

## 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 helps in the day-to-day running of the locally-led development organisation. Through the work of this organisation women are accessing income generation projects, men and women are taking part in vocational training and basic needs are being met in many communities.

The team focuses on bringing transformation to all areas of the B peoples' life. This year, a translation of the Bible will be available in the B peoples' own language. This translation is literal, contemporary and easy to read. The prayer of the team is that more people will now be able to access and understand the Bible in a way that makes sense to them.

### **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**

Morris (team leader based in Australia)

Graeme (short-term visitor based in Australia)

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

Phil

## Stories of Hope from South Asia

### **The Way of Grace**

Joe came to faith a few years ago and was active in telling others of his new faith in Jesus. However, his wife remained aligned to her Muslim beliefs. They have a great relationship and love one another but their faith differences were becoming a concern. She thought that he was on the road to punishment and he wanted her to experience God's grace and forgiveness. So they reached an impasse.

She said to him, "I can't bear the thought of us being separated in eternity." He said to her, "If you are right, I will be in Hell and you in Heaven and if I am right then vice versa." They discussed the basis on which they believed one goes to Heaven. He said, "By God's grace shown through the death and resurrection of Jesus." She said, "By keeping the rules of Islam." He asked her, "Are you keeping fully the rules of the religion?" After a few days, she said to him, "I realise that I do not keep all the rules of religion and you say that it is by grace. I don't want to be separated from you in life or death, so tell me the way of grace."

### **Leaving Law, Accepting Grace**

Joseph is a B man who had strong misgivings about anyone who called themselves a Christian or a follower of Jesus. However, he met our workers and began to ask questions about his faith and Scripture. Within the development organisation, Joseph would listen to people from a similar faith background to him share about their understanding of the Bible and the difference that this understanding had made in their lives. Joseph was able to have deep and meaningful conversations about Scripture with people who spoke his language and understood his world view.

In time, a fellow B believer helped Joseph find answers to his many questions about God and faith. Through this experience, Joseph moved away from the rules and law that governed his earlier beliefs and experienced for the first time, the grace and mercy of God. Joseph has come to faith and been baptised. He seeks to share his transformation with others in authentic and culturally appropriate ways.

**>>> For more stories of barriers being overcome,  
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