



# open

INITIATIVE

*Pray for us, that God may open a door.*

Colossians 4:3

**abwe**

# Unreached People Groups Are the Next Frontier for Global Missions



For every 30 missionaries that go to the reached, roughly one missionary goes to the unreached.



1/3 of humanity has never heard the name of Jesus.



42% of the world's population live in closed countries with little to no gospel witness.

**God's heart breaks for the nations.  
He longs to redeem a people from every  
tribe and people group on the earth.**

**We believe that God is calling a generation  
of missionaries to take the gospel to  
these hard-to-reach people.**



## A History of Hard Work

From the beginning, ABWE's missionaries have been bringing the good news of the gospel to the ends of the earth. Why? Because the mission didn't start with us.

**“Go and make disciples of all nations.”**

Jesus, Matthew 28:19

Our vision is to fulfill the Great Commission by multiplying leaders, churches, and missions movements among every people group.

**And, yes, that includes closed countries and unreached peoples.**

Whether it was placing missionaries in the Pacific Theatre during World War 2, behind the Iron Curtain in the Cold War, or one of the other 70 fields we have opened, our goal was always the same: to help churches send individuals to the hardest places so they can reach the unreached with the gospel of Jesus.

## Our Values

- PUT JESUS IN FIRST PLACE
- CELEBRATE THE GOSPEL
- STRIVE FOR A BIBLICAL FAMILY ATMOSPHERE
- PURSUE HUMBLE CONFIDENCE
- SHARE OUR LIVES AND POSSESSIONS

# Seven Fields

A people group is designated 'unreached' when less than 2% of the population is evangelical Christian. We estimate there are about 6,741 unreached people groups in the world. That's 3.14 billion people. We've got a lot to do. Let's get started!

We believe God will use the Open Initiative to send seven teams to these seven unreached people groups.

# 1

## THE FULANI PEOPLE

**Location:** Central & Western Africa

**Population:** 38 Million

**% of Believers:** Less than 1%

**Dominant Religion:** Islam

The Fulani people are spread across 19 Central and West African countries. With over 38 million people belonging to the Fulani, they are the world's largest nomadic group and almost 100% of the population follow Islam.



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## SOUTH ASIA

**Population:** 225 Million  
**% of Believers:** Less than 1%  
**Dominant Religion:** Islam

The Unreached People Group in South Asia (UPG-SA) live in a land of great beauty and history. Their culture is complex and diverse, as many different cultures have blended into one unique and modern way of life. The region has over 800 unreached people groups with 98% percent of the population being Muslim.



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## CARIBBEAN BASIN

**Population:** 672,000  
**% of Believers:** 30%  
**Dominant Religion:** Hinduism, Buddhism & Islam

The Caribbean consists of more than 700 islands, islets, reefs, and cays. It is a melting pot of cultures. While Christianity is the predominant religion, pockets of Unreached People Groups in the Caribbean Basin (UPG-CB) are located throughout the region. Large numbers of Hindus and Muslims live in Trinidad and Tobago, Guyana, and Suriname.



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## JAPANESE

**Population:** 37 Million  
**% of Believers:** Less than 1%  
**Dominant Religion:** Shinto, Atheism & Buddhism

The Japanese people of the greater Tokyo area have a unique set of beliefs that blend ancient traditions and newer western practices. While Shinto and Buddhism are widely practiced, they are not widely believed. Suicide is rife, and the roots of honor/shame culture go deep. Japan is the largest unreached nation that is still completely open to missionaries.

