



15 Days of Prayer for People Groups in Arkansas





absc.org/peoplegroups



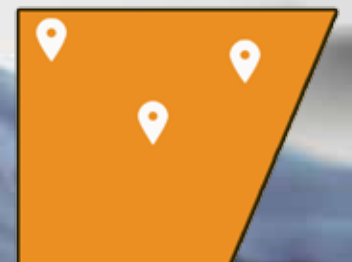
@peoplegroups



When the Apostle Paul was in Athens, he declared that God determines the placement of peoples according to His redemptive purpose (Acts 17:26-27). In the following pages you will discover some of the “nations” who have made their homes in Arkansas. Among them are unreached people groups (UPGs) who need our fervent prayers and a consistent Gospel witness. These are groups of people who share a common ethnicity, language, and culture, yet are less than 2% evangelical Christian.

There are currently over 130 identifiable people groups in Arkansas, and over 70 of them are considered unreached with the Gospel. Because a majority of them have never heard the Gospel clearly proclaimed, it is our conviction that God has ultimately brought them here so they might have an opportunity to follow Jesus.

As you read each profile, remember that these faces represent a network of people scattered all over the globe. Reaching one of them here can have a far-reaching impact among the nations. Thank you for partnering with us to pray for people groups in Arkansas.



Arab | Arabian

The Arabian Arabs are a cluster of unreached people groups from Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, and Oman. There are approximately 100,000 Arabian Arabs in the United States, with over 500 Saudi and Kuwaiti Arabs in Arkansas. They primarily reside in **Fayetteville, Jonesboro, and Little Rock**. Many of them have connections to the universities in those areas, so one of the first steps to meeting them could be through a campus-related conversation club or a ladies' tea outreach.

The majority of Saudi and Kuwaiti Arabs are Sunni Muslims.

Prayer Points

1. Pray that American Christians, especially university students, would reach out and develop sincere friendships with Saudi and Kuwaiti Arab Muslims.
2. Pray that Saudi and Kuwaiti Arabs would be open and willing to read the Bible.
3. Pray that God would reveal Himself through dreams, visions, and miracles.

Day 1



Arab | Levantine

The Levantine Arabs are a cluster of unreached people groups from Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, and Syria. There are over 1.3 million Levantine Arabs in the United States, with approximately 1,000 Iraqi, Jordanian, Lebanese, Palestinian, and Syrian Arabs in Arkansas. Most of them live in **Fayetteville, Fort Smith, and Little Rock**. They are committed to their faith and family, and tend to be very hospitable. Many of them own small shops, including numerous Mediterranean restaurants and markets.

The majority of Levantine Arabs are Sunni Muslims.

Prayer Points

1. Pray that American Christians would develop sincere friendships and be willing to share their faith in Jesus with Iraqi, Jordanian, Lebanese, Palestinian, and Syrian Arab Muslims.
2. Pray that God would provide for their needs, as many of them were once refugees or asylum-seekers, and many of them work low-wage jobs.
3. Pray that God would reveal Himself through dreams, visions, and miracles.

Day 2



Chinese | *Cantonese, Mandarin, and Hokkien*

Most of the Chinese in Arkansas are Mandarin-speakers, though there are some Cantonese-speakers and Hokkien-speakers as well. They are made up of many different people groups, and many have come to the United States via Taiwan, Hong Kong, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Cambodia, Vietnam, and Indonesia. There are over 3.6 million Chinese in the United States, with over 4,000 in Arkansas. Though they are scattered all over the state, most of them live in **Fayetteville** or **Little Rock**. They value close-knit families, hard work, education, and honor.

Most Chinese are either atheists or adhere to Buddhism and a mix of ancestral folk religions.

Prayer Points

1. Pray that evangelical Christians, especially among Chinese Baptist churches in Arkansas, would have boldness in reaching out to their Chinese neighbors.
2. Pray that Cantonese and Hokkien language churches would also be planted among them.
3. Pray for mutual encouragement between English-speaking and Chinese-speaking congregations.

Day 3



Gujarati

The Gujarati Hindu are an unreached people group from the western coast of India. Most Gujaratis in Arkansas are very educated and successful in a variety of business ventures. In fact, many hotels and some restaurant chains are owned by them, even in smaller communities. There are at least 400,000 Gujarati Indians in the United States, and it is estimated that well over 1,000 of them are in Arkansas. Most of them live in the **Little Rock and Rogers** metropolitan areas. Though they might appear to have assimilated to Western culture, many still maintain a strong connection to Gujarati culture. Many of them are even active in Indian cricket clubs and Gujarati community centers across the state.

