

A photograph of a person, likely of South Asian descent, wearing a brown shawl and a dark head covering. They are seated behind a stone altar or table. On the altar, there are several small, dark, bowl-shaped containers, each with a lit white candle. The background is dark, and the scene is framed by two ornate, carved stone pillars. The overall atmosphere is solemn and spiritual.

guide to praying for the unreached

EAST  WEST
MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL



table of contents

WHY PRAY FOR THE UNREACHED?	3
The Need	3
Power of Prayer	4
WAYS TO PRAY FOR THE UNREACHED	5
HOW TO USE THIS PRAYER GUIDE	6
UNREACHED REGIONS	7
Latin America	8
Africa	9
Europe	10
Russia and the Caucasus	11
Middle East	12
Central Asia	13
South Asia	14
East Asia	15
Southeast Asia	16
ABOUT EAST-WEST	17
Vision & Mission	17
Get Involved	18
Connect with East-West	19

why pray for the unreached?

The Need

Two out of every five people on earth has never heard the name of Jesus and has no access to the gospel message. That means 3.1 billion people are unreached—living in total spiritual darkness. **No Bibles, no churches, and no neighbors who believe.**

Less than one cent out of every dollar given to fund missions around the world goes toward reaching these people with the gospel.

But there is hope ... and it all starts with prayer.



The Power of Prayer

"The history of missions is the history of answered prayer." —*Samuel Zwemer*

Prayer makes a difference. It changes our own lives because it renews our faith and our humility—allowing God to effectively use us to accomplish His Great Commission. It also radically changes the lives of those included in our prayer requests.

"The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective."
—*James 5:16*

It is a treasured privilege, powerful weapon against the kingdom of darkness, and foundational element in the life of a believer.

"For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms ... And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people." —*Ephesians 6:12, 18*

So today, we invite you to join us in prayer for the unreached, so the gospel may reach them, touch them, and change their hearts and the world forever.



ways to pray for the unreached

First, you'll need to decide how you want to break it down for yourself—by people group, by nation, or as a whole. This guide will break down the unreached by specific regions of the world. However, feel free to pray as you feel led.

Praying for unreached people can feel overwhelming at first because there are such a wide variety of unreached nations and people groups. It may help to focus on the similarities, especially with regard to their needs for the gospel.

Here are a few suggestions to help you get started.

- For doors to open to share the gospel among new people groups and nations
- For the Spirit to prepare hearts to hear the message of the gospel
- For the unreached to hear and accept the gospel
- For translation of the scriptures into their language
- For the meeting of their physical and spiritual needs
- For leaders and persons of peace to emerge from each people group

- That God will show himself supernaturally through dreams, visions, and miracles
- For the removal of spiritual blindness of the unreached
- For new avenues to see and hear the gospel

You can also pray for the Church and those working among the unreached. Here are a few ways you can do that to begin with ...

- For protection and strength of believers in persecuted areas
- For boldness of believers in every part of the world
- For more people to be moved to work among unreached people groups
- For more people to financially support missions among the unreached
- For open doors and creative ways to enter new countries and to share the gospel
- For believers all over the world to be beacons of God's extraordinary love among their people
- For wisdom for the leaders and missionaries working among the unreached

how to use this prayer guide

This prayer guide is designed to help set the tone for prayer over unreached regions of the world. In each section, you will find:

- An overview of the spiritual landscape
- A fact about a nation in the region
- Statistics about the reach of Christianity

With this information, you will come to understand some of the strongholds of darkness that keep the nations captive, what society is like for believers, and the urgent and desperate need for the gospel in that area. As you read through the information provided, let the Holy Spirit guide you in prayer for the lost and those who work among them.





unreached regions

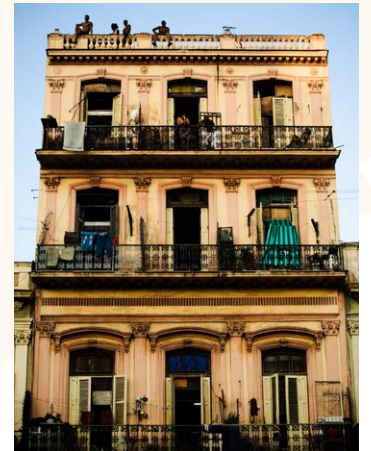
Latin America

Spiritual confusion, poverty, and oppressive societies have long kept the gospel from advancing through Latin America. But the people here are searching for hope.

Recognizing that their tribal religions cannot provide the answers they're looking for, Latin Americans are seeking truth and finding it in the gospel. In remote villages and city streets of this region, the Church—fueled by the power of the gospel message—is advancing as nationals take up the cause of Christ.

FACT In one unnamed nation, the government often sends agents to infiltrate church congregations in order to monitor what pastors and members say.

STATS In Latin America, East-West works among the unreached in one nation. Only 8.6% of this population are considered evangelical Christians.



