

PRAYERPOINTS

SOUTHERN BAPTISTS: A PRAYING PEOPLE IMPACTING A LOST WORLD

South Asians across the globe — dispersed but not forgotten

POOOR MIGRANT WORKERS doing the jobs nobody else will do. Refugees who flee injustice and hopelessness for a chance at life. Affluent business professionals, middle-class shop owners and blue-collar workers. A man riding the tube in London. A couple sipping tea in a Vancouver café. A family watching the tide roll in on a beach in South Africa. Students at the local university. Many South Asians chose to leave their homelands, but for others, the decision was made by previous generations. The result is a diaspora with pockets of South Asians across the globe.

They build temples, mosques and *gurdwaras* (Sikh places of worship), congregating together for significant events. Some wear the clothes, eat the food, and speak the language of their heritage. Others do not have strong emotional ties to their past but continue, at least nominally, in the religion of their ancestors.

From Singapore to Toronto, more than 20 million diaspora South Asians need to know the Savior. God is able to reach them wherever they are. Nowhere is beyond His reach.



South Asians in London

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Films take God's story to the unreachable

THE GOD'S STORIES film series is set to make a tremendous impact on the Muslim world and beyond as God uses it to reach people in some of the world's most restrictive countries. Each of the first nine films in the series tells the biblical story of an Old Testament character, while pointing to the coming Messiah. The tenth film, *The Savior*, is perhaps the best retelling ever of the life of Christ.

Filed by a Middle Eastern production company with Arab actors, the films strike a chord with Muslims throughout the world, including South Asian Muslims. In fact, the largest number of YouTube viewers of the films in one South Asian language is from a "closed" country in the Middle East!

Pray as we work to license and distribute the films that they can be dubbed into more South Asian languages and that many will be open to the Good News as they encounter Christ through these films.

"Do you not say, 'There are yet four months, then comes the harvest'? Look, I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see that the fields are white for harvest."

(John 4:35, ESV)

1 SOUTH ASIAN PEOPLES. Pray for a group of young Pakistani men in Canada to become obedient and fruitful disciples. They are bombarded with distractions, temptations, and pressure from non-Christian friends. Pray for spiritual growth and boldness in sharing the gospel.

2 MBUNDA OF WESTERN ZAMBIA (*m-BOON-duh*). Pray for the Baptist Mission of Sesheke Church, led by Mbunda Pastor Damonik,* to stay true to the Lord and to the teachings of the Bible. Ask that Mbunda believers will be examples of purity, integrity, and faithfulness.

3 TAJIKS OF AFGHANISTAN. Thousands of Tajiks are fleeing Afghanistan. Many receive packets containing gospel materials as they pass through countries like Turkey, Greece, and Hungary. Pray that these Tajiks will be open to the Holy Spirit's drawing them to Himself.

4 SOUTH ASIAN PEOPLES. A ladies' group in Toronto, Ontario, Canada, uses henna designs to tell Bible stories. This has worked well as

South Asians in Canada



a conversation starter among South Asian women. Pray for more henna groups. Pray that God will use the stories to bring many people to faith in Christ.

5 EAST ASIAN PEOPLES. At the Shibuya intersection in Tokyo, Japan, up to 2,500 people cross each time the light changes. Pray that Tokyo's 37 million people will come to know the Light of the world.

6 SPANIARDS OF NORTHERN SPAIN. Spain ranks high on many lists for their beaches, food, festivals, and more. However, a recent report listed Spain fifth in terms of countries with the highest percentage of atheists. Pray for God's movement among the people of Spain.

7 SOUTH ASIAN PEOPLES. More than 1.7 million Tamil-speaking Hindus live in Malaysia. They worship idols and seek help from statues made by human hands. Pray that God will give them opportunities to hear the Truth and that Tamil Christians will reach out to this community.

8 DEAF PEOPLES. Recently, workers in West Africa shared God's stories with a group of 20 Deaf adults. They discovered that some did not sign, while others signed but not always using the same signs. Ask the Father to help the workers learn the signs needed to tell His stories clearly.

9 TIHAMA YEMENI ARABS OF YEMEN. The Muftis* are a young married couple with no children. He is an ambitious businessman. She never completed her education, but he encourages her to do so. Pray that this couple will come to know their Redeemer.

10 SOUTH ASIAN PEOPLES. Saudi Arabia is home to 3.4 million South Asians—mostly Bengali- and Urdu-speaking Muslims. Ask that these who are often seen as the lowest strata of society will have dreams and visions and come to an understanding of their worth before God and their need for the Savior.

11 KARACHI, PAKISTAN. Gulberg Town is considered to be one of the most literate areas of Karachi. Pray for the 700,000 people of Gulberg Town to be open to the Truth. Pray that believers here will share the gospel with those who have not heard it.

12 HO CHI MINH CITY, VIETNAM. During a recent training session, Thuy* created a list of friends who do not yet know Jesus, and she began praying for those friends. None of Thuy's friends have accepted Christ yet but one is very close. Join Thuy in praying for her friends' salvation.

13 SOUTH ASIAN PEOPLES. Migration of Malayalis to the Middle East for higher-paying jobs has brought much wealth to the Indian state of Kerala. Ask that migrant workers in the United Arab Emirates will have meaningful relationships with believers who will share of the true wealth found only in Christ.

14 AMAZON PEOPLES IN COLOMBIA. Late this past year, Cuban missionaries came to Colombia to write hymns and choruses in the language and style of the E people. The songs were played on a local radio station. Pray that the E people will hear, understand, and believe.

15 PEOPLES OF SOUTHEAST MADAGASCAR. Pray that believers in the Tanala village of Ankazotsara will remain faithful in studying God's Word and in sharing the gospel in neighboring villages.