The majority of Gujaratis are Hindus, though a small minority adhere to Islam.

Prayer Points

1. Pray that American Christians would find open doors through their vocations, college classes, and even hobbies to develop sincere friendships with Gujarati Indians.
2. Pray that God's power would remove the many spiritual barriers associated with Hindu worship.
3. Pray that God would raise up Gujarati-speaking believers who can share the Gospel effectively among them.

Day 4



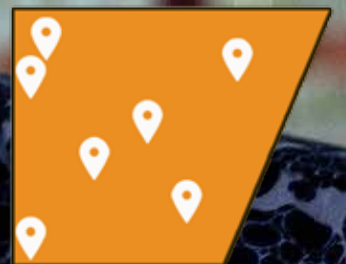
Hindi

The Hindi people consists of numerous castes and tribes from India. Almost all Hindi people groups are unreached with the Gospel, and about half of them are also unengaged. There may be as many as 800,000 Hindi in the United States, with at least 1,500 Hindi in Arkansas, though there are some estimates even as high as 5,000. While they are scattered all over the state, the most concentrated populations are in **Bentonville** and **Little Rock**. They are typically well educated, and many of them work in IT and medical professions.

The majority of Hindi people are Hindus.

Prayer Points

1. Pray for Christians across the state, especially Indian believers, to have favor and boldness in sharing the Gospel with Hindi neighbors and co-workers.
2. Pray that God's power would overcome their spiritual bondage, and that Jesus would be exalted as the only way to the Father.
3. Pray for entire Hindi families to come to faith in Christ.



Hispanic

The Hispanic people cluster includes people groups from Argentina, Belize, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Peru, Puerto Rico, Uruguay, and Venezuela. There are over 57 million Hispanics in the United States, with over 81,000 in Arkansas, representing all of these countries. Although Hispanic peoples as a whole are not unreached, there are still many unreached people groups among them. There is a great need to plant more Spanish-speaking churches, in part, to adequately address the cultural distinctions among them.

The majority of Hispanic people come from a Roman-Catholic background, though many are evangelical Christians. Some also adhere to a mix of folk religious practices as well.

Prayer Points

1. Pray for unity among Spanish-speaking congregations in Arkansas, and for favor in sharing the Gospel with their neighbors and co-workers.
2. Pray that God would raise up more Spanish-speaking leaders to start new works among them.
3. Pray for continued cooperation among English-speaking and Spanish-speaking congregations.

Day 6



Hmong

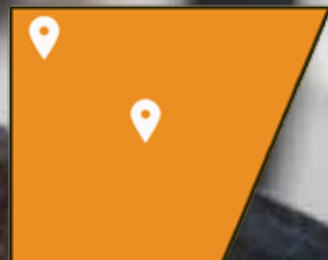
There are two primary Hmong people groups in the United States: Njua Hmong and White (Daw) Hmong. Many of them came to the United States as refugees from Thailand, Vietnam, and Laos in the 1970s and early 2000s. There are approximately 290,000 Hmong in the United States, with 2,000 in Arkansas. They are primarily in West and Northwest Arkansas, with the highest populations around **Decatur** and **Waldron**. In Arkansas, many of them are employed in the poultry industry.

A majority of Hmong adhere to ethnic folk religions, though approximately 5% are evangelical Christians.

Prayer Points

1. Pray for Hmong congregations to faithfully extend the Gospel among non-Christian Hmong and other near-culture, unreached Southeast Asians.
2. Pray for Hmong believers to seek the Kingdom over materialism and secularism.
3. Pray for evangelical Christians to be welcoming, encouraging, and faithful witnesses among the Hmong.

Day 7



Iranian | Persian & Arab

Persian and Arab Iranians are both unreached people groups from Iran. Half of all Iranians are ethnically Persian, while only 2% are ethnically Arab. Yet both groups predominately adhere to Shia Islam, which means they believe in a divinely appointed successor to Muhammad through a family lineage and the return of a promised redeemer of Islam called the Mahdi. Many Iranians in the United States are highly educated and very successful across various professions. There could be as many as 500,000 to 1 million Iranians in the United States, with approximately 1,000 in Arkansas. Most of them live in and around **Little Rock** and **Fayetteville**.

