

B People of South Asia

The People Group

The B people live in one of the most densely populated areas of the world and most people are involved in farming or fishing. They have a rich culture based on the influences of many communities entering the region over the centuries; Sri Lankan, Mediterranean, Arab, Turkish and Persian. Nearly all B people identify as Sunni Muslim with less than 1% following Christ.

While there are places of natural beauty, the region struggles to support such a large population. B people continue to face many political, economic, social and environmental challenges including political instability, poverty, illness and flooding. Low levels of literacy also contribute to the cycle of poverty.

Global Interaction team among the B people

The cross-cultural team are an integral part to the daily running of a locally-led development organisation. Through the work of this organisation, women are accessing income generation projects and local people can participate in vocational training opportunities that endeavour to bring transformation to all aspects of their lives. The organisation also offers B people the opportunity to engage with the message of Jesus for the first time and provides a safe place for them to explore questions of life and faith.

An updated translation of the Bible for B people, using accessible and culturally relevant language, has been completed. The team is now working on making the new translation and discipleship material available online.

Prayer Needs

- The updated translation of the Bible for B people will encourage believers and be read by those in the community who are seeking to know Jesus
- The Holy Spirit to create safe opportunities for B people to hear the Good News and accept Jesus
- Through our partner NGO's projects, B people will experience God's love and want to know more
- Protection over the small faith communities who meet to study the Bible
- More committed people to join the team, sharing their skills and the life-transforming message of Jesus

Pray for the Team Members

Phil

Morris (team leader based in Australia)

Graeme (short-term visitor based in Australia)

Graeme and Pat (short-term visitor based in Australia)

Stories of Hope from South Asia

Engaging with God's Word

On a recent trip to South Asia, Team Leader Morris took part in several Bible studies with local believers. Following the group study, he sat with each person to discuss their own interpretation and personal response to the passage. In the religious background of these believers, it is most common for the religious teacher to tell the group how to interpret the scripture with personal exploration not encouraged.

Understanding this cultural background, Morris was incredibly heartened to hear the B believers enthusiastically and thoughtfully consider the passage and what it means for their lives. He was encouraged to witness them grapple with the meaning of the Scripture and engage with it.

Praise God for these B believers wholehearted engagement with the Bible and what it means for their lives. Pray for strengthened faith and protection.

Believers Brought Together

A B woman connected with our partner NGO in South Asia recently shared with the group something of her spiritual journey. Mrs K grew up in a Muslim family, however as a child she had access to a Bible and began reading it. After some time, she became believer but chose to keep it to herself as she was unsure what the response would be from her family and community. A marriage was arranged for her and she married a man from another Muslim family. Still she kept quiet about her faith in Jesus. After being married for a while, she was amazed to discover a Bible under her husband's pillow! He told her he was a follower of Jesus too.

At the time they married, the country had a population of around 150 million people, with 99% not following Jesus. Praise God that He brought these two secret believers together! Pray that more seekers and believers will connect with each other and grow in faith and courage together.

**>>> For more stories of barriers being overcome,
visit: www.globalinteraction.org.au/News**