Pray that the gospel will spread through the high mountains and thick forests to all the Tanala people.

16 SOUTH ASIAN PEOPLES. Often cited as the world's least-wanted and most-persecuted people, the Rohingya have sought refuge in many countries. Pray specifically for Christian workers in Malaysia as they seek to help meet physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of these refugees.

17 DAGESTANIS OF RUSSIA (*DAHG-i-stan-ees*). Pray for workers in a new city as they search for "people of peace" (Luke 10:6) from Dagestani people groups. Ask God to bless the development of the workers' business, and pray for wisdom and strategic opportunities.

18 PEOPLE OF EASTERN HILLS AND SEA CITIES, EAST ASIA. This year, churches in "City Y" are sending out their workers for short-term and long-term missions in order to engage the unreached peoples around them. Pray that many will come to know God's abounding love through their cross-cultural mission work.

19 SOUTH ASIAN PEOPLES. Pray for productive training of local believers to confidently share the gospel, disciple, and plant reproducing churches among the nearly 700,000 Hindus of South Asian descent in the country of South Africa.

20 EUROPEAN PEOPLES. Pray for IMB personnel serving in Italy and Malta as they complete their language learning. Ask that workers will be effective in communicating in the heart language of the people so that many will choose to follow Jesus.

21 DEAF PEOPLES.

Bethany

Forrester* went for a bike ride with Terry* and two other friends. They visited Deaf friends, a temple, and a weekend market just outside the capital city. Pray for Deaf Buddhist Thais like Terry and his friends, asking that their hearts will be softened to God's truth.

22 SOUTH ASIAN PEOPLES.

Pray for Tamil Christian evangelists who are faithfully sharing the Good News among Tamil-speaking peoples in Myanmar. Pray for Hindi-speaking Hindus who have almost no Christians among them. Ask God to raise up believers to take the Good News to them.

23 SWAHILI-SPEAKING ARABS OF EAST AFRICA.

Many Swahili-speaking Arabs of East Africa are in bondage to the lie that their cultural and religious heritage is more important than the Truth. Pray that thousands will experience the spiritual freedom of a life with their Redeemer.

24 JAMMU, INDIA (*juh-MOO*).

Jammu is a place of immense darkness

Using henna designs to tell Bible stories



South Asian Muslim on a campus in South Africa



and vast spiritual apathy. Few are willing to plead with the lost to turn from their ways. Pray for those whom God has called and their families, asking that they will remain steadfast in the Lord.

25 SOUTH ASIAN PEOPLES. The United Kingdom is home to the largest Sikh community outside of India. Pray for Christians to reach out to the almost half a million Punjabi Sikhs who live in the U.K. Pray for Punjabi believers to share the gospel boldly with their friends and family.

26 ISAAN OF THAILAND (*EE-sahn*). Through your giving and prayers and the work of the Isaan Team, hundreds of Isaan people have heard the gospel, many for the first time. Pray for those who have heard to respond to God's loving voice calling them to salvation.

27 AMAZON PEOPLES OF THE AMAZON RIVER BASIN.

Xanu* recently heard part of a chronological Bible storying session while visiting family. Pray that Xanu will come to know Jesus and share the gospel with those around him.

28 SOUTH ASIAN PEOPLES. Hinduism was brought to the African island of Mauritius by Indians who worked as indentured servants of the British. Now 48 percent of Mauritius claims to be Hindu. Pray for the Holy Spirit to work in the hearts of those who do not know the one true God.

29 PEDI OF SOUTH AFRICA. Pastor Curtis* works hard to share the gospel in the Limpopo Province,

but he feels there are few people he can trust to help him. Pray that he will understand the need to trust others, and pray for courageous believers to join him in the task of sharing.

30 CENTRAL ASIAN PEOPLES. The Hemshin people live high in the mountains of Central Asia in village homes with beautiful views of God’s creation. They tend self-sustaining farms, and their hospitality is second to none. Yet there is no

gospel witness or church among them. Ask God to lead believers to the Hemshin people.

31 SOUTH ASIAN PEOPLES. They are your doctor, your professor, your neighbor, the family behind you in line at the grocery. South Asians live in cities and towns all over the United States. They need salvation. God wants you to tell them the best news they will ever hear. Pray for obedience to His will.

Hope for the homeless

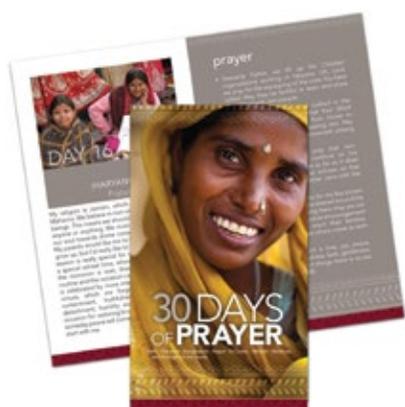
BURT* AND OMAR* sat hunched together in Omar’s sleeping quarters at the construction site where he works. As they read the Bible together, Burt said, “What I like about you, Omar, is that you search for the truth.” Omar responded, “Yes, because ‘You shall know the truth and the truth shall set you free!’” He had memorized this verse in a Sunday night English class that reaches out to Rohingya immigrants.

Omar had risked his life in a harrowing boat journey from Myanmar seeking to escape persecution. His boat had gone adrift to an uninhabited island where he survived by eating crab and licking water from a dripping rock until he was picked up by the Indian coast guard and brought to Malaysia. He has no passport and no country willing to claim him as its own. Yet, the God of all creation is drawing Omar to Him. Pray for this truth to sink deep into Omar’s heart and that Omar will embrace it as his own.

Rohingya refugees reading the Koran in their living quarters in Malaysia



*Name changed



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