

# PRAYING FOR THE WORLD

WEEK 12, MARCH 22-28

## Nomads



**N**omadic peoples travel to live. There are three kinds of nomadic people: *Hunter-gatherers*. Early humans are thought to have been hunter-gatherers, but very few are left today.

*Nomadic pastoralists* move with their cattle to find pasture. They include the Fulbe and Tuareg in the Sahel region of Africa, some Eastern African peoples, Tibetan yak herders and Siberian reindeer herders. The Fulbe, present all over West Africa, are the largest nomadic people in the world today.

*Service nomads* travel to offer their wares and labour. Gypsies are the most common example. Other nomads travel with funfairs or portable shrines, for example. Some, like the Lohar of India, are blacksmiths. Many Gypsies have turned to Christ, especially in Western Europe, yet they are culturally isolated from their fellow-believers in settled communities.

Conflict and suspicion exist between settled and nomadic peoples in many places, and has led to recent violence and killings in West Africa.

True nomads are hard to count but one common estimate numbers them at 30-40 million people.

🙏 Pray that the Gospel may dwell in the hearts of nomadic people who have no permanent dwelling. Pray for more labourers to work among them, and for discipleship programs among them, especially for ones that will empower indigenous Christians to reach their own people.

🙏 Pray for Christ to bring peace and understanding between settled peoples and nomads, and for nomads to find a way of life that suits the 21st century. Many are isolated from health and education provision.

🙏 God is working among the Muslim Fulbe (Fula, or Fulani) people after nearly a century of mission work. Fulbe churches have been started and even a Fulbe Bible school. Pray this early-stage movement to Christ will grow and spread to all the countries where the Fulbe travel.

## THE NATIONS

### BURKINA FASO

This West African country of 20 million people is one of the poorest in the world. It is also one of the youngest: in 2018, under-15s made up 45% of the population.



The power of the spirit world is a factor in Burkina Faso: some people say the nation is '50% Muslim, 20% Christian and 100% animist!' Idols, charms and secret societies exert more influence here than in most West African countries.

The Church is growing. Evangelicals have increased from 10,000 in 1960 to 1.44 million in 2010, for example. (Islam is growing at an equal rate.) As young people move from village to city, rural churches are setting up urban congregations.

The Assemblies of God in Burkina Faso has a vibrant mission sending movement, to unreached groups in their own country and beyond.

- 🙏 Pray that development and aid efforts are effective and not wasted through corruption.
- 🙏 Pray for the Church to know and demonstrate freedom in Christ from all occult influences.
- 🙏 Pray for the multiplication of urban churches. Pray for the mission sending movement in Burkina Faso to grow and to inspire other African churches.

### CAMBODIA

The violent Khmer Rouge regime (1975-1979) led to the death of millions. The shadows of those horrors still linger among Cambodia's 16 million people, evidenced by spirit shrines, fear, superstition, corruption and the widespread loss of morals. Criminal networks behind the drug and sex trades exploit many children and young people.

After a 25-year experiment with democracy, Cambodia is rapidly being turned back into a one-party state. The government represses opposition parties, labour unions, and NGOs and has closed down independent media outlets. China has become Cambodia's biggest investor and biggest aid-donor, and is not a positive force for the advance of human rights.

The Cambodian Church has survived great trial. It is small (3%) but growing fast enough to double in size every decade.

- 🙏 Pray for the light of the gospel to shine on individual lives and all social structures in Cambodia.



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