest in Southeast Asia. The military regime in Burma is one of the most repressive and abusive regimes in the world today. The United Nations General Assembly and International human rights organizations have repeatedly documented and condemned widespread human rights violations in Burma. Internal, unresolved conflicts between several of Myanmar's ethnic groups have led to several ongoing civil wars, pitting one group against another. Child soldiers play a major part not only in the Burmese rebel movements, but also in the Burmese Army. Forced labor, human trafficking, and child labor are common in Myanmar. The military is also notorious for frequent practice of sexual violence against women and children. Less than 10% of Myanmar's population is Christian (80% are Buddhist). Government claims of religious freedom are overshadowed by the reality of persecution of religious minorities. Churches are severely restricted; the government looks away whenever Christians are coerced by an intolerant majority to convert to Buddhism. Pray for the unity of Christians in Myanmar that are often caught up in the ethnic and culture clashes within the country. Pray for Christian leaders to be voices of reason and peacemakers in their nation: "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God." Matthew 5:9*

# Week 33

August 13<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup>

---

*“...her plagues will come in one day – death mourning and famine. And she will be utterly burned with fire, for strong is the Lord God who judges her.” Revelation 18:8*

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

*“I believe it will only be known on the Last Day how much has been accomplished in missionary work by the prayers of earnest believers at home...I do earnestly covet a volume of prayer for my...work – but oh! for a volume of faith too. Will you give this? – James Fraser*

# Christians in Malta

*Malta is a small island south of Sicily in the Mediterranean Sea. The people of Malta were very early converts of Paul when he was shipwrecked and stranded on the island for three months on his way to Rome (Acts 28:1-11). Malta, considered one of the most religious nations in Europe, has long been predominately Roman Catholic (80% today), and the Christians on the island remain devout to their religion. After obtaining their independence from Britain in 1964, Protestant witness was allowed on Malta for the first time.*

*The Maltese Protestants are few, but have slowly and steadily grown; small congregations and house churches are meeting on the island. In more recent years Jehovah's Witnesses started recruiting on Malta and have established seven congregations so far. Baptist and Pentecostals are leading the efforts to reach out to the Maltese and to the many tourists that visit the island. Although official opposition to the preaching of the Gospel no longer exists on Malta, the tremendous social pressure to maintain their identity with the Roman church is a stronghold (not to mention the spiritual strongholds behind them that prevent people from breaking free of religious traditions and truly seeing the reality of Jesus Christ – 2 Corinthians 3:14 & 4:4). Pray for the Christians who live on Malta to be strong and remain firm in faith and to rise up in the power of the Holy Spirit to preach without reservation the glorious Gospel of Salvation by the blood of Jesus alone. Finally, pray for them to be effective in countering the false preaching of salvation by any other means.*

# Week 34

August 20<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup>

---

*"You want Beautiful Feet, skip the pedicure? Share the Gospel!"  
Living Waters*

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

*"If God would grant us the vision, the word sacrifice would disappear from our lips and thoughts; we would hate the things that seem now so dear to us; our lives would suddenly be too short, we would despise time-robbing distractions and charge the enemy with all our energies in the name of Christ." – Nate Saint (Two weeks before he was martyred)*

# ***Christians in Iran***

*Immediately after the fall of the Shah of Iran in 1979, an Islamic Republic was declared by new leaders. The Ayatollah Khamanei emerged as Iran's strongman and imposed Islamic Law upon the people. The opposition was crushed and most Christians fled the country, were killed, or went underground. Hostility towards the non-Islamic world – and in particular the U.S. – has grown over the years. Suspicion in the West over Iran's drive to obtain nuclear power, the restrictions on trade and sharing technical information with the Islamic state, plus support for Israel's right to exist by some Western nations have further isolated Iran's leaders.*

*Inefficiency, corruption, and government interference, stagnate the prosperity that Iran's leaders have been promising for 30 years, but so far have been unable to deliver. It is only Iran's oil exports keep their economy afloat. The younger generations of Iranians are especially dissatisfied with their rulers, and took to the streets to protest the corrupt political system. All of this makes Iranian youth more open to the gospel: "The long and respectable history of Christianity in Persia, the Church's noble suffering under persecution and the natural bridges between Shi'ism and Christianity make for an unprecedented opportunity for church growth." – Operation World. It is hard to say exactly how many Christians there are in Iran today. Reports indicate that there is a growing underground church movement thriving in Iran, but for reasons of security no one can say how many house churches exist. But Christians in the West should be praying for their brothers and sisters in Iran who are under the constant threat of death or imprisonment for their beliefs.*



