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@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 | Egyptian*

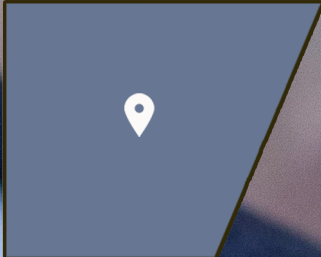
Egyptians are made up of numerous people groups such as Arab Egyptians, Bedouins, Copts, and Saidis. Though some do not identify themselves as Arab, Arabic remains the predominant language. Many aspects of both Arab and Egyptian culture are intertwined, and Egyptians are highly influential throughout the Arab world through media, education, and politics. There are over 300,000 Egyptians in the United States, and over 800 in Arkansas. Most of them live in **Little Rock** and **Rogers**. Though some work in various service industries, many Egyptians are highly educated and hold prominent positions across multiple fields. Therefore, it is imperative for Christians in business and science-related fields to engage them in the workplace.

The majority of Egyptians are Sunni Muslims.

## *Prayer Points*

1. Pray that American Christians and Egyptian Coptic background believers would reach out and develop sincere friendships with Egyptian Muslims.
2. Pray that Egyptian Muslims would be open and willing to read the Bible.
3. Pray that God would reveal Himself through dreams, visions, and miracles.







# Arab | Moroccan

Moroccan Arabs are a mix of Arab peoples and Berbers, who were pre-Arab inhabitants of North Africa. Many Moroccan Arabs in the United States originally came for higher education, while many have also come for greater economic opportunities and have opened small businesses. There are approximately 100,000 Moroccan Arabs in the United States, and approximately 200 in Arkansas. Most of them live in and around **Little Rock**. Some are university students, while many others work in service-related industries.

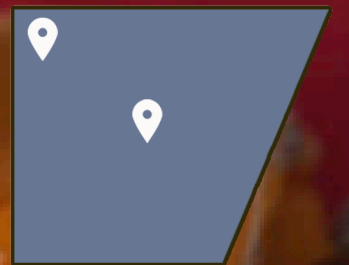
The majority of Moroccan Arabs are Sunni Muslims.

## *Prayer Points*

1. Pray that American Christians would develop sincere friendships and be willing to declare their faith in Jesus with Moroccan Arab Muslims.
2. Pray that Moroccan Arabs would be open and willing to read the Bible.
3. Pray that God would reveal Himself through dreams, visions, and miracles.

*Day 2*







# *Bangladeshi & Bengali*

Bengalis represent the third largest ethnic group in the world and are primarily from Bangladesh and Indian states such as West Bengal. There are over 260 million Bengali speakers worldwide. Over 98% of all Bangladeshis are from the Bengali people group. However, because not all Bengalis are from Bangladesh, it is important to learn cultural and religious distinctions between them. For example, in Bangladesh, almost 90% of the population follows Islam, while in West Bengal over 70% follow Hinduism. There are between 150,000 and 250,000 in the United States, and between 500 and 1,000 in Arkansas. Most of them live in **Bentonville, Rogers, and Little Rock**. Though some work in various service industries, many are employed in software development and information technology.

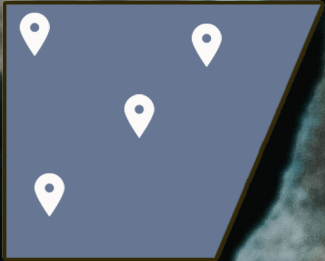
Almost 70% of all Bengalis are Muslim, while about 30% are Hindu. Less than 1% are Christian.

## *Prayer Points*

1. Pray that God would raise up Bangladeshi and Bengali believers who can declare the Gospel effectively among family, friends, and co-workers.
2. Pray that God would reveal Himself to Bangladeshis in particular through dreams, visions, and miracles.
3. Pray that God would deliver Bengalis in particular from the spiritual bondage associated with both Islam and Hinduism.

*Day 3*







# *Cambodian*

Over 95% of Cambodians are from the Khmer ethno-linguistic group, which is one of the oldest ethnic groups in Indochina. Many came to the United States as refugees in the 1980s and early 90s, and many have immigrated since then looking for better economic opportunities. There are at least 250,000 Cambodians in the United States, and 600 in Arkansas. They are scattered all over the state in the larger metros of **Central and Northwest Arkansas**, as well as smaller cities like **Batesville** and **Hope**. They value close-knit communities, often work in small family-owned businesses, and many still struggle with or lack confidence in their use of English.

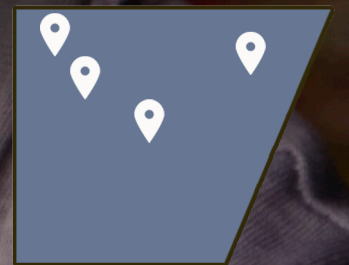
The majority of Cambodians adhere to a form of Buddhism that is also deeply influenced by Hinduism and local animism.

