

# Joshua Project 2000 Unreached Peoples List

*This is the updated "Joshua Project 2000 Unreached Peoples List." The peoples listed are "country-distinct" peoples each over 10,000 in population. They were chosen by their ethno-linguistic distinction and their status of being less than 2% Evangelical and less than 5% Christian adherents. The list highlights (shaded area) the 229 untargeted or unclaimed unreached peoples. Certainly these are the peoples that are the most needy and therefore are the highest priority for missions. May we all do our part to reach them by Dec. 31, 2000!*

by Joshua Project 2000

The Joshua Project 2000 list was originally released in December 1995 and has been continually updated since then. New peoples have been added to the original list based on better field information showing that they meet the criteria to be on the list. Other peoples have been removed from the original list because further research showed they were ethno-cultural rather than ethno-linguistic or the percentages of Evangelicals or Christians were higher than originally reported. The original list had 1739 peoples and the updated list has approximately 1600 peoples.

The Joshua Project list editorial committee is made up of Ron Rowland of Wycliffe / SIL, Patrick Johnstone of WEC / Operation World, and Luis Bush of the AD2000 and Beyond Movement. Suggested revisions to the list may be sent to the AD2000 and Beyond address below or by e-mail to:

<dan@ad2000.org>. All suggestions will be given serious consideration if sources of data are included.

In the spring of 1996 a ministry survey was sent to approximately 3,000 international mission agencies. A second, follow-up survey was done in the spring of 1998 to continue to update the information in this list and to gather the relevant data concerning the groups added to the original list. Nearly 50,000 pieces of information regarding church planting activity among the Joshua Project peoples were collected in response to these surveys. This data has begun to provide a picture of four key areas: 1) the ministry networks and partnerships developing around these peoples, called "Responses" in this list, 2) those peoples without any reported or planned future ministry in their midst, called "Untargeted", 3) the status of church planting efforts among these peoples, called "Team"

and 4) the status of the indigenous church, called "Church". Please note the fuller definitions of these fields below.

Joshua Project 2000 seeks feedback and volunteers willing to research, profile, pray for and see that a church-planting movement is established in each unreached people (see list below).

## Field Description

- ① **People Name:**  
Name of the people - preferably the name by which they call themselves in that country. Alternate names are in parenthesis. (Source: P.I.N.)
- ② **Language:**  
Language spoken by this people or occasionally the dialect name. (Source: P.I.N. / Ethnologue)
- ③ **Population:**  
Population of this people within this country. (Source: P.I.N.)
- ④ **% Adherents:**  
Percentage of this people, within this country, who are identified as being Christian adherents. Blanks indicate data is unknown at this time. Christian is defined as one who claims to be an adherent to the Christian religion. This includes professing and affiliated adults and also their children (practicing and non-

### Key to fields in list - Descriptions of numbers below

| People Name                          | Language | Population | % Adherents | % Evangelicals | Original List | Ministry Tools | Unclaimed | Team | Church |
|--------------------------------------|----------|------------|-------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|-----------|------|--------|
| Bangladesh<br>Orisi (Utkali, Vadiya) | Oriya    | 13,300     | 1.00        | 0.60           | •             | 23             | BRAJ      | •    |        |
| ①                                    | ②        | ③          | ④           | ⑤              | ⑥             | ⑦              | ⑧         | ⑨    | ⑩      |
|                                      |          |            |             |                |               |                |           |      | ⑪      |

practicing). This is the broadest possible classification of Christian and includes the six ecclesiological types of Christians: Protestant, Roman Catholic, Other Catholic, Orthodox, Foreign marginal and Indigenous marginal as defined in Operation World. This is a definition based on the self-confession of the individual, not his or her ecclesiology, theology or religious commitment and experience. (Source: P.I.N.)

**5 % Evangelicals:**

Percentage of this people, within this country, who are identified as Evangelicals. Blanks indicate data is unknown at this time. Evangelical Christian is defined as a Christian who generally emphasizes:

1. The Lord Jesus Christ as the sole source of salvation through faith in Him.
2. Personal faith and conversion with regeneration by the Holy Spirit.
3. A recognition of the inspired Word of God as the only basis for faith and Christian living.
4. Commitment to biblical preaching and evangelism that brings others to faith in Christ. (Source: P.I.N.)