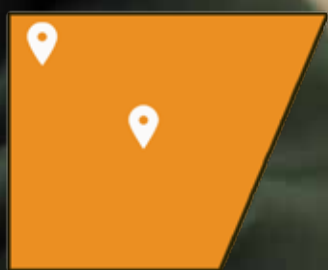
Though there are some evangelical believers among them, most Persian and Arab Iranians are Shi'ite Muslims.

Prayer Points

1. Pray specifically for evangelical Christians to develop sincere friendships with Iranians, and to be faithful in sharing the eternal hope they have in Jesus.
2. Pray that God would reveal himself to Shi'ite Muslim Iranians through dreams, visions, and miracles.
3. Pray for new Iranian believers to be bold in sharing their faith and encouraged through fellowship with others.



SHINDIGE JUNNIDE
SOME IDEAS NOT ENOUGH TO MAKE ME HAPPY
BUT I SHOULD BE HAPPY NEVER NEVER AGAIN



Japanese

Although there are pockets of evangelical Christians among them – even in the United States – the Japanese remain one of the largest unreached people groups in the world. There are approximately 900,000 in the United States, with at least 1,000 in Arkansas. Most of them live in **Fayetteville** and **Little Rock**. They are often very hard workers and take a lot of pride in their education and accomplishments. Some own restaurants and markets, and many are connected to area universities and colleges. While younger Japanese tend to assimilate to Western culture, many still maintain strong ties to their Japanese culture.

The native religion of Japan is Shintoism, though most Japanese claim to follow Buddhism as well.

Prayer Points

1. Pray that God would raise up more laborers to work among the Japanese.
2. Pray that evangelical Christians would be proactive in developing sincere friendships among Japanese neighbors, co-workers, and students.
3. Pray for the Japanese to seek the truth and hope of the Gospel over the pursuit of materialism and success.



Karen

The Karen are originally from Myanmar (Burma) and include three main groups in the United States. The majority of the Sgaw profess Christianity, while the majority of Pwo and Karenni are Buddhists. There are about 12,500 in the United States, with an estimated 500 in Arkansas. Most of them came as refugees after seeking independence from the Myanmar government. In Arkansas, they are largely employed by the poultry industry, and some have even established evangelical churches in **Clarksville** and **Green Forest**.

The Karen practice a variety of religions, including Christianity, Buddhism, and animistic/ethnic religions.

Prayer Points

1. Pray for Karen congregations to faithfully extend the Gospel among non-Christian Karen and other near-culture, unreached Southeast Asians.
2. Pray for Karen believers to seek the Kingdom over materialism and secularism.
3. Pray for evangelical Christians to be welcoming, encouraging, and faithful witnesses among the Karen.

Day 10



Lao

The Lao are an unreached people group originally from Laos, near Vietnam, Cambodia, and Thailand. There are approximately 470,000 Lao in the United States, with over 3,600 in Arkansas. Most families immigrated as refugees in the 1970s and 80s, and now primarily live in **Fort Smith** and **Springdale**. Though they are proud to be in America, many older Laotians are still not confident in their use of the English language. Many younger Laotians, on the other hand, prefer English. They value close-knit families, hard work, and education.

The majority of Lao are Theravada Buddhists, though there are pockets of evangelical Christians with thriving churches.

Prayer Points

1. Pray for unity and mutual encouragement among Laotian churches in Arkansas, as well as a spirit of cooperation with English-speaking congregations in their cities.
2. Pray for second and third generation Lao believers to stay engaged with Lao congregations and have a burden to reach Lao Buddhists.
3. Pray that God delivers Lao Buddhists from spiritual bondage.



Marshallese

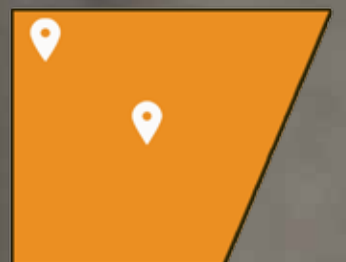
The Marshallese are a Micronesian people group from the Pacific Islands. There are over 20,000 Marshallese in the United States, with over 4,000 in Arkansas. Most of them live in and around **Springdale** and work in the poultry industry. Many of their cultural traditions are passed down through the mother and preserved through strong bonds among large extended families. Many younger Marshallese, however, are starting to experience the cultural and religious tensions associated with being raised in a secular American society.