## *Prayer Points*

1. Pray that American Christians would find open doors to develop sincere friendships with Cambodian Buddhists.
2. Pray that God's power would remove the many spiritual barriers associated with Buddhist ritualism.
3. Pray that God would raise up Cambodian believers who can declare the Gospel effectively among them.

*Day 4*







# *Filipino*

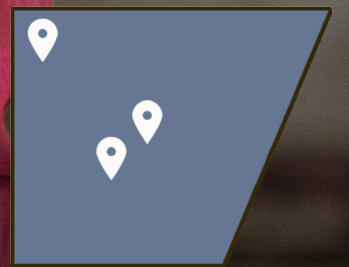
Filipinos are from the Philippines, and are part of the Malay affinity group. They are around 10% Evangelical, and have a great opportunity to reach many other Malay peoples from densely populated Buddhist, Hindu, and Muslim nations. Their historical interaction with numerous nations can often lead to their misidentification as either Latino or Pacific Islander. There are over 3 million Filipinos in the United States, and at least 3,000 in Arkansas. Though they are scattered all over the state, their most concentrated populations are around **Fayetteville, Jonesboro, Little Rock, and Russellville**. Many are employed in nursing and other healthcare related jobs.

The majority of Filipinos are from a Roman Catholic background, though some are still influenced by Buddhist and animistic practices. Approximately 6% are Muslims.

## *Prayer Points*

1. Pray for Christians across the state, especially Filipino believers, to have favor and boldness in declaring the Gospel with Filipino neighbors and co-workers.
2. Pray that God's power would overcome the spiritual bondage associated with folk and animistic religious practices.
3. Pray for entire Filipino families to come to faith in Christ and be equipped to reach near-culture, unreached peoples.







# *Indonesian*

There are over 700 people groups in Indonesia, such as the Acehnese, Balinese, Javanese, Malay, and Sunda. Though they are extremely diverse ethnically, linguistically, and culturally, in the United States they often simply identify as Indonesian. Because they come from the largest Islamic nation in the world, there is a tremendous opportunity to reach the unreached through the Indonesian diaspora population. There are approximately 100,000 Indonesians in the United States, and at least 400 in Arkansas. Most of them live in **Fayetteville** and **Little Rock**, but some live in cities such as **Arkadelphia**. In Arkansas, many of them work in restaurants and other service-related industries.

The majority of Indonesians are Sunni Muslims, though in Arkansas a high percentage are either Buddhist or Evangelical Christian.

## *Prayer Points*

1. Pray for Indonesian believers and the Indonesian church in Arkansas, that they will find favor in declaring the Gospel among their neighbors and co-workers.
2. Pray that God would raise up more Indonesian leaders to start new works among them.
3. Pray for Buddhist and Muslim background Indonesians to respond in faith to the Gospel.

*Day 6*







# *Korean*

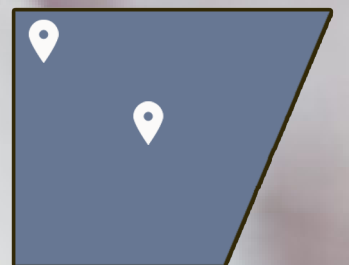
The vast majority of Koreans in the United States come from South Korea, though some have been able to come as refugees from North Korea. There are approximately 1.5 million Koreans in the United States, and over 2,000 in Arkansas. They are scattered all over the state, but the highest concentrations can be found in **Hot Springs, Little Rock, and Rogers**. Koreans are often highly educated and highly skilled, value close-knit communities, and though they often assimilate to American culture, they still retain many cultural distinctives.

Most Koreans consider themselves non-religious, though many still follow Buddhism, Confucianism, or Shamanism. About 12% of Koreans are Evangelical Christian.

## *Prayer Points*

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







# *Marathi*

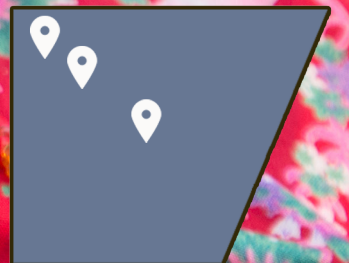
The Marathi are a very large and influential ethno-linguistic cluster of over 113 people groups originally from the Indian state of Maharashtra. There are over 83 million Marathi speakers worldwide. Many take great pride in their connection to the historic Maratha kingdom and its practice of nationalistic Hinduism. One of the most common deities among Marathi Hindus is Ganesha, whose idols are easily identifiable as having the head of an elephant and serves, among many things, as a patron god of the arts and sciences. There are between 50,000 and 80,000 Marathi in the United States, and approximately 500 in Arkansas. Most Marathi in Arkansas live in **Bentonville** and **Little Rock**.