**6 Original List:**

A marker in this column indicates this group was part of the 1739 peoples from the original Joshua Project list released in December 1995. Some peoples have been dropped from the original list because further research has shown they were ethno-cultural rather than ethno-linguistic or the percentages of Evangelicals or Christians were higher than originally reported. In this case there is no marker under the "Updated List" column. The number after the country name is the number of people groups for that country. (Source: AD2000 & Beyond)

**7 Responses:**

The number of unique data items listed in the AD2000 International Office database indicating some kind of involvement with this unreached people. The types of ministry that may

be included in this column are: (a) Planning evangelistic activity among this people, (b) Involved in evangelistic activity among this people, (c) Planning church planting among this people, (d) Involved in church planting among this people, (e) Willing to assist a research team among this people, (f) Other involvement, e.g., adoptions, targeting, advocate, agency with more data on this people, etc. An agency may be listed in this field more than once if they are involved in more than one of the above mentioned types of ministry. The number listed in this field represents all responses that have been recorded. (Source: AD2000 & Beyond)

**8 Ministry Tools:**

Evangelism tools that are available in the language of this people. (Source: ISPD - Integrated Strategic Planning Database of the Southern Baptist International Mission Board.)

B= Bible or Bible portion available or translation begun in the language of this people.

R= Radio broadcasting of the gospel is currently available for this people.

A= Audio recording of the gospel is available for this people.

J = "Jesus" film is available or soon will be for this people.

**9 Untargeted:**

A marker in this column (shading represents the same thing) indicates a people that have no reported current or planned church planting activity. These are currently the most "needy" groups in that there is no reported current church planting effort in their midst nor a reported commitment, pledge or targeting for future church planting. Those using this list for strategic planning should give special attention to this column and focus new efforts on these "untargeted" peoples. This untargeted status is based on the data that has been reported to the AD2000 and Beyond Movement International Office over the last five years. Because of security reasons limiting the availability of information,

and general gaps in our data, it is quite likely that some of the peoples on this list are actually targeted for future church planting or already have on-site teams. Your help is needed to make this list as accurate as possible. If you are aware of inaccuracies, updates or additional ministry activities, please e-mail <info@ad2000.org> with the update. (Source: AD2000 & Beyond)

**10 Team:**

A marker in this column indicates that there is a reported church planting effort among these people. This is an exposure indicator. A church planting effort could range from a very small team of several people in a sensitive area to a well developed partnership of multiple organizations, denominations and agencies. (Source: AD2000 & Beyond)

**11 Church:**

A marker in this column indicates a reported 100 or more believing Christians, in one or more reproducing fellowships. This is an response indicator. The original survey sent out in the spring 1996 did not collect data regarding the status of the indigenous church so data in this field is limited and very incomplete. The upcoming survey in the spring of 1998 will seek to gather much more accurate information regarding the status of the indigenous church. (Source: AD2000 & Beyond)

**Our Involvement**

Consider making a commitment to pray for and begin the process of helping send an on-site missionary team in order to establish the Church of our Lord among at least one of the UNTARGETED PEOPLES. Joshua Project 2000 is a global cooperative strategy with the goal of establishing, as a minimum, an on-site church planting team, and 100 or more believing Christians, in one or more reproducing churches, within every ethno-linguistic people of over 10,000 individuals by December 31, 2000. We ask you to be a part.























## **Your Participation in Reaching the Untargeted Peoples**

Untargeted peoples are unreached peoples that are currently unclaimed, they are peoples who have no reported current or planned church planting activity. They are the most “needy” groups in that there is no reported current church planting effort in their midst nor a reported commitment, pledge of targeting them for future church planting mission work. We, therefore, should give special attention to these untargeted unreached people groups, highlighted and shaded in the list, in order to give them our special mission efforts and priority.

The untargeted status of these peoples is based on the data that has been reported to the AD2000 and Beyond Movement International Office over the last five years. Because of security reasons limiting the availability of information, some of the peoples on this list may actually have been targeted for future church planting or may already have an on-site mission team. Your help is needed to make this list as accurate as possible. If you are aware of inaccuracies, updates or additional ministry activities, please contact us.

