

January: Praying for Frontier People Groups

God has a plan to reach the nations with the hope of the gospel and He invites His church to be the central means through which the gospel is proclaimed. As we continue growing in our pursuit of the Lord as a church, pray that God would be growing your heart for reaching those who do not know the hope of Christ. This month as we kick off the year of praying for unreached people we will be focusing on people who have very little access to the gospel.

As a part of our monthly prayer focus this year we want to be committed as a church in growing in our dependence and devotion to the Lord through prayer and fasting. We see in Matthew 6:16-18 that fasting is an expected practice of God's people. While you and your family are spending time each week praying for unreached people, we encourage you to set aside a few hours to fast and earnestly seek the Lord on behalf of the billions of people across the globe who do not have the saving hope of Christ. If you want to learn more about what biblical fasting looks like check out the 2019 prayer and fasting study that our church did, which can be found at harvestdesmoines.org/prayer.

Frontier People Groups (FPGs) are unreached people groups with 0.1% or fewer Christians and no evidence of a self-sustaining gospel movement. There are about 4,988 FPGs with a global population around 1.9 billion. One fourth of the world live in FPGs and have almost no chance of hearing about Jesus from someone in their own people group.

Week One:

Limited or no access to Scripture in people's heart language prevents many from knowing and being able to respond to the saving hope that they can have in Christ. Pray that God would be opening doors to reach every people group in their language, whether through oral translations, like the Jesus film, or through written translations of God's Word.

Scripture to pray through: John 8:31-38; Isaiah 55:10-11

Week Two:

Pray that God would be moving mightily through His church. That every Frontier and Unreached people group would have its own gospel movement established by 2030. Pray that God would be raising up missionaries and prayer teams to intercede for and serve those who need the hope of Christ and that they would boldly proclaim the gospel.

Beloved, it is a faithful thing you do in all your efforts for these brothers, strangers as they are, who testified to your love before the church. You will do well to send them on their journey in a manner worthy of God. For they have gone out for the sake of the name, accepting nothing from the Gentiles. Therefore we ought to support people like these, that we may be fellow workers for the truth. -- 3 John 1:5-8

Week Three:

The Hausa in Niger and Nigeria. They have a population of around 40 million and are one of the most influential groups in West Africa. The majority of the people practice some type of Islam or traditional tribal religions such as Maguzawa. There is much mistrust and hostility between Muslim tribes of Northern Nigeria and Christian sects in the south.

Pray that God would be opening the eyes of this influential people group and leading them to the true hope that is found in Christ alone. Pray that the few believers among the Hausa would be fruitful in loving their neighbors and sharing the gospel boldly despite opposition and persecution.

Scripture to pray through: Philippians 1:3-11, 19-21 (Example of prayer partnership)

Week Four:

The Turks have a population of around 56 million and have an influential position between protestant groups in Europe and the Muslim world in Northern Africa and the Middle East. The majority of Turks perceive Christianity as a threat to their community and identity, and many follow Islamic beliefs which teach that the Bible has been corrupted and cannot be trusted.

Pray that the Holy Spirit would lead and empower Turkish believers in effectively engaging their people in gospel conversations. Pray that Muslim Turks would long to know the truth about Jesus and that God would do a mighty work in revealing Himself to these people.

Scripture to pray through: Acts 26:9-23 (Paul's testimony of his conversion)

More information about praying for Unreached People can be found at www.thejoshuaproject.com.