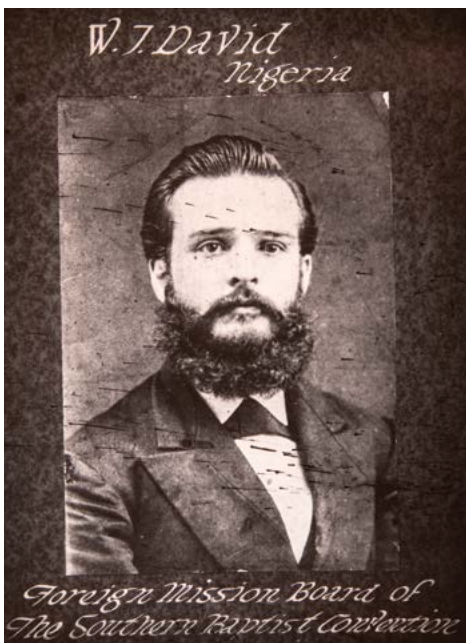




Sub-Saharan Africa: Nigeria

SINCE THE 1850s, SOUTHERN BAPTISTS HAVE PUSHED CLOSER INTO AFRICA'S INTERIOR, SHARING THE GOSPEL THROUGHOUT NIGERIA. TODAY, THE COUNTRY IS HOME TO THOUSANDS OF SMALL CHURCHES THAT HAVE GREAT POTENTIAL TO REACH THEIR UNENGAGED, UNREACHED NEIGHBORS WITH THE GOSPEL. YET ETHNIC DIVISIONS AND TERRORIST GROUPS THREATEN TO KEEP THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS CHRIST CONFINED INSIDE CHURCHES. PRAY THAT THE GOSPEL WILL BE UNLEASHED ON THOSE WHO HAVE NEVER HEARD.

“Never give up Africa:” Reaching today’s 83 million Nigerians without the gospel



William David served as a Southern Baptist missionary in Yoruba (modern-day Nigeria) from 1874 to 1894.

Nannie David stood by the ship rails, straining to see the landmass ahead. She could finally identify Africa! As a child, she heard stories of people in foreign lands worshipping idols, and she longed for them to hear about her Savior. She even worked odd jobs around her home to earn money to donate to missions. Now she was taking the gospel overseas. A year after marrying Southern Baptist missionary, William David, the couple sailed to Yoruba (modern-day Nigeria), and arrived in 1880. “Our desire is to glorify Christ, whether in life or death,” David penned from the ship.

At the time, Africa was considered the “white man’s grave.” Four missionaries who preceded the Davids died from a fever within a year of arrival. Others left due to tribal warfare. The Davids established a ministry base in a seaport city and made trips to the interior. Their hearts broke over those who, as William wrote, “go with their offerings from one idol shrine to another, seeking peace and finding none, living and dying without God and hope.” Sadly, within a three-year period, two of the David children died. Then in 1885, Nannie was stricken with a fever. Her dying words to her husband were to “never give up Africa.” William stayed nine more years. Today, there are 18,135 Baptist churches in Nigeria. But the call to “never give up” remains. There are still 82.7 million Nigerians with little access to the gospel.

The IMB is highlighting three people groups in Nigeria (Manga Kanuri, West Marghi and Okpamheri) in the 55 in 5 initiative to engage 55 groups with the gospel by 2025. Learn more at www.imb.org/ssap/55in5.

1 NIGERIA. Nigeria is home to 40 unengaged, unreached people groups, including the Manga Kanuri, West Marghi, and Okpamheri. Ask God to call out Christians to share the gospel with these people groups that either actively resist the gospel or have never had opportunities to hear.

2 ITALIANS OF ITALY. Italy is currently one of most unreached countries in the world. Many Italians have little to do with faith and don't want to discuss it. Pray for more local and international believers to share the gospel so that more people in Italy will hear and believe the truth.

3 EMIRATI ARABS OF THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES. Believers who work in the United Arab Emirates want to be faithful witnesses to Emirati people, but their demanding jobs leave them little time or energy to spare. Pray for strength and opportunities for believers to be faithful stewards of their jobs and the gospel.

4 JAPAN. Recently in Japan, some famous actors ended their lives. When this happens, others often do the same in "mimic suicides." Each year, about 30,000 Japanese take their lives. May the Japanese hear the gospel and know that life is God's gift. May all choose life in Jesus.

5 WEST MARGHI OF NIGERIA. The West Marghi people are facing violence from an Islamic terrorist group. Although most West Marghi are Muslim, they are attacked and killed for not following the group's radical form of Islam. Pray for the Prince of peace to rule the West Marghi.

6 HAZARA OF AFGHANISTAN. "I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me." (Revelation 3:20 ESV). One Hazara man has heard the gospel clearly. Pray that he will take the next step and open the door to Jesus.

7 OKPAMHERI OF NIGERIA. The Okpamheri, who number less than 100,000, are typically farmers living in towns and villages in southern Nigeria, where the false teachings of the prosperity gospel run rampant. Pray that the Okpamheri will understand and respond to the true gospel.

11 OKPAMHERI OF NIGERIA. The Okpamheri are a little-known people group in Nigeria. They have their own language, but many young people speak a more predominant language, like English or Yoruba. Pray that believers who speak these languages will boldly share the gospel with the Okpamheri.



A Nigerian woman worships during a celebration of 150 years of gospel witness in Nigeria.

8 DEAF PEOPLES. A Southeast Asian Deaf man drives for hours into the city each week to learn a Bible story. Then he returns to his village, where he teaches it to a small group of Deaf believers. Pray for this group to grow as a church and be connected to the Deaf church in the city.

9 MANGA KANURI OF NIGERIA. Terrorists are killing Manga Kanuri farmers and destroying their farms, leaving behind widows and children without a livelihood. Ask God to protect farmers and meet the widows' and children's needs. Pray that they will know Christ as their source of strength and hope.

10 PEOPLES OF THE BAJIO OF MEXICO. Of the 25 million people living in Mexico's Bajio region, only 3% are believers. IMB missionaries are encouraging local believers to reach this region for Christ. Pray for the churches in the Bajio to be healthy and grow in desire to evangelize and plant new churches.

12 CHENNAI, INDIA. As the pandemic has kept some mature believers from going in Chennai, it's important for the local believers they have been mentoring to share the gospel. Ask God to call out more believers to walk in obedience and share His gospel with unreached peoples in the city.

13 WEST MARGHI OF NIGERIA. The region where the West Marghi live became well-known in 2014 when terrorists kidnapped 276 schoolgirls there. Now, many West Marghi are displaced because the terrorists have attacked their farms and families. Pray that they'll find hope and salvation in the gospel.

14 COFFEE PEOPLE OF SOUTHEAST ASIA. The pastor of a church in "Ktown" and some church members recently went through evangelism training. They have already experienced resistance and persecution from their community. Pray for God's protection as His gospel goes out into the harvest fields.

15 NIGERIA. Nigeria is one of Southern Baptists' oldest mission fields, but early work was hindered by civil unrest. Violence continues to affect ministry, particularly in the north. Ask God to protect Nigerian pastors venturing into dangerous areas to share the gospel of peace.

16 BULGARIANS OF BULGARIA. The Lord opened doors for an IMB team to share evangelism and discipleship training in churches across Bulgaria. Pray for Bulgarian believers to develop a passion for reaching their neighbors and that these trainings will help equip them to do this effectively.

17 DECCANI MUSLIMS OF INDIA. Muslim men in the Deccan of India need Jesus. Ask God to soften their hearts to receive the love of Jesus. Pray that they will courageously accept the gospel and lead their families and communities to do the same. Pray for deliverance from the evils that entangle them.

18 LAST FRONTIER. A group of persecuted Christians minister among refugees of an unreached people group. These Christians understand the persecution that the refugees face because of their own struggles. Ask God to protect and strengthen them as they reach out with the gospel.

19 SANTIAGO, CHILE. A couple has led five people to the Lord during the pandemic! They are forming discipleship groups with the new believers and with not-yet believers. The school they own loses students regularly as in-person classes have been prohibited in Chile. Ask God to provide.

20 MANGA KANURI OF NIGERIA. Thank God for humanitarian aid projects happening among Manga Kanuri staying in camps for displaced peoples. Pray that these projects will open doors to share the gospel with the Manga Kanuri, who practice Islam.

21 DEAF PEOPLES. Recently, two students arrived safely in Southeast Asia after their seminary training in the U.S. Pray for these young men as they face reverse culture shock, look for housing and jobs, and catch up with their church. Ask that they will be a light in the darkness.

22 LIBYAN ARABS OF LIBYA AND NORTHERN AFRICA. Al Khums is a port city on the Mediterranean Sea that is home to 200,000 Libyan Arabs. Ask that God will speak to the people there in miraculous ways and draw them through dreams and visions. Ask that whole families, tribes, and neighborhoods will turn to faith in Jesus.

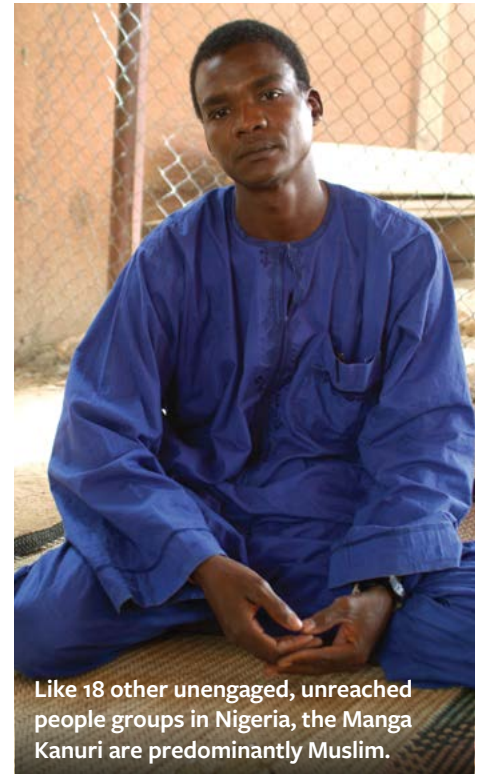


A boy of the Kanuri people group (pop. 7.9 million) who live in Nigeria and Niger.

23 OKPAMHERI OF NIGERIA. In the 19th century, Okpamheri communities gathered in unity to fight slave raiders. Today, the term "Okpamheri" can be used to mean "we are one." Ask God to use this sense of unity to bring entire villages to Christ. May their new motto be "we are one church!"

24 PEOPLE OF THE UPPER PLAINS OF KARNATAKA, INDIA. The Ghadi are an unengaged, unreached people who live in the northern coastal area of Karnataka. Pray that these Hindus, who are known to be torchbearers for temple processions, will become torchbearers for Christ. Ask that someone will carry the light of Christ to them.

25 CENTRAL ASIANS OF KAZAKHSTAN. Many lost people have heard the gospel recently. Pray for their salvation. Pray for more local believers



Like 18 other unengaged, unreached people groups in Nigeria, the Manga Kanuri are predominantly Muslim.

to make disciples and plant churches. Ask God to keep refining His people. Ask that they will call on His name during uncertain times, acknowledging that He is God.

26 WEST MARGHI OF NIGERIA. The few Christians and churches among the West Marghi are facing much persecution and destruction of buildings, homes, and personal property. Pray for God's protection over these believers. Pray that they will be faithful witnesses in this persecution.

27 SOUTHEAST ASIAN PEOPLES. Ask for wisdom for those managing relief projects in Southeast Asia. Food distribution projects and community development programs open doors for evangelistic opportunities. Pray for follow-up as God opens doors to engage spiritual needs along with physical needs.

28 NIGERIA. Parts of Nigeria are inaccessible due to terrorist activity, so Christians are exploring ways to share the gospel from a distance. Ask God to give wisdom as they consider social media campaigns and other methods for getting evangelistic messages to the unreached.

Nigerian Baptist pastor ministers to displaced unengaged, unreached peoples

In northern Nigeria, a Nigerian Baptist pastor ministers in an area terrorized by a militant Islamic group. The group often attacks the farms of those who do not support them, even those of Muslim people groups like the Manga Kanuri and the West Marghi. The farmers who resist the militant group are killed. Their widows and children, left with no source of livelihood, then go to live in camps for displaced peoples. There, the pastor shares the gospel with them while operating aid projects.

Nigeria is one of Southern Baptists' oldest mission fields. Since the 1850s, missionaries and local believers have faithfully shared the gospel there. Now, thousands of small churches are scattered throughout Nigeria, yet most do not reach out across ethnic lines. These churches have great potential to get the gospel to the Manga Kanuri and West Marghi, both unengaged, unreached people groups (UUPGs). Pray that Nigerian believers will have a Spirit-fueled desire to be Christ's witnesses among UUPGs.



Farms in northern Nigeria are under attack by a militant Islamic group.

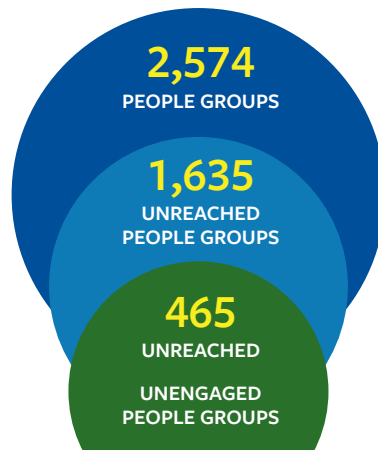
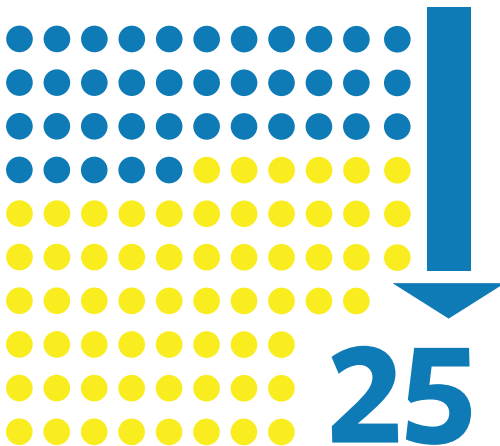
Sub-Saharan African Peoples

AFRICA WILL BE 60% URBAN BY 2050.

It's currently 41% urban.



62% OF THE POPULATION IS UNDER THE AGE OF



PRIMARY RELIGIONS



ISLAM



CHRISTIANITY



ANIMISM/ATR



Every church.
Every nation.

PRAYERPOINTS is available as a free email or print subscription. Please go to www.imb.org/prayer-points to subscribe, or call (800) 999-3113, if you need assistance.

You can also find **PRAYERPOINTS** on the IMB Pray app - available for iOS and Android devices. Find more prayer opportunities and resources at IMB.org/pray as well as on **Facebook** and **Twitter**.