The vast majority of Marathi are Hindu.

## *Prayer Points*

1. Pray that God would raise up more laborers to work among the Marathi, especially among those who work in healthcare and information technology.
2. Pray that evangelical Christians would be proactive in developing sincere friendships among Marathi neighbors, co-workers, and students.
3. Pray for the Marathi to seek the truth and hope of the Gospel, and to be set free from the spiritual bondage of Hinduism.







# Nepali

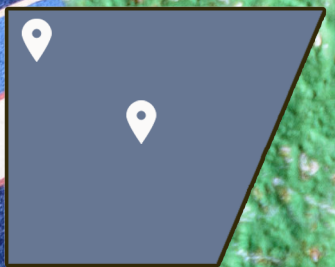
The Nepali, or Nepalese, include several people groups from Nepal and comprise a diverse culture that has been influenced by India, Mongolia, and Tibet as well. Though Nepali is the trade language, there are over 120 ethnic languages that are also spoken. There are between 50,000 and 100,000 Nepali in the United States, and between 500 and 1,000 in Arkansas. Most of them live in and around **Bentonville, Clarksville, and Little Rock**. Many have come to Arkansas as graduate students, while others often work lower income jobs.

Over 80% of Nepali are Hindu, while around 9% adhere to Buddhism. Less than 2% follow Christ.

## Prayer Points

1. Pray for the Nepali to seek the truth of the Gospel over materialism.
2. Pray for evangelical Christians to be welcoming, encouraging, and faithful witnesses among the Nepali.
3. Pray for the Nepali to come to faith in Christ and to be empowered by the Spirit to faithfully proclaim the Gospel to family and friends both here and abroad.







# *Sri Lankan*

Sri Lankans are comprised of multiple people groups, yet only a few of them have Christian populations greater than 2%. A majority of them come from a Sinhalese Buddhist background, though there are many groups who follow either Hinduism or Islam. There are approximately 50,000 Sri Lankans in the United States, and over 150 in Arkansas. Most of them live in either **Fayetteville** or **Little Rock**. Many of them work in information technology or as medical professionals. In order to preserve cultural distinctives among their diaspora populations, they have also formed various cultural associations.

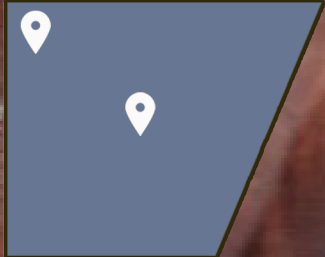
The majority of Sri Lankans are Buddhist. Christianity is largely concentrated within only a few people groups. In Arkansas, most Sri Lankans are Hindus and Muslims.

## *Prayer Points*

1. Pray for American Christians to be welcoming, encouraging, and faithful witnesses among Sri Lankans.
2. Pray for South Asian believers in Arkansas to build relationships and have Gospel conversations with Sri Lankans.
3. Pray that God would deliver Sri Lankan Buddhists, Hindus, and Muslims from spiritual bondage.

*Day 10*







# Tamil

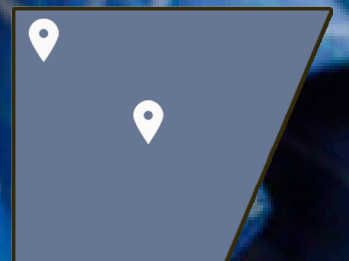
The Tamil are a cluster of over 100 people groups primarily from the Indian state of Tamil Nadu, as well as northeastern Sri Lanka. They are one of the largest and oldest ethno-linguistic groups in the world. There are over 74 million Tamil speakers worldwide, and because of a large worldwide diaspora population, they have also preserved many aspects of their culture. There are over 20,000 Tamil in the United States, and approximately 1,000 in Arkansas. Most of them live in **Bentonville** and **Little Rock**. Historically, they are known for their influence on trade throughout the Indian Ocean. Today, many Tamils in Arkansas work in highly skilled professions such as engineering and software development.

The majority of Tamil are Hindu, though there are also Christian and Muslim minority populations.

## Prayer Points

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







# *Telugu*

The Telugu are a cluster of over 150 people groups primarily from the Indian states of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. Over 81 million people speak Telugu worldwide. There are over 200,000 Telugu in the United States, and approximately 1,000 in Arkansas. Most of them live in and around **Bentonville** and **Little Rock**. Their influence is visible through Telugu language movies (i.e. Tollywood) in many local movie theaters, as well as the formation of Telugu cultural associations. Many Telugu in Arkansas work in software development, information technology, engineering, and healthcare.

