



DUMMIES GUIDE

TO LEAST-REACHED PEOPLE GROUPS

When Jesus said, “Go and make disciples of all nations” he used the Greek word “ethne” meaning peoples or ethnic groups. In 2012 there are 196 nations in the world and over 16,000 distinct people groups¹. 16,000!! We can see why it is known as the *Great Commission!*

What is a people group?

A people group is a large grouping of individuals who are connected by shared language, religion, ethnicity, residence, occupation, class or caste, situation or a combination of these.

What makes a people group least-reached?

Least-reached groups are those that have little or no access to the gospel in ways that makes sense to them. While Christianity has grown rapidly and continuously across all continents, there are places where it has encountered barriers, often caused by language, tradition, cultural, social and political differences. The least-reached have no indigenous community of believers. More than 99% of people in these communities go from birth to death without ever having an opportunity to hear the gospel.

Where are the least-reached people groups?

Most of the least-reached people groups live in North Africa, the Middle East and Asia. They contain the majority of the world’s Muslims, Hindus and Buddhists.

How many least-reached people groups are there?

7,000. That’s about a third of the world’s population. Sadly, less than 1% of all Christian resources are distributed among least-reached people groups, while over 96% are distributed among Christians.

What is Global Interaction’s strategy?

To address this injustice, we predominantly work among least-reached people groups. We thought trying to reach 7,000 groups was a tad ambitious, even for us Aussies, so we’ve chosen nine (coloured above)!

- Yawo of Malawi and Mozambique
- K* people of Kazakhstan
- H*people of Central Asia
- B* people of South Asia
- Ethnic Thai of Thailand
- The Khmer of Cambodia
- B.I, R.I and S.I* of South East Asia

If you are thinking that we build Baptist Churches, send Bibles and worship CDs – think again. We believe that God’s greatest gift is a life-changing experience of Jesus. Due to language and cultural differences, political and social structures, we cannot simply replicate our Aussie way of doing things. Cross-cultural workers learn the language and culture, build relationships and share with local people. New believers share the gospel effectively within their own people group and develop their own distinctive ways of following Jesus.

Want to know more?

Interested in one of the people groups, intrigued by the * and want to know who they are? We can tell you more, inspire you to pray and maybe send you off to find them...

¹ www.joshuaproject.net