# **Christians in Iraq**

*Christians in Iraq have suffered centuries of intense persecution and discrimination from their Muslim neighbors. Often caught in the crossfire between warring factions of Muslims, the small, powerless minority (less than 2%) of Christians are victimized by all sides. From 2014 through 2016 an extremist Islamic State controlled large swaths of Iraq, using mass murder, public beheadings and the enslavement of women and girls to subjugate captured territories. Seeking the realization of their dream to be the start of a new Muslim Caliphate, large parts of northern Iraq were brutally cleansed of Christians, Yazidis and other religious minorities that were forced to flee or die at the hands of their captors. Terrified Christians fled their homes with only the clothes on their backs, while the ISIS occupiers went to work destroying churches, religious shrines, and selling off church artifacts to fund their campaign of terror. The few Christians who dared to remain behind became targets for bloodthirsty ISIS fighters. It was later learned that a number of churches were being turned into torture chambers to brutalize Christians who refused to convert to Islam.*

*Most of Iraq's Christians who fled the northern third of the country have not returned to Iraq from neighboring Kurdistan where they live as impoverished refugees. The Christians who remain in the areas controlled by the government of Iraq live in fear; they have little or no protection from the government. Christians in Iraq need our prayers and all the help they can get from Christians who live in safe areas outside of the 1040 Window.*



# Catching Foxes

*“Catch the foxes for us, the little foxes that spoil the vineyards, for our vineyards are in blossom.” Song of Songs 2:15. If they were honest, most Christians would admit that much of their prayer time is a struggle to concentrate on our Father in heaven. We are too easily distracted by the things of this world. Not just our trials or difficulties, but more often with the mundane things. We pray “give us this day our daily bread” and instead of concentrating upon Jesus Christ the “bread of life”, we start going over our shopping lists and the ingredients for Sunday supper. While we are praying “thy kingdom come, thy will be done” thoughts about our work, business, or summer vacation plans intrude upon our meditations on the heavenly realms where Jesus is seated on His throne. Sometimes it seems that only when a crisis comes that our mind becomes really focused in prayer. It is only when we discover the true meaning of prayer that we will use prayer as a means to practice the art of abiding in the presence of God. Prayer then becomes the means to leave behind the hundred “little foxes” that run through our thoughts every day and cause us to miss the present reality of the kingdom of heaven that is within each and every one who has been born of the Spirit. Salvation is found in the presence of God; it is only when we lift up our eyes in prayer from the temporal things around us and look beyond our horizons to the spiritual realm – the hills where God dwells – that we will see the Lord. It is only when we are in God’s presence that Salvation (healing, health, prosperity, mercy, etc.) comes to us.*



# Muslims in India

India's 150 million Muslims are the country's largest minority, and make India the 2nd largest Muslim population in the world today. Muslim traders introduced their religion to India in the 7<sup>th</sup> century AD. Later, Muslim conquerors came and established control over vast areas of India. By the 13<sup>th</sup> century AD, Islam was permanently embedded in the Indian sub-continent. The Islamic religion's zeal to gain converts by any means necessary made Muslims of many Indians. In regions where Muslim kings ruled, the architectural achievements left a lasting legacy for all of India. The Taj Mahal, known throughout the world as a symbol of India, is a prime example of the Muslim architecture of India. During the British colonial rule of India in the 19<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, there was relative calm between Muslims and Hindus as they united in their opposition to the British. But as independence drew near, Muslim separatists demanded their own country to be created out of Muslim majority states. Despite Mahatma Gandhi's best efforts, India fractured into separate Hindu and Muslim nations at the end of British rule. The transition was marked by social upheaval and massive violence, as approximately 14 million Indians were displaced as Muslims fled to Pakistan and Hindus fled to India. Conservative estimates are that 500,000 people died in communal violence during this period. Most of the time India's Hindu and Muslim populations live in peace, but violence can erupt at any moment between the two, and unless the government steps in quickly, it can spread out of control causing death and destruction.



