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Bengali Muslims of Bangladesh

The majority of Bengalis are Muslims (60%), while the rest are Hindu or Hinduized animists. The Bengali of Bangladesh are the largest group and are 99.9% Muslim. In Islam, recruitment of clergy is voluntary. Any man who has a desire to study the Qur'an may do so. Then, he may eventually become the mullah (one highly trained in doctrine and holding a position in the local mosque) if chosen by the congregation.

The Bengali are one of the most significant people groups in South Asia. Although there have been reports of real progress among the Muslims in Bangladesh, a determined effort must be sustained in order to reach the Bengali with the Gospel. The city of Calcutta in India, home to many Bengalis, is a city of massive oppression, disease, and poverty. The power of evil expressed in the thousands of Hindu gods must be broken before these people can understand and respond to the Gospel.

Ask the Lord to call people who are willing to go to the Bengal region and share Christ with the Bengalis. Pray that the small number of Bengali Christians will be a light for the Gospel in this area of spiritual darkness. Ask God to raise up Christian medical teams, businessmen, and teachers to take the Gospel into this region. Pray that Christian radio broadcasts, Bibles, and other literature will be made available to the people of the Bengal region.



Bondo of India

The Bondo religion is a mixture of their traditional faith and Hinduism. Patkhanda Mahaprobhu is their supreme deity. The Bondo have started worshipping many Hindu deities like Rameshwar, Durga, Brahma and Maheshwara. A ceremony called bud is observed on the third day after a death to ascertain whether the death was natural or a result of sorcery.

Friendships with the Bondo will be needed, pray for these to be developed. The Bondo have a very low literacy rate. The Gospel message needs to be made available in oral form. Pray for the few Christian believers among the Bondo, that they will fellowship together, being united around the truth found in Jesus Christ. Pray for the Bondo community to be delivered from the false gods of this age. Pray that a church planting movement would begin among the Bondo people group and thrive.



Tuareg of Mali

The Tahoua Tuareg of Mali belong to a larger group of Berber-speaking Tuareg who live in an area that stretches from the western Sahara to western Sudan. Though the Tuareg are virtually all Sunni Muslim, they have a reputation among other Muslims for being lukewarm in their faith. They practice a passive form of Islam, infused with local superstitions and magic. Most do not even celebrate the most important Muslim fast of Ramadan. There are few known Tahoua Tuareg believers in Mali. Missions agencies working among these people are working without the benefit of the Bible in the Tamajeq language. Prayer is the key to reaching these precious people with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Ask God to take authority over the spiritual principalities and powers that are keeping the Tuareg bound. Ask the Lord to save key leaders among the Tuareg who will boldly declare the Gospel. Pray that the Lord will raise up strong local churches among the Tahoua Tuareg.