

Khmer of Cambodia (Southeast Asia)

The Central Khmer inhabit the western and central portions of Cambodia, and make up 90% of the country's total population. The Central Khmer speak a language called Khmer or Cambodian. It is the national language of Cambodia. In 1975, the Khmer Rouge regime nearly destroyed Cambodia. In order to depopulate cities, three million people were forced into the countryside as slave labor. Starvation led to the deaths of over one million people. Currency was abolished; religion was eradicated; education was suspended; medicine was forbidden; and people who could read were often massacred all in the name of the ideal of rural social reform. The former Khmer Empire was influenced by India, from which it adopted Hinduism and Buddhism. Today, 94% of the Central Khmer are Buddhist, although relics of ethnic religions such as ancestor worship (praying to deceased ancestors) and spirit worship are very important to them. Pray that God will grant wisdom and favor to any missions agencies that are currently working among the Central Khmer. Ask God to call forth prayer teams who will begin breaking up the soil through intercession. Pray that strong local churches will be planted among the Central Khmer and that Christ will be exalted among the Khmer.

MORE INFORMATION: <http://www.joshuaproject.net/peopctry.php?rop3=104946&rog3=CB>



Kyrgyz of Kyrgyzstan (Central Asia)

Although they are related to the Kazakh and other Turkic peoples of the region, the Kyrgyz look very much like the Mongols. In fact, they are the people who most clearly resemble Genghis Khan. More than any other Central Asian people, the Kyrgyz have clung to their traditional way of life as nomadic cattle breeders. They have also maintained their tribal organization. Today, the Kyrgyz live in one of the highest plateaus of the world. The Kyrgyz were first introduced to Islam during the seventeenth century. Within two hundred years, the majority had been completely converted to Islam. Soviets were never able to change the Kyrgyz beliefs, even through they tried a number of methods including changing the alphabet, outlawing religious activity, and propaganda. In fact, since 1990, over 2000 new mosques have been built in Kyrgyzstan. Today, most Kyrgyz still consider themselves to be Muslim; however, some Shamanistic practices still exist. Ask God to anoint the Gospel as it goes forth via radio to the Kyrgyz. Ask the Holy Spirit to soften their hearts towards Christians so that they will be receptive to the Gospel. Ask the Lord to raise up strong local churches among the Kyrgyz. Pray that a church planting movement would begin.

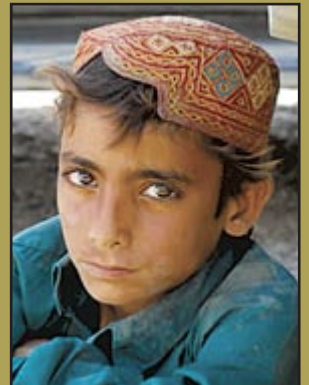
MORE INFORMATION: <http://www.joshuaproject.net/peopctry.php?rop3=AF&rop3=105550>



Baloch of Pakistan (Central Asia)

The Eastern Baloch are part of a much larger population of Baloch numbering about 8 million. The various groups speak different languages, each with distinguishing characteristics. Their homeland reaches from eastern Baluchistan to southwestern Punjab, which borders India. The Baloch traditionally earn their living by a combination of farming and semi-nomadic shepherding. Agriculture is limited because of the harsh climate; nevertheless, it plays a large role in the economy. They also depend on wild fruits and vegetables. The Baloch have been isolated for many years due to Pakistan's harsh climate, the difficulty of communicating in mountainous terrain, and their reputation as bandits. The Baloch are Sunni Muslims. Their religious practices remain private, and there is no concept of a "state religion." All forms of secular authority are separated from the spiritual authority held by religious leaders. Pray that God will raise up qualified linguists to complete translation of the Bible into the Balochi language. Ask the Holy Spirit to soften the hearts of the Eastern Baloch towards Christians so that they will be receptive to the Gospel and a church planting movement can begin. Ask God to move among the Baloch and make them disciples of Christ.

MORE INFORMATION: <http://www.joshuaproject.net/peopctry.php?rop3=102830&rog3=PK>



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

SEPTEMBER 2008