Africa

Ministry in Africa is challenging due to the large pockets of remote people groups. With limited access to even the most basic essentials of life, Africans look primarily to meet their physical needs. But poverty is not the only hindrance to the gospel.

Traditional churches emphasize religious legalism rather than sharing the gospel—keeping their growth small or stagnant. The burden of spreading the gospel, therefore, falls upon the few who dare to challenge the traditional ways.

FACT Only about 124 churches (including house churches) exist in Libya, and the evangelization of Libyans is prohibited.

STATS In Africa, East-West works among the unreached in 14 nations. Only 13.4% of this population is considered evangelical Christians.



Europe

A battle rages in Europe for the heart and soul of the European nations. Atheism and minority religions lay claim to many of them. Varying political and social environments present unique trials for each country in the region.

But a spark of true faith has ignited in Europe and is slowly growing into a steady flame. East-West fans the flame of faith in this region by training local believers to share their faith in Christ and plant churches. As immigrants and refugees pour into this region, believers are equipped to spread the life-giving message of the gospel with them ... touching many nations with the love of Christ.

FACT In one European nation, courts have ruled that authorities have the right to raid any unregistered place of worship, putting Protestants and house churches at risk.

STATS In Europe, East-West works among the unreached in six nations. Only 1.4% of this population are considered evangelical Christians.



Russia and the Caucasus

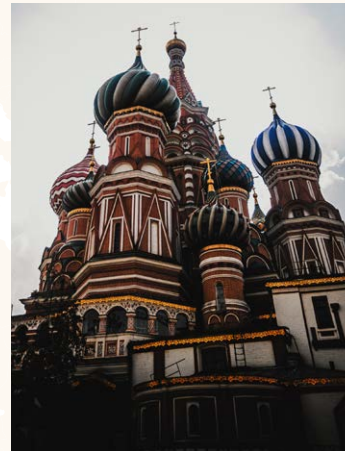
Since the fall of the Iron Curtain, periods of unrest have changed the cultural landscapes of Russia and the Caucasus. A blend of cultures and false religions characterizes these regions ... resulting in a desperate need for Jesus Christ.



Persecution plagues the believers of the Caucasus. A wide variety of people groups populate the expanse of this region—requiring a wide range of unique strategies to reach the people. But despite the trials believers are facing, nationals are taking a stand for in Russia and the Caucasus.

FACT In one former Soviet nation, a law requires that all religious literature sold or imported must have official permission, putting many churches at risk of being raided and all literature confiscated.

STATS In Russia and the Caucasus, East-West works among the unreached in three nations. In this region only 0.93% of this population are considered evangelical Christians.



Middle East

Broken and searching. These words characterize the people of the Middle East to whom we minister: the alcoholics, the drug addicts, the homeless, the refugee. Due to the turbulent environment of Middle Eastern countries, those who are most broken often do not find the help they need.

Personal evangelism and discipleship are the foundation of our ministry in this region. By ministering to the suffering, doors are being opened to penetrate the deep spiritual darkness of this region with the grace of God.

FACT In one Middle Eastern nation, protestant pastors are forbidden to preach in Farsi, the country's official language, and open witnessing to Muslims is forbidden.

STATS In the Middle East, East-West works among the unreached in seven nations. Only 0.41% of this population is considered evangelical Christians.



Central Asia

Bearing a heavy burden for their own people, believers in Central Asia are responding to the call of the Holy Spirit to spread the gospel. Despite persecution, these believers desire to see the Kingdom of God triumph over the fleeting power of Satan.

East-West comes alongside these committed believers to equip them in evangelism and church planting, so that they may one day realize their dream of seeing one Lord over all of Central Asia.

FACT In one Central Asian nation, any unregistered religious activity, private religious education, proselytism, and production of religious literature are banned by the government.

STATS In Central Asia, East-West works among the unreached in seven nations. Only 0.21% are considered evangelical Christians.



South Asia

Across South Asia, people turn to the only gods they know—the gods of their ancestral religions such as Hinduism, Islam, and Buddhism.

The remoteness of countless villages results in limited opportunities for many to be reached with the gospel.

As a result, many South Asians have never even heard the name of Jesus. But the believers in South Asia are determined to go to every corner of their nation so that all may hear.

FACT Six Indian states have “anti-conversion laws” that are often used against Christians sharing their faith or those who have recently converted to Christianity.

STATS In South Asia, East-West works among the unreached in four nations. Only 0.93% of the population are professing Christians.



East Asia

For centuries, religious traditions have been an integral part of East Asian culture. Pressure from the government and society have deeply entrenched the people in old traditions void of hope.

But a change is sweeping throughout the region of East Asia.

As the people reflect on the value of life and life's purpose, many have recognized the void created by their hollow traditions. Now, they're searching for something more ... something real.

FACT More Christians are in prison in China than any other country.

STATS In East Asia, East-West works among the unreached in three nations. Only 2.97% are considered evangelical Christians.