# **Christians in Lebanon**

*Lebanon was at one time the commercial hub of the Middle East and enjoyed peace and the fruits of being a prosperous people. Then changing Christian-Muslim demographics and the influx of 300,000 Palestinian refugees began to tear apart the social fabric of the nation. By 1975 Lebanon became the focal point of the Palestinian crisis; and radicalized Palestinian Muslims wanted to forcefully take control of the country. Fifteen years of civil war and sixteen years of occupation by Syria left most of Beirut in ruins and the economy in shatters. Foreign investment in Lebanon ceased during the long civil war, and most of Lebanon's best and brightest fled the country. Today's Muslim majority Lebanon is a pale shadow of the once beautiful, peaceful, and prosperous nation it was 45 years ago. The Christian population of Lebanon has dropped from 53% to around 35% today, and the immigration of Christians from Lebanon presents a challenge to the church there. Christians do enjoy more freedom of religion than in any other Muslim-majority nation, but that may not last. Believers from other countries closed to Christianity try to make their way to Lebanon where they can receive Bible teaching and training. Pray for this religious freedom to be protected by Lebanon's leaders. The church in Lebanon remains divided between different denominations. Pray for the spirit of love and unity to be restored in the Lebanese churches. Christians in Lebanon need good spiritual leaders who will not only work to reach the unreached, but will also disciple new believers to move the church forward and restore all that was lost.*



# *Algeria, Libya, Tunisia*

*The secular government of Algeria has not been accommodating to Islamist groups and will strike against any militants who try to disrupt the absolute power of the President and ruling elites. Although Christians are less than 1% of the population, they face intense persecution and discrimination from the government. In spite of intensifying persecution aimed at completely wiping out the helpless Christians, the church in Algeria has seen some growth from bold witness and evangelism. Pray that the Christians in Algeria will stand up to these pressures with faith and perseverance.*

*Since the fall of strongman Muammar Gaddafi in 2011, Libya has been in a state of political turmoil. By 2014 Libya was declared a "failed state" and the government is barely holding on against more extremist factions that are fighting for control of country. Libyan Christians (less than 3%) are severely restricted and open evangelism is absolutely forbidden.*

*Tunisia has resisted the rise of extremist groups of militant Muslims. But Tunisia's 99% Muslims put heavy restrictions on the church (they cannot own land nor have a bank account); and Christians are forbidden from sharing their faith with Muslims. Christians in Tunisia are predominantly nominal, expatriate and Catholic. But through Christian broadcasts, some new believers are being made. Pray for the few Christian converts in Tunisia because they are at extreme risk of becoming victims of physical harassment and violence.*

# Week 40

October 1<sup>st</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup>

---

*"The Great Commission is not an option to be considered; it is a command to be obeyed" – Hudson Taylor*

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

*"The motive is this, 'Oh! that God could be glorified, that Jesus might see the reward of his sufferings! Oh! that sinners might be saved, so that God might have new tongues to praise him, new hearts to love him! Oh! that sin were put an end to, that the holiness, righteousness, mercy, and power of God might be magnified!' This is the way to pray; when thy prayers seek God's glory, it is God's glory to answer thy prayers." C. H. Spurgeon*

# Christians in Egypt

*For over 1,000 years Egypt was a Christian majority nation. For several centuries, Egypt was an important center for Christianity, providing some of its greatest theologians. The monastic movement that guided many of the most devout Christians for several centuries originated from the Coptic Church in Egypt. Although reduced in size by centuries of persecution from Muslim rulers, the Coptic Church in Egypt remains the largest body of Christians in the Middle East and is a strategic area from which to evangelize the Middle East and across North Africa. Persecution of Christians in Egypt has increased in intensity with the recent rise in militant Islam. After the fall of longtime President Mubarak, the Coptic Church has come under increasing attack.*

*A very small number of Protestants have come out of the ranks of the Coptic Christians, and are slowly growing in numbers, but they lack the resources and leadership training for going out and making many more disciples. Christian radio and TV broadcasts are reaching larger numbers of Egyptians, along with the Internet, but more needs to be on the ground. Pray for more dynamic leaders to rise up and be trained from all denominations in Egypt. Pray for Christians in Egypt to stand firm in the faith and not to waver in their convictions in this time. Pray also for the Egyptian church to receive a vision for outreach and growth.*

*“Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? As it is written, “For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.” Romans 8:35-36*



# Languages of India

*It can be said that India is one nation divided by four castes, 18 languages, 1,600 dialects, and a multitude of cultures dispersed throughout 4,636 separate communities. What the ties are that hold this diverse nation together is the subject of much debate in India. They cannot be the bonds of race, for a rich variety of ethnic groups exists there. Not only that but how people live, what they wear, and what social and religious practices they follow change from region to region. In fact everything that can be used to divide and fracture a people exist in India – differences in race, religion, custom, language, etc. And yet somehow in all of this crazy-quilt diversity a national ethos emerges that is uniquely Indian. India's languages fit roughly into two major groups: Indic (or Indo-Aryan) and Dravidian. The languages of the South are mostly Dravidian, while most of the languages of the north are rooted in Sanskrit. Hindi is the closest thing India has to a national language, but attempts to declare it the official language of the country are always met with overwhelming opposition. It is surprising to discover that a foreign language, English, is on the list of official languages recognized by the government of India. After making the Indian sub-continent the prize jewel in their Empire, the British introduced English as the official language of commerce in India in order to unify the region and make trade more efficient. After India won its independence, it retained English as the preferred language of commerce. Even today, English is often used as a "bridge" language between Indians who speak different mother tongues, and is familiar to almost all well-educated Indians.*



# Gambia, Guinea, and Guinea-Bissau

90% of **Gambia's** 2,000,000 people are Muslims. However, most Gambian Christians experience more religious freedom than in the Middle East. Situated on the West Coast of Africa, Gambia is known for its relaxed and peaceful relations between different religious communities. The relative peace and security of Gambian Christians has led of them to become content with being "nominal Christians." There is a great need for the Christians in Gambia to be energized and become much more committed and dedicated to their faith. Almost 90% of **Guinea's** population is Muslim. Like Gambia, there is relative freedom of religion in Guinea. In recent years the intolerance by Muslims over Christians has been on the rise. The majority of Guinea's Christian population is concentrated in one small area of the country, meaning most of the nation is untouched by the Gospel. Pray for Guinea's Christian community to begin to rise up and go reach the unreached people in Guinea. **Guinea-Bissau** is split with just over 50% of the people identifying themselves as Muslims. The government protects the religious freedom of its citizens and so Christians in Guinea-Bissau have had the opportunity to develop a mature well-organized leadership able to train and disciple believers to be teachers, preachers, missionaries and future ministry leaders. Pray for Christians in Guinea-Bissau to continue to live in peace and security from encroachment of more militant Muslims who would seek to destroy the freedom and relative religious harmony of the nation.



# Jainism

The word "Jain" is derived from the Sanskrit "jina" meaning "conqueror". In Jainism, the goal is to conquer all bonds with the material world through the attainment of perfect spiritual wisdom ("kevala"). Jains recognize twenty-four "Fordmakers" as their historical teachers who achieved kevala. Each Fordmaker belonged to the Hindu kshatriya caste of kings and warriors. All Fordmakers except the last two are presented as mythical figures inhabiting "world ages" that passed many thousands of years before human history began. Jains believe that it is only through the severe denial of all emotional and physical desires that the mind can be conquered and self liberated from rebirth. The Jain religion demands an extreme form of non-violence that goes well beyond a strict vegetarian diet to encompass a lifestyle that insures no living thing is hurt. The Jain ascetic carries a brush to sweep away insects from where their feet may walk; they will wear a mask to prevent breathing in even the tiniest organism; and all food and drink must be inspected to insure no life-form is ingested. One sect of Jain believes the ascetic must go "sky clad" (naked) to live a life of total abandonment. The "sky clad" ascetics believe that clothes encourage a desire for possessions and increase the chance of life-forms being harmed. Jainism is diametrically opposite to everything the word of God teaches us about how to conduct our lives in godliness. The asceticism of John the Baptist and the Old Testament prophets was not intended to bring self-enlightenment, but was done to distinguish God's Spirit-filled messenger from the people who needed to hear God's word for that generation.



# Benin, Burkina Faso, and Togo

*The small West African nations of **Benin** and **Burkina Faso** share part of their borders and share a similar history and backgrounds. They provide a secure place for Christians to practice and propagate their faith. Formerly a French colony, Benin's Christian population is mostly Roman Catholic. Animism and tribal religious beliefs hold a strong sway over the people. The spirit of animism is very strong in Burkina Faso. It is said that the people there are "50% Muslim, 20% Christian and 100% animist." The churches in Benin and Burkina Faso are in desperate need of developing well-trained, biblically educated and holy-living leaders who are capable of making true disciples of Jesus Christ who are free from ancient fears and superstitions.*

*After a brief period of religious discrimination, Christians in **Togo** today enjoy religious equality and almost complete freedom to practice their faith. Evangelical and Pentecostal churches are on the increase in Togo. Led by the Holy Spirit, indigenous pastors are planting new churches as quickly as possible. Still there is a long way to go, as more than 50% of Togo's population is animist or Muslim. Pray for the church in Togo as false teachings and overstated prosperity doctrines are also on the rise. Pray that the church in Togo will unite and stay "on mission" to evangelize the unreached people groups all around them.*

