

Boya of India

Traditionally the Boya people were known to have been specifically engaged in carrying umbrellas during the reign of Vijayanagara rulers. They have many other names such as Bestha and Kirathaka. The Boya can be found throughout Andhra Pradesh. However, they are found mainly in the Kurnool, Anantapur and Guntur districts. They speak Telugu and use Telugu script for writing. Rice, ragi and jowar are their staple cereals. Agriculture is their main occupation. They also work as labourers on an annual wage basis. Child labour is prevalent. They live in nuclear families and follow patrilocal residence. Marriages are arranged by parents and dowry is a popular practice. A divorced man can remarry but a divorced woman is not allowed to remarry. Cross-cousin and maternal uncle-niece marriages have preference. The dead are buried. Only a small number of them are employed in government offices. Their religion is Hinduism. They worship gods such as Malavobulesu, Chettu Devara and Mabbu Devara. Pray for the salvation of the Boya people of India. Pray that they will be willing and open to follow and that the developmental programs and church planting efforts will take root among them.

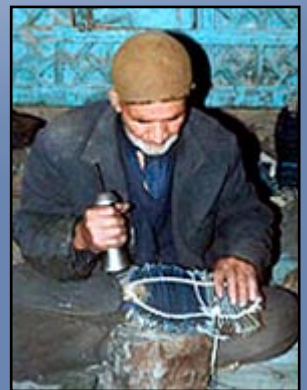
MORE INFORMATION: <http://www.joshuaproject.net/peopctry.php?rop3=111690&rog3=IN>



Vafsi of Iran

The origins of the Vafsi are unclear, and little is known about their specific lifestyle. They are assumed to be primarily herdsmen, who are closely related to the Astiani. More than half of Iran is either rugged terrain or wasteland, most of which is uninhabitable salt deserts. About one-tenth of the country is suitable for farming, and another one-fourth is suitable for grazing. Nearly one-third of the agricultural land area is irrigated, mostly in the hilly margins between desert and mountains. The official religion of Iran is the Shi'ite branch of Islam, which is followed by more than 95% of the population. Some of the most sacred Shi'ite places are in Iran; the city of Qom, south of Teheran, is a noted place of pilgrimage. The Vafsi are virtually 100% Muslim and do not have any Christian resources available to them in their own language. Iran, unfortunately, remains closed to traditional missionary work. Only sustained prayer can open the doors of this Muslim nation to the Gospel. Ask the Lord to greatly multiply the efforts of the few Vafsi believers as they share Christ with others. Ask God to raise up prayer teams who will begin breaking up the spiritual soil through worship and intercession. Pray that strong local churches will be planted among the Vafsi.

MORE INFORMATION: <http://www.joshuaproject.net/peopctry.php?rop3=110479&rog3=IR>



Talysh of Azerbaijan

The Talysh peoples (Harzani, Kajali, Karingani, Takistani, Talysh) inhabit the northwestern regions of Iran. Another group of them can also be found in southeastern Azerbaijan. They occupy a land of sharp contrasts, ranging from the high, forested Talysh Mountains, to the subtropical coastal land along the Caspian Sea. They refer to themselves as the Talushon, and speak an Indo-Iranian language that is also called Talysh. Although all of the Talysh groups speak their native language, most are also fluent in Azerbaijani, and some speak Russian or Farsi. The Talysh are virtually 100% Muslim, primarily of the Shi'ite branch. They consider Jesus to be a prophet, a teacher, and a good man, but not God's son. Since Islam is a religion of works, they believe that after death they will be judged by their good deeds and by their knowledge of the Koran. Like other Muslims, they observe the five "pillars" of Islam, which include affirming that Allah is the only god and Mohammed is his prophet, praying five times a day, giving alms generously, fasting, and making a pilgrimage to Mecca. Ask God to give the small number of Talysh believers opportunities to share the Gospel with their friends and families. Pray the Lord will reveal himself to the Talysh people and that they will be willing to follow Christ.

MORE INFORMATION: <http://www.joshuaproject.net/peopctry.php?rop3=109766&rog3=AJ>



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

AUGUST 2007

E.P.I.C.
INTERNATIONAL
ENABLING PARTNERS IN CHURCH-PLANTING