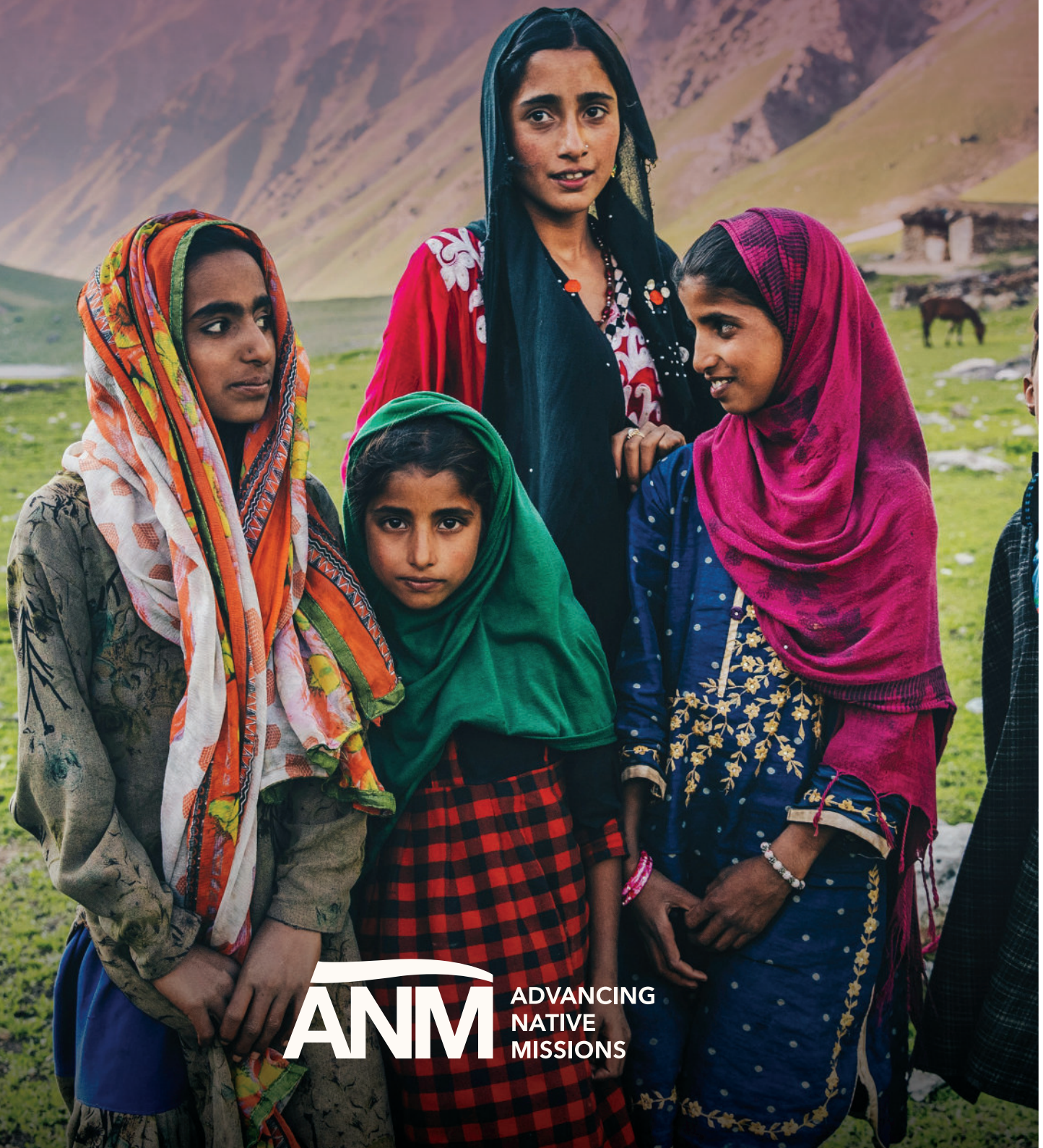


HOW TO PRAY FOR SOUTH ASIA



ANM

ADVANCING
NATIVE
MISSIONS

Thank you for praying for South Asia!

As you read through this guide, you'll learn about this small but populous region and its many unreached people groups.

South Asia consists of India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan, and the Maldives. Often called the Indian subcontinent, it is home to nearly 2.5 billion people in 3.3 million square miles – three times the population of the U.S. in half the space and 25% of the world population.

With so many people, it's no surprise that this region is incredibly diverse, with over 2,000 distinct languages and dialects. You'll also find the origins of four major religions here: Buddhism, Hinduism, and Jainism – all founded before Christ – and Sikhism, founded in the 1400s A.D.

According to most church historians, Christianity was one of the first foreign religions to arrive here, specifically in 52 A.D. with the Apostle Thomas. Zoroastrianism, an ancient Persian religion, came with immigrants in the 900s. Islam arrived around 712 with Arab invasions. Protestant missionaries came in the 1700s.

Approximately 60% of South Asians are Hindu, 31% are Muslim, 5% are Buddhist, 2% are Sikh, and 2% are Christian. There is a great need for native missionaries.





Since 63% of South Asians live in rural or remote locations, the spread of Christianity depends on the Holy Spirit and native missionaries. Native missionaries have greater awareness of these remote locations and people groups, and can better present the Gospel across any cultural barriers. If there are any existing believers within a people group, they can also offer more personalized support, since they already live in the area.



Most of these remote people groups are considered unreached people groups (UPGs). An unreached people group is a people group where 2% or less of the population identifies as evangelical believers.

These small communities of believers within a people group often don't have the resources to effectively minister to their own people – yet. ANM supports many native missionaries in South Asia and they have a God-sized goal: to reach every UPG with the Gospel.

One specific focus is India, which is home to 2,135 UPGs. Previous missionaries have seen success in Southern and Eastern India, but churches struggle in the Northern, Western, and Central regions. Mountain ranges, corrupt governments, and social hostility to Christians make these parts of India a large, difficult mission field. However, nothing is impossible with God (Matthew 17:20).



Our brother in Christ, Kumar seeks to bring the Gospel to every village. A cross-cultural missionary led him to Christ when he was in high school. Although there were no other believers in his family, he completed Bible training and returned to his village as a native missionary.



There were 100 other villages in his area, and he desperately wanted to reach them but didn't have the means. ANM stepped in and helped him establish a farm with two buffaloes, which produced enough income that Kumar could hire another missionary for a nearby village while reaching his own. Eventually, his entire family came to Christ!

Now, Kumar has a motorcycle from ANM that allows him to easily and safely travel to other villages with the Gospel. He's also planning his wedding, which he will use as a Gospel presentation instead of following village rituals. He is taking a bold step for Christ in this way.

Like many other native missionaries, Kumar works a job to support his evangelistic efforts and ensures that his personal life is a testament to the Gospel. His tireless dedication to the Gospel message is making a difference in South Asia.



PRAY FOR SOUTH ASIA

You can pray for Kumar and his entire region with the following prayer requests:



- 1.** For the 4,000+ unreached people groups in South Asia, that they will hear and spread the Gospel.
- 2.** For the native missionaries who are reaching unreached locations, that God will give safety and victory.
- 3.** For strength for our missionaries to bind the strong spiritual powers and principalities that oppose the Gospel in each place.
- 4.** For the missionaries who are in jail due to unjust, anti-Christian laws, that they will persevere and experience freedom.
- 5.** For the safety of the missionary families and believers from fanatic groups.
- 6.** For training programs for new believers, that they will see fruit.
- 7.** For the political authorities and economic bodies, that corruption will end and peace will reign.
- 8.** For the poor and needy who suffer due to the evil socio-religious, economic and political structures of South Asian society, that God will be their provider and comforter.
- 9.** For the perseverance of current Christian leadership and provision of additional faithful leaders.
- 10.** For the healing of the traumatized believers and leaders in many parts of South Asia who have experienced persecution.



ANM is a global missions organization delivering the Gospel to those who still need to hear the Good News of Jesus in 100+ countries.

We're a little different from the traditional missions organizations you may be familiar with. Instead of sending missionaries to other countries where they have to learn a new language, adapt to new ways of living, and make substantial cultural adjustments, we support missionaries sharing the Gospel in their own countries.

These native missionaries are impacting the kingdom tremendously – ***you can help.***

Learn more at advancingnativemissions.com

Thank you for praying!