*"The best remedy for a sick church is to put it on a missionary diet."  
Unknown*



# Jordan and Syria

*A moderate Arab state and Western ally, Jordan is under constant pressure to change its foreign policy to accommodate the more radical Islamic states in the region. Jordan suffered greatly from the Arab-Israeli conflicts and relinquished control of the West Bank of the Jordan to Palestinian control. The final legal and political status of the territory has yet to be settled because Israel and the Palestinian Authority have yet to come to terms over its boundaries and settlements.*

*Islam is the state Religion of Jordan (97% Muslim), but its Constitutional monarchy guarantees the freedom of religion to its small Christian population. In spite of efforts at evangelism, the church in Jordan has dropped in recent years from 6.5% to 2.2% of the population (mostly due to immigration and faster growth rates among Muslims). Still Christians are sprinkled throughout Jordanian society and are for the most part respected. Pray for the Christians in Jordan to remain protected and for them to be “salt and light” to their nation.*

*Civil War in Syria has disrupted the lives of all Syrians, including the 6% Christian population. In government controlled areas Christians are still a protected minority, but when ISIS claimed large areas of the country, Christians were heavily persecuted. When they refused to convert, they were tortured, imprisoned, and killed. Our prayers that ISIS would be defeated and driven out of Syria were answered in 2017, the struggles of Christians in Syria are not over. Pray for the survival of the church in all of war-torn Syria.*



# The Mughals

*The first Muslims to reach India were merchants and traders. From the 8<sup>th</sup> to the 12<sup>th</sup> centuries the exchanges between Muslims and Hindus were peaceful. But after the 12<sup>th</sup> century Islamic incursions into India were marked by violence and destruction. The first Turkish and Afghan raiding parties were later replaced by Muslims set on conquest and forced conversions in the name of Allah. By the 15<sup>th</sup> century Islamic expansion in India was checked, but not before the Sultanate of Delhi ruled twenty-four provinces, including parts of the Deccan and of the Malabar Coast. At this time a new dynasty called the Mughals came to power in northern India. The six great Mughal Emperors were Muslims who were also Indians, and as a result this period saw a blending of Hindu and Muslim culture, art and literature. Akbar, the second of the Mughal emperors, is credited with building an enlightened, sophisticated and tolerant Indian culture. His economic reforms allowed officials to be paid a salary in coins; peasants were given full rights of ownership for the land they worked and were taxed according to the yield of their crops. Rather than treating Hindus as a subjugated people, he sought to co-exist with them and repealed the laws that punished Hindus. Islam still dominated the culture, but most of the Mughal emperors ensured religious tolerance, while artists, writers, and craftsmen benefited from imperial patronage. By far, the greatest symbol of the Mughal period is the Taj Mahal. The Mughal empire was weakened by the excesses of some of its emperors and quickly came apart after its last ruler attempted to enforce orthodox Islamic law on the people.*



# Morocco & Western Sahara

*NOTE: Morocco claims sovereignty over the area known as Western Sahara. The area remains in dispute, but the Moroccan government has control over 80% of the territory and keeps a heavy security force in place there. Less than 0.1% of Moroccans are Christian. Islam is the official State religion and any missionary activity is strictly prohibited. However, the church in Morocco is growing and there are about 2,000 Christians scattered in small fellowships throughout the country. Muslims in Morocco are strongly divided between the more moderate, secular Muslims and the extremists who wish to make it into another Islamic State. Pray for peace to prevail in Morocco and for Christians to be protected from the extremists who want to see them completely eliminated. Prayer needs for Christians in Morocco include:*

- *Fellowship and unity of all believers.*
- *Perseverance in the face of the fiery trials they are facing.*
- *Bibles and discipleship training.*
- *More pastors, evangelists, and ministry leaders are needed.*
- *Daily needs (daily bread) to be met*
- *Government recognition and protection of freedom of religion.*

*"I wasn't God's first choice for what I've done for China. I don't know who it was. It must have been a man – a well-educated man. I don't know what happened. Perhaps he died. Perhaps he wasn't willing. And God looked down... and saw Gladys Aylward. And God said, 'Well, she's willing.'" – Gladys Aylward*