The majority of Marshallese are Protestant Christians, and many worship in Marshallese congregations across the state.

Prayer Points

1. Pray for Marshallese congregations to faithfully extend the Gospel among non-Christian Marshallese and other near-culture, unreached Pacific Islanders.
2. Pray for Marshallese believers to seek the Kingdom over materialism and secularism.
3. Pray for evangelical Christians to be welcoming, encouraging, and faithful witnesses among the Marshallese.

Day 12



Punjabi

The Punjabi are a cluster of unreached people groups from the Punjab regions of both Pakistan and India. Population estimates in the United States range from 250,000 to 1 million, and in Arkansas it is estimated between 1,000 and 2,000. Though many are scattered throughout small towns, most Punjabi in Arkansas live in and around **Bentonville and Little Rock**. They primarily speak Punjabi, while many also speak either Hindi or Urdu. They often own small businesses such as gas stations and restaurants. Though they are very friendly, Punjabis in Arkansas tend to be isolated from close relationships with outsiders.

The Indian Punjabi typically adhere to either Sikhism or Hinduism, while Pakistani Punjabi predominately adhere to Sunni Islam and even Sufism (Islamic mysticism).

Prayer Points

1. Pray that, instead of seeking spiritual guidance from mysticism or gurus, the Punjabi would seek the truth of the Gospel.
2. Pray that evangelical Christians would do whatever it takes to foster meaningful relationships among the Punjabi.
3. Pray that God would raise up Punjabi-speaking believers who can share the Gospel among them.

Day 13



Urdu

The Urdu are a cluster of unreached people groups, mainly from Pakistan and a few Indian states, who are connected primarily through the Urdu language, adherence to Islam, and a Persian cultural tradition. The Urdu language is very similar to Hindi, with the exception of some Islamic vocabulary and a different script. There are approximately 300,000 to 500,000 Urdu in the United States, with over 1,200 in Arkansas. They live primarily in and around **Fort Smith, Little Rock, and Rogers**. Their professions vary widely across the state, from owning small businesses to working in the medical field.

Most Urdu adhere to Sunni Islam, although a significant minority practice Shia Islam.

Prayer Points

1. Pray that God would soften the hearts of evangelical Christians toward the Urdu, and soften the hearts of the Urdu toward the Gospel.
2. Pray that God would reveal himself through dreams, visions, and miracles.
3. Pray that God would raise up Urdu-speaking believers who can share the Gospel among them.

Day 14



Vietnamese

The Vietnamese are an unreached people group with a strong Diaspora population stretching back to the 1970s. There are approximately 2 million Vietnamese in the United States, with over 5,000 in Arkansas. And although they are scattered throughout the state, they live primarily in the **Fort Smith and Little Rock** metropolitan areas. They are known for their devotion to their families, and ancestor worship is still very central to their culture. They also place a high value on honor and hard work, which is evident when visiting a Vietnamese-run business.

The majority of Vietnamese adhere to Mahayana Buddhism and a mix of indigenous Vietnamese folk religions. There is also a large minority of Roman Catholics among them, and in Arkansas there are at least two Vietnamese evangelical congregations.

Prayer Points

1. Pray for unity and mutual encouragement among Vietnamese believers in Arkansas, as well as a spirit of cooperation with English-speaking congregations in their cities.
2. Pray for second and third generation Vietnamese to be equipped and mobilized to reach Vietnamese Buddhists.
3. Pray that God delivers Vietnamese Buddhists from spiritual bondage.

Day 15

How Arkansas Baptists Are Engaging the Nations



Praying for Unreached People Groups



Casting vision and mobilizing their church



Discovering people groups in their city



Sharing the Gospel as they develop relationships



Starting discovery Bible studies and gathering discipleship groups



Identifying and equipping indigenous leaders



Multiplying churches

And He made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward Him and find Him. Yet He is actually not far from each one of us.

Acts 17:26-27

15 More Days of Prayer for People Groups in Arkansas

Day 16: Tamil

Day 21: Bengali

Day 26: Egyptian Arab

Day 17: Telugu

Day 22: Sri Lankan/Sinhalese

Day 27: Moroccan Arab

Day 18: Marathi

Day 23: Thai

Day 28: French

Day 19: Turk

Day 24: Indonesian

Day 29: Russian

Day 20: Nepalese/Nepali

Day 25: Filipino

Day 30: Cherokee

{All photos in prayer guide from IMB}



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