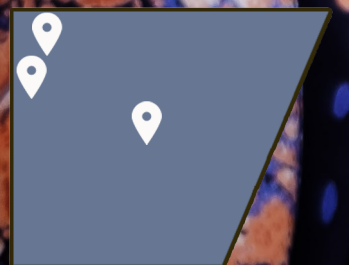
The vast majority of Telugu are Hindu.

## *Prayer Points*

1. Pray specifically for evangelical Christians to develop sincere friendships with the Telugu, and to be faithful in sharing the eternal hope they have in Jesus.
2. Pray that God would deliver the Telugu from spiritual bondage.
3. Pray for new Telugu believers to be bold in proclaiming the Gospel and encouraged through fellowship with other believers.

*Day 12*







# Thai

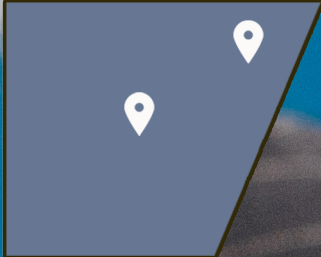
The Thai are a cluster of 16 unreached people groups, and one of the largest unreached populations in the world. Thailand boasts one of the highest concentrations of Buddhism in the world. Despite having freedom of religion, many would say that to be Thai is to be Buddhist. Their king is even regarded in some way as divine, and referred to as “Lord above/in your head.” There are approximately 200,000 Thai in the United States, and over 1,000 in Arkansas. Though they are scattered all over the state, most of them live in **Fort Smith, Little Rock, and Springdale**. Their culture can be easily experienced through their cuisine in numerous restaurants across the state. Their sense of collectivism, however, can make it especially difficult to deny Buddhism in order to embrace faith in Jesus.

Over 95% of all Thai adhere to Theravada Buddhism.

## Prayer Points

1. Pray that the Thai would acknowledge and follow Jesus as the Way, the Truth, and the Life, as opposed to one of many spirits or enlightened ones.
2. Pray that evangelical Christians would do whatever it takes to foster meaningful relationships among Thai peoples.
3. Pray that God would raise up Thai believers who, recognizing their emphasis on collectivism over against individualism, can proclaim the Gospel effectively among friends and family.







# *Turk*

Turkish peoples, or Turks, are one of the 10 largest unreached people groups in the world. There are anywhere from 150,000 to 500,000 Turkish people in the United States, depending on how they are classified (i.e. whether they migrated from Turkey, The Balkans, Cyprus, or the former Soviet Union), and over 500 Turks in Arkansas. Most of them live in **Jonesboro** and **Little Rock**. Turkish culture has been influenced by Oriental people groups to their east and European people groups to their west. In Arkansas, Turkish culture can be experienced through numerous associations and festivals, including many events for women.

Over 98% of all Turks are Muslims, while only around 1% are either Christian or Jewish.

## *Prayer Points*

1. Pray that God would soften the hearts of evangelical Christians toward Turks, and soften the hearts of Turks toward the Gospel.
2. Pray that God would reveal himself through dreams, visions, and miracles.
3. Pray that God would raise up Turkish-speaking believers who will declare the Gospel among friends and family.

*Day 14*







# *International Students*

During any given year there are over 1 million international students on American college campuses. There are around 5,000 to 6,000 international students in Arkansas each year. Over 120 nations are represented annually, and for many years the top-sending countries have included India, China, Saudi Arabia, Japan, and Nepal. While most Arkansas universities have some international students, the highest number of students often attend **The University of Arkansas, Arkansas State University, The University of Central Arkansas, Arkansas Tech University,** and in recent years **Southern Arkansas University.** Over 75% of them will never enter an American home, and the vast majority never hear the Gospel from American Christians. Therefore, one of the best ways to engage them is through hospitality and sincere friendships.

Over 50% of all international students in Arkansas come from countries that are unreached with the Gospel and predominately Buddhist, Hindu, or Muslim.

## *Prayer Points*

1. Pray for unity and mutual encouragement among churches and campus ministries trying to invest in the physical, relational, and spiritual needs of international students.
2. Pray that international students would hear and believe the Gospel.
3. Pray that the Holy Spirit would equip and empower international students to be faithful witnesses to Jesus among friends and family both here and back home.

*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*

- |              |             |               |
|--------------|-------------|---------------|
| 1. Afghani   | 6. Kazakh   | 11. Slovak    |
| 2. Canadian  | 7. Nigerian | 12. Somali    |
| 3. Ethiopian | 8. Polish   | 13. Tajik     |
| 4. French    | 9. Romanian | 14. Ukrainian |
| 5. Italian   | 10. Russian | 15. Uzbek     |

{Most photos in prayer guide from IMB}





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