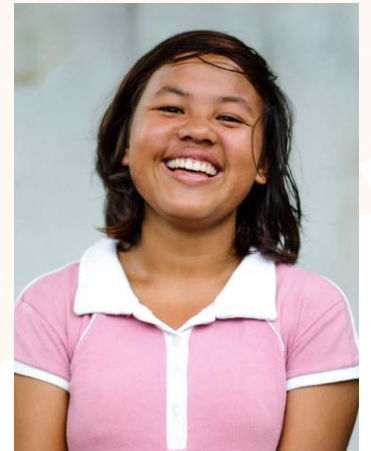
Southeast Asia

Our area of focus in Southeast Asia has one of the highest concentrations of unreached peoples in the world. Every day, believers in this region face the threats of persecution from the vast Muslim population.

Because of this difficult terrain, spreading the gospel is a life-threatening commitment. But the nationals of Southeast Asia are passionate about learning as much as possible to adequately share the truth with others. With intentional focus and one-on-one evangelism, believers are reaching their neighbors for Christ.

FACT In Indonesia, the government and extremists are forcibly closing evangelical churches, and Christians face punishment for any blasphemy against Islam.

STATS In Southeast Asia, East-West works among the unreached in five nations. Only 4.13% is considered evangelical Christian.



about east-west

East-West has one consuming passion—to make God known among every nation, every tribe, every tongue, and every people. There's a world waiting to know Jesus, and we are desperate to reach them with the radical message of God's love and grace. We are a band of bold witnesses united to impact God's Kingdom. We're on a mission ... and we refuse to play it safe until all have heard.

Glorifying God by building His Kingdom on earth is the mission Christ left to us ... and to you. Compelled to complete this mission, East-West journeys into some of the world's most restricted and highly persecuted areas to tell of Jesus Christ and His redeeming grace.

To maximize our impact for the Kingdom, East-West focuses on four foundational strategies within its mission:

- **Mobilizing the Body of Christ** ... by sending the church to the spiritually darkest places in the world.
- **Evangelizing the lost** ... by bringing the gospel to unreached people groups and areas of limited access.



- **Equipping local believers** ... by discipling and training nationals to reach out to the lost of their own countries.
- **Multiplying churches** ... by planting grace-oriented churches that rapidly reproduce.

VISION

The vision of East-West is to glorify God by multiplying followers of Jesus in the world's spiritually darkest places.

MISSION

East-West exists to mobilize the Body of Christ to evangelize the lost and equip local believers to multiply disciples and healthy churches among unreached peoples and/or in restricted access communities.

What others are saying about East-West

"The fields are ripe for harvest, but there are not enough trained church leaders to nurture the thousands who are committing their lives to Jesus Christ. East-West Ministries is performing a vital role in helping to plant new churches and training national pastors."

Dr. Luis Palau, President
Luis Palau Evangelistic Ministries, Portland, OR

"East-West's track record in training and deploying nationals who will effectively share their faith in Christ is – in our experience – truly unparalleled. Working together from our common desire to honor Christ by loving the poor, we can address physical and spiritual poverty far more effectively than we could ever hope to accomplish alone."

Greg Spencer, Co-Founder
Paradigm Project, Park City, UT

"East-West Ministries is committed to working with emerging evangelists in third world countries to advance the gospel of Jesus Christ. Working with their team, we have trained and equipped evangelists in the former Soviet Union."

Franklin Graham, President
Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, Asheville, NC

Get Involved

SHORT-TERM TRIPS

Discover a new world while transforming it with the power of the gospel. Through our Short-Term Trips, you can go overseas to share the gospel, train believers, provide humanitarian aid, or capture a vision for reaching the unreached.

www.eastwest.org/MissionTripSchedule

LONG-TERM & MID-TERM ASSIGNMENTS

Join the movement of the gospel throughout the nations by joining East-West on the field for long-term, mid-term, and internship assignments. These opportunities utilize your gifts and passion to build the Church worldwide by sharing the gospel, training believers, and planting churches among the unreached.

www.eastwest.org/Employment

CHURCH PARTNERSHIP

Your Church can ignite a movement for Jesus Christ in a spiritually dark nation. Through prayer, financial support, and sending short-term trips or long-term missionaries, your church can participate with East-West in fulfilling the Great Commission.

www.eastwest.org/ChurchPartners



FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Through a variety of creative and strategic projects, we have built a large network of local believers working to share the gospel in their community ... making it more financially attainable than ever before to share the gospel, train believers, and plant churches.

- Share the gospel: 6¢
- Train an evangelist or church planter: \$11
- Plant a church: \$101

By giving to East-West, you can change the world with the gospel.

www.eastwest.org/give

Connect with East-West

2001 W. Plano Pkwy, Suite 3000
Plano, Texas 75075

972.941.4500

www.eastwest.org
info@eastwest.org

 eastwest.org/blog

 facebook.com/ewministries

 twitter.com/ewmi

 vimeo.com/eastwestministries

EAST WEST
MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL