

## Tharu of India (South Asia)

The Tharu people live in the Tarai, a narrow strip of land which extends across 550 miles of the southern border of Nepal, next to northeast India. The land is forested and fertile. The Tharu people are divided into several subgroups; the Rana Tharu live in the southwestern corner of Nepal. Ethnically, their background is Rajput, members of a high caste in Rajasthan. Their houses are large and communal; a family group lives together, and the women cook together, care jointly for their children and pass on their culture and traditions to the next generation.

They have their own gods and follow a Bharra (shaman). Their religion is animist. Besides the Bharra, who treats their diseases, the village headman, bhalamansa, and the Desi-Mahajan - an Indian moneylender, are important people within the village. Ask God to use the national church planters to touch lives among the Tharu of India. Pray that a church planting movement would begin and take hold among the Tharu. Pray that the neighboring villages that have believers would be burdened to take the gospel to them.

**More Information:** <http://www.joshuaproject.net/peopctry.php?rop3=110011&rog3=IN>



## Mappila of India (South Asia)

The Laccadive Mappilla live in the Lakshadweep Islands off the southwestern coast of India. Malayalam is the state language of Kerala and its script has been significantly influenced by Arabic. The term mappilla is a combination of two words: maha, which means "great" and pilla, which is an endearing term that means "child." The people of the islands migrated from the Kerala coast around the seventh century. They came as Hindus, but later converted to Islam. The Laccadive Mappilla attribute their conversion to the work of an Arab missionary. The Bible, the Jesus film, and some Christian broadcasts are available in the Malayalam language; however, very few of the islanders have responded to the Gospel. Prayer is the key to reaching them for Christ. The Laccadive Mappilla belong to the Shafite School of the Sunni branch of Islam. Every child has to read the Koran completely in Arabic at least once, but the meaning is not explained to them. Ask the Lord to raise up prayer teams who will begin breaking up the soil through intercession. Pray that God will open the hearts of India's governmental and religious leaders to the Gospel.

**More Information:** <http://www.joshuaproject.net/peopctry.php?rop3=112857&rog3=IN>



## Tajik of Afghanistan (Central Asia)

Afghanistan boasts the largest Tajik population outside their homeland to the north in Tajikistan. Comprising over 25% of the Afghan population, they are the second largest group in the country. Dating from the 4th century, historical evidence strongly supports their being one of the most ancient of the surviving Central Asian people groups. A Mediterranean sub-group of the Caucasian race, modern Tajiks are descended from Persian peoples. A tall, slender, fair-skinned people with blue or green eyes and often with red or blond hair, intermarriage with Turks and Mongolians introduced almond-shaped eyes and straight black hair to their physical characteristics.

The Tajiks are 99% Muslim. Most of them are Sunni Muslims of the Hanafi Sect, but there are a few Ismaili Shia Muslims living in the remote mountain areas. Islam permeates every area of their lives. Rituals relating to birth, puberty, marriage, and death are all built around their beliefs. They faithfully repeat memorized prayers five times a day.

Ask God to restore political peace and stability to Afghanistan. Pray that strong local churches will be planted among the Afghani Tajik.

**More Information:** <http://www.joshuaproject.net/peopctry.php?rop3=109733&rog3=AF>



# PRAY

ONE minute...TWO times a day...  
for THREE unreached people groups

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