# Chad, Niger & Nigeria

*Christians in Chad account for approximately 40% of the population. Although religious freedom is allowed, the government of Chad is unstable and notorious for its corruption and tribal favoritism of its ruling class. The ongoing civil war in neighboring Sudan and the resulting Darfur tragedy has given Christians in Chad an opening to show compassion and share the Gospel with those who fled the conflict. Indigenous workers are evangelizing many of Chad's unreached people groups, but there are many cultural and historical barriers to be overcome. More than 97% of Niger is Muslim and although they allow religious freedom, extremists are on the rise in Niger. But for now, missionary activity is allowed in Niger. Christians in Chad and Niger do not have the trained leaders or resources to evangelize the overwhelming Muslim population that surrounds them. In both places, the church needs more trained leaders with a vision and heart for missions.*

*Nigeria is often referred to as the "Giant of Africa", due to its large population and economy enriched by agriculture, minerals, and oil. Nigeria is the most populous country in Africa and the seventh most populous country in the world. The country is inhabited by over 500 ethnic groups. Nigeria is roughly divided in half between Christians, who live mostly in the south and Muslims, concentrated mostly in the north and southwest. Muslim terrorist attacks upon Christian villages in Nigeria have been on the rise, but so has church growth. Pray for integrity of leadership for Nigeria's Christians, for the purity of the Gospel message, and for false doctrines to be exposed.*



# Saudi Arabia

*Before the arrival of Mohammed, Christianity was making an impact on the people who lived on the Saudi Peninsula; one of the earliest church buildings ever found was discovered there. Ever since the 7<sup>th</sup> century, Christians were expelled from Saudi or forced to convert. Only a few small tribes were allowed to keep their Christian faith, but only if they paid the Jizya (a special tax on non-Muslims) and promised not to preach to any Muslims. The Muslim rulers considered the Jizya as material proof of the non-Muslims' subjugation to the Islamic state and its laws.*

*There are more than a million non-citizens living in Saudi Arabia today that are Roman Catholics. Most of them are Filipinos and Indians who came there to work. Another 200,000 Christians from other countries are working in the Saudi Kingdom, but Christians of all faiths are strictly prohibited from any open expressions of their faith. Items and articles belonging to religions other than Islam are prohibited. These include Bibles, crucifixes, statues, carvings, items with religious symbols, etc. Christians must worship in secret in private homes. Conversion of a Muslim to another religion is considered a crime punishable by death. The Government does not permit non-Muslim clergy to enter the country for the purpose of conducting religious services. Christians and other non-Muslims are prohibited from entering the cities of Mecca and Medina, Islam's holiest cities. The condition of Christians in Saudi Arabia clearly demonstrates the malice and ruthlessness of the Islamic system.*

*Prayer is not a preparation for the battle; it is the battle!"*  
*Leonard Ravenhill*



# The Arabian Peninsula

*Bahrain* is a tiny island nation in the Persian Gulf. Islam is the official state religion, and over 90% of the people are Muslims. The country is run by a small ruling elite tied by blood to the monarch who runs the nation. Most Christians in Bahrain are foreign workers, but there are a few thousand local believers. Pray for a spirit of unity and cooperation among believers in Bahrain and the courage to share their faith with others. Religious tolerance is high in **Kuwait**, but it is still illegal to share your faith with a Muslim; Islam is the state religion and therefore is promoted and protected by the state. Kuwaitis are exposed to Christians in business and when studying abroad. Pray for the Christians in Kuwait to be united. Also pray for more boldness in Christians to share their faith. **Oman** is another Islamic state that prohibits proselytizing Muslims. Oman's ruling monarch does whatever he can to keep Muslim extremist out of the country, while protecting the rights of the foreign workers to worship freely. Almost all Christians in Oman are expatriates; pray for them to be united in faith and bold in their witness. Also pray for openings for the gospel to be shared with the local population. **The United Arab Emirates (U.A.E.)** is composed of seven small oil rich states. The capital, Dubai, has been transformed into an international banking center and playground for the uber-rich. Like other states on the Arabian Peninsula, U.A.E. allows a higher level of religious freedom for people of all faiths, but strictly prohibits any attempts by foreigners to convert a Muslim. Pray for the Christians in U.A.E. to make the best of their opportunities to share the Gospel with other expatriates and locals.



# Christians in Sudan

*Christianity has a long history of the area of Africa that is now Sudan. Coptic Christianity was firmly rooted in Sudan by the 7th century when Islamic warriors arrived on its borders and began to pressure the people to convert to Islam. During the 19th century, British missionaries returned Christianity to South Sudan. Missionaries continued to make progress until 1964 when all foreign missionaries were forced to leave southern Sudan because of the worsening civil war between north and south. Between 1964-2005 Sudan's Christians experienced increasing levels of persecution under various military regimes. A famine struck the region in 1983 and millions of Sudanese were displaced while hundreds of thousands more died in the civil war until a cease fire agreement was signed in 2005. Severe anti-Christian persecutions grew after 1985, including murders of pastors and church leaders, destruction of Christian villages, as well as churches, hospitals, and schools. Many thousands of Christians, including women and children, were abducted and sold into slavery. The area laid waste included an area the size of Alaska. Despite the persecutions, Sudanese Christians increased in number from 1.6 million in 1980 to 11 million in 2010. In 2011, South Sudan voted to secede from the north. However, it did not end the persecution of Christians there. The attacks only escalated – particularly against Christians along the new southern border of Sudan. Human Rights organizations characterize the acts as ethnic cleansing. Christians in Sudan need prayers and assistance of their brothers and sisters around the world.*



# Christians in Indonesia

*Indonesia is composed of 17,500 islands spread out over 9.5 million sq. km. of the Indian/Pacific Oceans. Its population is as diverse as its many islands; over 750 distinct peoples live on 6,000 Indonesian islands. Most Indonesians are of Indo-Malay ethnic background, but they are also from Chinese, Pacific Island, and other peoples (Arab, Indian, European, U.S. Citizens, and mixed race). Indonesia's economy is rich in natural resources and there is great wealth there, but also great poverty (more than half of the people survive on less than \$2 per day). Pray for Indonesia to have wise leaders who will work hard to end the income disparity among the people and carefully manage their resources. Pray for a continued move toward greater freedom and democracy in the nation. 80% of Indonesians are identified as Muslim, but many are "low identity and low practice." At least 15% of Indonesians are Christian, and are frequently discriminated against and are often the target violence, threats, and official intimidation from the government. Still the church in Indonesia is experiencing growth as Moderate Muslims and many of Indonesia's vast arrays of ethnic groups are open to the gospel message when heard. The encroachment of extremist Muslims in Indonesia is a potential threat, so continue to pray for Indonesia to stay open for the gospel. Also pray for the government to become more democratic and allow more religious freedom for the minority of Christians in Indonesia.*

*"A congregation that is not deeply and earnestly involved in the worldwide proclamation of the gospel does not understand the nature of salvation."*

*Ted Engstrom, World Vision*

# ***The Journey Ends***

*For the Christian, the journey towards enlightenment begins at salvation. Once we recognize our spiritual poverty and humbly submit ourselves to Jesus Christ, we are truly "born again". After salvation, the Holy Spirit of truth comes and leads us and guides us as we begin to unravel the mysteries of the kingdom we were once alien to, but now have become a part of. No man is above his master, so as disciples of our Lord and Savior, we must pick up our cross daily and follow in His footsteps. At first we do not know where God is leading us, but in time we begin to discover a greater intimacy with Him as we press on in faith, prayer, the study of His word, and worship in spirit and truth. Enlightenment comes as we discover the "mystery which has been hidden from the ages", but is revealed to His saints. As the Apostle Paul said, **"To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus."** (Col. 1:27-28) To all those who are outside of Christ, enlightenment means something totally different; for them "enlightenment" is a form of "self-salvation" – it comes one way or another by the effort and striving of the person seeking it. But that kind of "enlightenment" does not lead to salvation. The truth is, it takes us down the path that leads to the end of salvation, because salvation can be found in only in what God has done for us through the finished work of the cross of His only begotten Son, Jesus.*

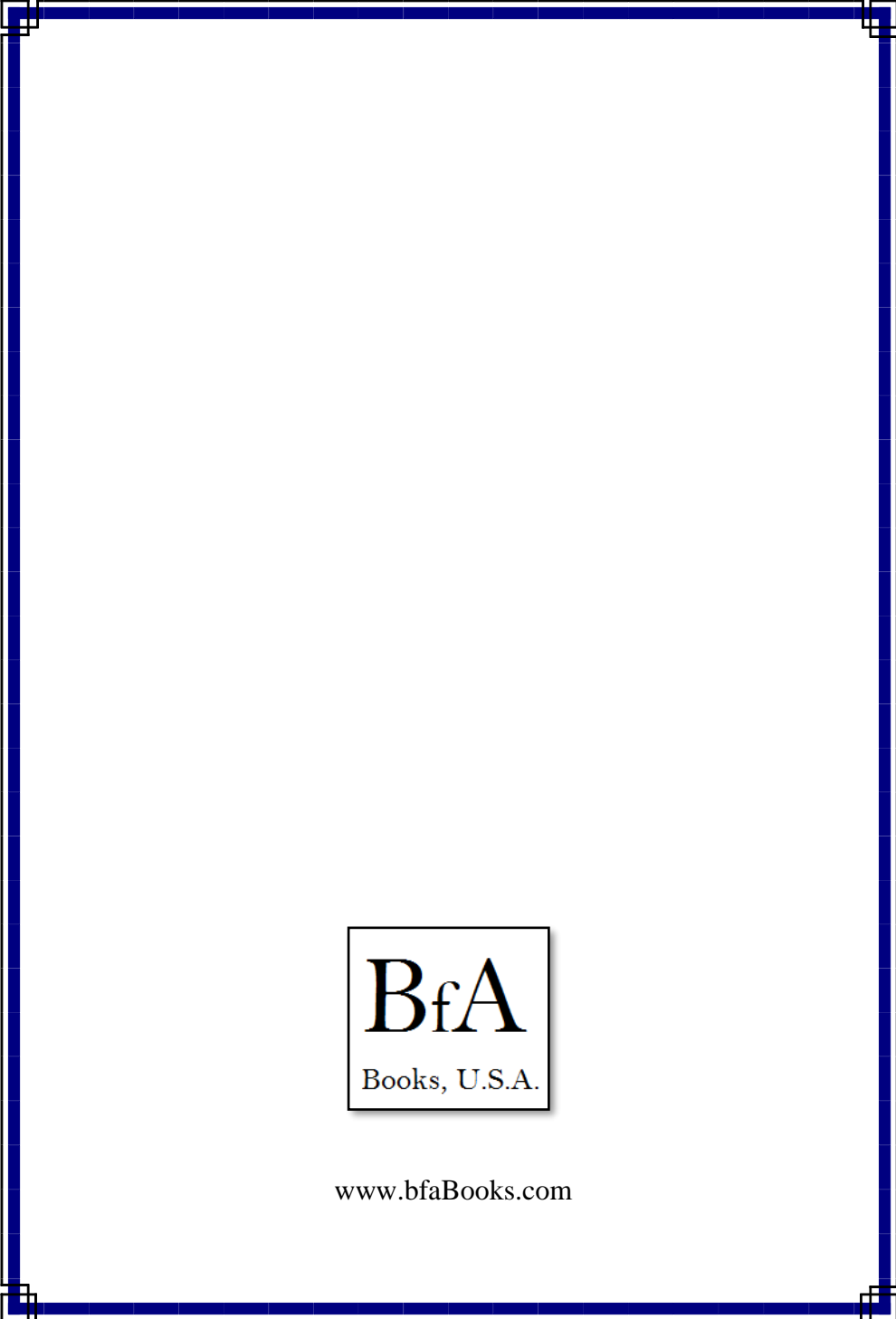
*"Give me the love that leads the way... the faith that nothing can dismay. The hope no disappointments tire. The passion that will burn like fire... let me not sink to be a clod: Make me Thy fuel, Flame of God". - Amy Carmichael*

REV. DR. FREDERICK OSBORN has traveled the world teaching and preaching the Word of God. His first trip to South Asia was in 2001, and since 2005 he has been fully involved in ministry.

In 2013 he earned his M.Div. from Andhra Christian Theological College in Hyderabad, India and in that same year was officially ordained into the ministry in a holy convocation administered by Indian pastors representing AG, CSA, and other independent ministries. In 2017 he completed his D.Min. from Covenant Bible College & Seminary in the USA. He and his wife, Deena Benjamin Lakshmallla, now live near Atlanta, GA where he continues to write, teach, and publish his books and study guides.

In addition to the books and study guides, he has delivered countless seminar teachings and sermons. These lessons have been shared and are being shared today with literally thousands of believers in India. He has done all of this free of cost to those who have benefited from his teaching materials.

He has been able to distribute thousands of Bibles, Bible study books, and commentaries free of cost to those in need throughout South Asia. He believes it is his calling to teach the unvarnished truth of the Word of God to those who have little or no resources to study God's Word on their own.



BfA

Books, U.S.A.

[www.bfaBooks.com](http://www.bfaBooks.com)