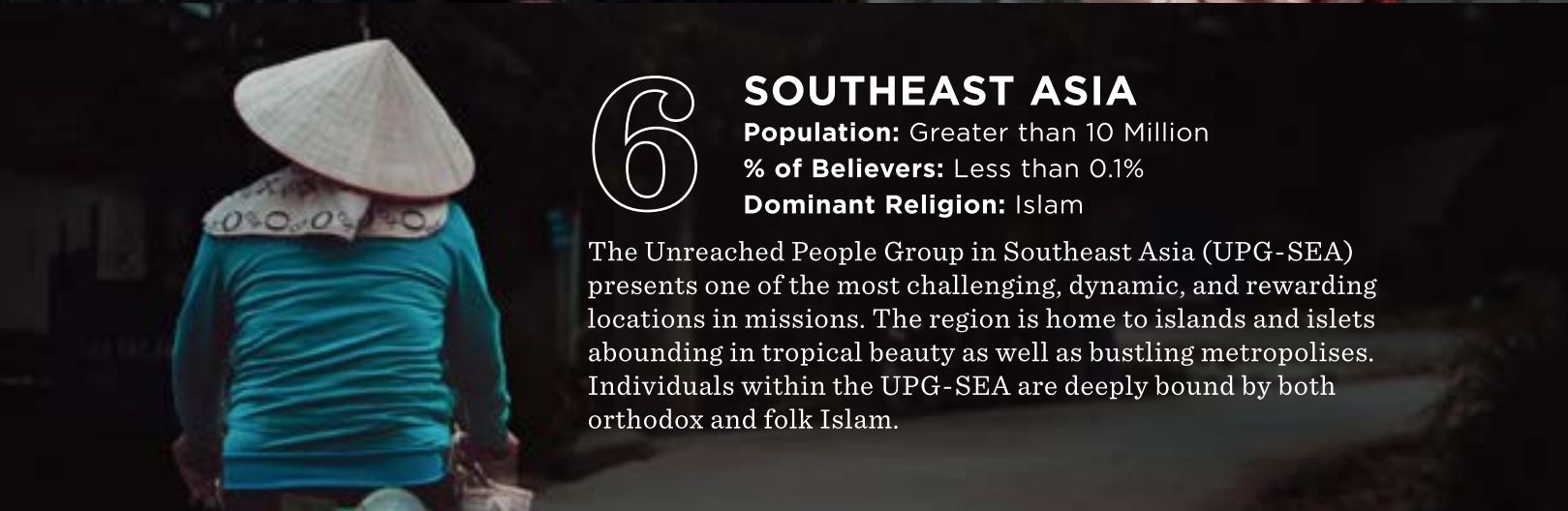


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## SYRIAN REFUGEES

**Population:** 13.5 Million  
**% of Believers:** Less than 0.2%  
**Dominant Religion:** Islam

Now in its 11th year, the Syrian refugee crisis remains the world's largest refugee and displacement crisis. Today there are approximately 6.8 million Syrian refugees and asylum-seekers scattered throughout Europe and the Middle East with another 6.7 million people displaced within Syria itself.

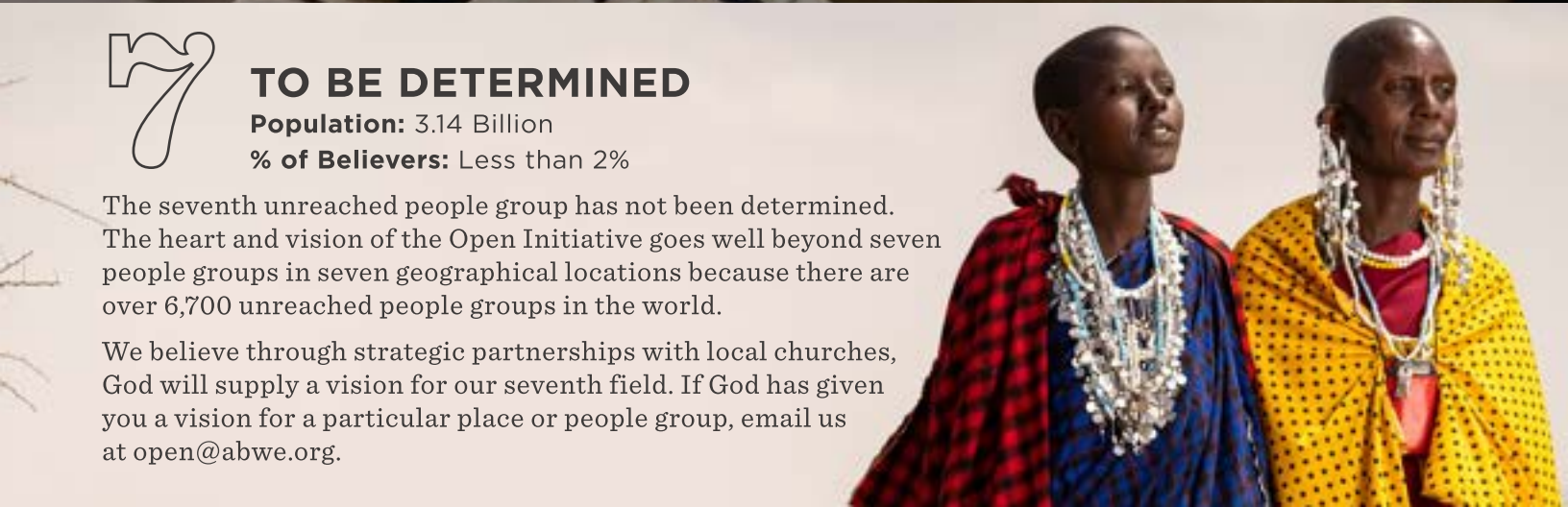


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## SOUTHEAST ASIA

**Population:** Greater than 10 Million  
**% of Believers:** Less than 0.1%  
**Dominant Religion:** Islam

The Unreached People Group in Southeast Asia (UPG-SEA) presents one of the most challenging, dynamic, and rewarding locations in missions. The region is home to islands and islets abounding in tropical beauty as well as bustling metropolises. Individuals within the UPG-SEA are deeply bound by both orthodox and folk Islam.



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## TO BE DETERMINED

**Population:** 3.14 Billion  
**% of Believers:** Less than 2%

The seventh unreached people group has not been determined. The heart and vision of the Open Initiative goes well beyond seven people groups in seven geographical locations because there are over 6,700 unreached people groups in the world.