Above all else, consider making a commitment to pray for and be part of (or even start) the process of helping send an on-site missionary team in order to reach and evangelize at least one of the UNTARGETED PEOPLES. The goal is to establish, as a minimum, an on-site mission team, and have 100 or more believing Christians in one or more reproducing churches, within every ethno-linguistic people of over 10,000 individuals by December 31, 2000. We ask you to be involved and form a vital part in this the Church's highest priority. Contact us at:

AD2000 & Beyond International Office  
Attn. Joshua Project  
2860 S Circle Dr., Suite 2112  
Colorado Springs, CO 80906 USA  
Tel: 719-576-2000; Fax: 719-576-2685  
Email: [info@ad2000.org](mailto:info@ad2000.org)  
Web: <http://www.ad2000.org>

(Continuation from page 57)

never before, the great urgency to pray to the Lord of the Harvest to send sufficient mission laborers, and pray that they be "thoroughly equipped" for this good work (2 Tim. 3:17), and then be sent with more than adequate support to the ends of the earth, especially to the untargeted peoples of the earth?

It is my conviction, that if we were to make this our prayer, asking the Lord for adequate mission laborers, followed through by adequate mission recruitment, followed by adequate training and sending of those recruited, Habakkuk 5:1 would be fulfilled in world missions. If we were to make this the priority for our lives and our service unto God, both as Christians and churches "we would be utterly amazed." Truly God would do something in our day that we would not believe, even if we were told it—the completion of world evangelization and the fulfillment of the the agenda of history. (See Malcolm Hunter's article "Completing the Agenda of History.") God could do this even in a moments notice "in the twinkling of an eye"—in the next year or two.

What will it take to get us to pray as never before? What needs to happen to radically redirect ourselves and our efforts to both pray for and recruit, and then train and send at least 200,000 new missionaries, allocating them among the most lost, among the untargeted unreached peoples of the world? Note the untargeted peoples are the most lost since no missionaries, nor mission agencies, nor mission churches have claimed them, have adopted them, and/or are making plans to reach and evangelize them. As such they are the most lost since they have least access to the Gospel. No one in the Church nor Missions is reaching out to them, or even making plans to do so.

So what will it take to complete world evangelization? What will get

Christians and churches radically committed to and totally involved to reach those "without hope and without God in the world"?

Like it or not, there can be little doubt that we will have to start with repentance. We will need to humble ourselves. We will need to repent (whether as churches or as believers) that, for whatever reasons, we have left largely undone, inspite of mission advances in the past, "the works of God" to disciple *all the nations of men*, to give *all the nations* "the testimony" of the Gospel of the Kingdom, and do so *in our generation*.

As we humble ourselves before God, (repentance is to humble oneself) we are then prepared to enter the next step leading us to make amends. We will begin to pray for the world, for the needed mission laborers, praying as never before, becoming involved in mission recruitment, in mission training and sending as the Lord leads day by day. No longer self absorbed, we will become Spirit absorbed, no longer self oriented we will be Spirit oriented, no longer self empowered we will be Spirit empowered. No longer in love with our work we will love Him who is the Bridegroom of our soul. When we love Him we will know what it means to rest from our labors, while our works follow us. (Rev. 14:13) We will be living and walking in the Truth, founded upon the Truth, who is Himself the Truth, and do "the works of Him who called us out of darkness into His marvelous light." In this way we will fulfill God's purpose and plan to save (to bless) all the nations of men and complete the task of world evangelization.

With this understanding we dedicate this Special Edition unto the Lord so that His glory in its essential character might be seen by all and shine to the ends of the earth. Every article has been written and chosen for this purpose—to finish the task

God has given us, to take His salvation to the ends of the earth—to all the peoples of the 10/40 Window, to all the unreached of the world.

Therefore, I would like to make a special appeal for praying for mission laborers, including recruitment and training them, for the UNTARGETED or UNCLAIMED unreached peoples of the earth. Untargeted peoples are unreached peoples who have no reported current or planned church planting activity going on among them. They are the most "needy" in that there is no church planting effort among them nor a reported commitment or pledge of targeting them. We need to give our special attention to these peoples whose fate is still to be UNTARGETED and UNCLAIMED. These are the peoples highlighted and shaded in the Joshua Project 2000 List in the last article. More than any other, these are the unreached peoples that need our urgent prayers for workers, they are the Church's highest priority.

Consider making a commitment to pray for and be part of the process of reaching these least reached UNTARGETED PEOPLES. The goal is to establish an on-site mission team, and have 100 or more believing Christians, in reproducing churches, within every ethno-linguistic people of over 10,000 individuals by December 31, 2000. We ask you to fervently pray for this, to be fully engaged and form a vital part in this highest of all priorities.



*Dr. Hans Weerstra, IJFM Editor Summer 1999 El Paso, Texas*