

Aimaq-Taimani of Afghanistan (Central Asia)

Aimaq live principally in Badghis, Ghor and Herat Provinces where agriculture and animal husbandry provide an economic base. Nearby, the Aimaq “capital,” Chaghcharan, and the ancient city of Herat lend economic, political and spiritual influence. As with over 80% of Afghans, Hanafi Sunni Islam is the belief system among the Aimaq tribes. Aimaq tribal customs remain stronger than Afghan nationalism, due in part to long-enjoyed independence and geographical distance from central government in Kabul. Tribal law vested in village leaders usually trumps government authority and even some Islamic rules. Perhaps with a new government and constitution, the future will see many Aimaq become more “Afghan.” Once there was a generally used, common Aimaq language. Now recent reports are questioning a unique dialect as such since few seem to speak it anymore. Dialects spoken today resemble Dari (Afghan eastern Farsi) admixed with words of Mongolian and Turkic origin. Researchers are attempting to determine if the Aimaq may be speaking Dari. Dari is spoken in schools. Pray that the Word of God would be made available to the Aimaq people. Pray that a church planting movement would take hold among the Aimaq-Taimani people.

MORE INFORMATION: <http://www.joshuaproject.net/peopctry.php?rop3=100153&rog3=AF>



Laccadive 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. 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 Laccadive Mappilla belong to the Shafite School of the Sunni branch of Islam. Their religion has the typical characteristics of Islamic beliefs and practices, in addition to certain local features that have developed according to their particular way of life. Every child has to read the Koran completely in Arabic at least once, but the meaning is not explained to them. Priesthood is inherited through the females. 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. Ask the Lord to call people who are willing to go to India and share Christ with the Laccadive Mappilla. Pray for the effectiveness of the Jesus film among these people.

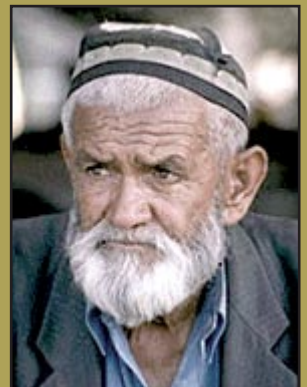
MORE INFORMATION: <http://www.joshuaproject.net/peopctry.php?rop3=112857&rog3=IN>



Northern Uzbek of Uzbekistan (Central Asia)

The 20 million Uzbeks are a Turkic people group located primarily in Central Asia. About 15 million of them live in their homeland, present-day Uzbekistan. There are also large Uzbek communities in Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan, as well as small communities in many other nations. Traditionally, most Uzbeks were semi-nomadic shepherds; however, most of those living in Central Asia today either farm or live and work in larger towns and cities. Among those who farm, the principal crop is cotton. Fruits, vegetables, and grains are also grown. Most Uzbeks are Sunni Muslims of the Hanafite branch. Like other Muslims, the Uzbeks believe that there is one God, Allah, whose will was revealed through the prophet Mohammed and then recorded in the Koran. Pray that new Uzbek Christians would understand God’s Word quickly and commit themselves to a local church where they will find strength. Ask God to call forth prayer teams who will begin breaking down the strongholds through worship and intercession. Pray that the Holy Spirit will soften the hearts of the Uzbek Muslims towards Christians. Ask the Lord to send additional long term laborers to live among the Uzbeks and share the love of Christ with them.

MORE INFORMATION: <http://www.joshuaproject.net/peopctry.php?rop3=107469&rog3=UZ>



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

JULY 2008
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