We believe through strategic partnerships with local churches, God will supply a vision for our seventh field. If God has given you a vision for a particular place or people group, email us at [open@abwe.org](mailto:open@abwe.org).



# How We Reach UPGs

A STORY FROM THE FIELD: AAKASH (UPG-SA)

The truck driver frantically slammed the brakes. Nothing happened.

The old truck, full of young soccer players, careened down the rough mountain roads and flipped.

As the dust settled, one scream was heard above the chaos. A teenage boy named Aakash was laying along the roadside—his leg shattered, unable to move.

His friends rushed him from their isolated mountain village to the nearest hospital—our missionary hospital.

The missionary medical staff whisked Aakash away into the operating room, working to stabilize his femur, pelvic ring, and forearm fractures.

One surgery quickly turned into eight, and a soccer game into a twelve-week stay in the hospital. Throughout the time, hospital staff worked diligently to reconstruct Aakash’s arm and legs in the hope he’d walk again.

But they did more than treat his body. Though they didn’t speak his language, Aakash’s nurses and doctors prayed for him fervently. Each day, a Bible translator specializing in his language came to visit and tell Bible stories.

When Aakash heard, “Whoever believes in him will not perish but have everlasting life,” Aakash struggled to understand. How could something like this be possible?

Slowly, his disbelief faded. As he thought about the words, he silently gave his life to Christ. But he didn’t tell anyone. Eventually, Aakash was discharged, and he took the stories he had heard with him back to his village.

Weeks later, the hospital staff visited Aakash in his village. His unspoken faith in Christ had grown. Now confident, Aakash shared his salvation with the medical staff and asked them to baptize him.

Like the woman at the well in the book of John, the truth of the gospel grew into a need to share it with others. And, like that woman, his faith led six other villagers to the Lord.

# The Strategy

IT TAKES 6-10 PEOPLE TO BEGIN A WORK AMONG AN UNREACHED PEOPLE GROUP

Each team is made up of a field leader, church planters, and other teammates focused on compassion ministry, community development, and business-focused.

We use the creative platforms of compassion, development, and business to give us legal entry and access to people. This allows us to form evangelistic relationships, plant thriving churches, and equip indigenous leaders to expand the work.

# The Budget

TO OPEN ONE CLOSED FIELD

Research & Survey Trips.....	\$40,000
Envisioning & Communication.....	\$20,000
Church Partnerships.....	\$10,000
Startup Field Cost .....	\$50,000
Ongoing Team Care.....	\$20,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$140,000</b>

**GRAND TOTAL FOR 7 FIELDS \$980,000**

**TOTAL SENDS FOR 7 FIELDS 70 PEOPLE**



## PRAYER

Prayer is the fuel that feeds missions. It was the starting point for Jesus. When he saw the crowds who were harassed and helpless like sheep without a shepherd, his compassion motivated an imperative:

*“Pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.”*

Matthew 9:38

You can opt in to receive weekly prayer devotionals, prayer requests, and updates about quarterly prayer events at [ABWE.org/Open](https://ABWE.org/Open)

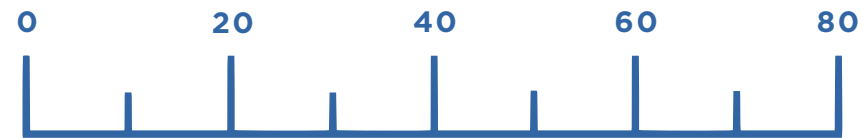
# Your Church Can Help Open Closed Countries

AND REACH UNREACHED PEOPLES

To accomplish all that God wants to do through the Open Initiative will require sustained, strategic partnerships between ABWE and local churches who share God's heart for unreached peoples.

## YOU AND YOUR CHURCH CAN PARTNER IN 2 STRATEGIC WAYS:

**S** We are committed to helping you identify, raise up, and send missionaries. Churches that send well will have the greatest gospel impact. We work alongside churches to equip individuals for a variety of engagements including short-term teams, career missionaries, and everything in between. To begin a work in all of these fields will require at least 60 people.



Who is God raising up from your church to go to closed countries and unreached peoples?

**G** Financial support is as vital to the work as going. To accomplish the vision God has set before us will require a total investment of \$980,000. Your financial commitment will help establish a physical presence and provide the infrastructure needed to sustain pioneering missionaries in these fields.



What has God called you and your church to be responsible for in opening closed countries and reaching unreached people groups?

# ABWE is committed to helping you and your church open closed countries and reach unreached peoples.

As part of our commitment to you and the Open Initiative, we will provide: strategic oversight, congregational envisioning, logistical support, equipping for effective sending and financial accountability. To take your next step in participating in the Open Initiative, email [president@abwe.org](mailto:president@abwe.org).

**Together, with your support, we could change the trajectory of global missions.**





# 7 TEAMS

## 7 UNREACHED PEOPLE GROUPS

The Open Initiative is part of the strategic vision of ABWE

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