

B People of South Asia

The People Group

The B people are one of the largest single ethnic and language groups in the world. They also live in one of the most densely populated areas on Earth. B people value family, honour and respect. Their Muslim faith is central to their identity and permeates their world view and social life.

B people reject the perceived religious message of the west. This forms barriers to following Jesus as many see following Jesus as an alignment with the western world. For many B believers, meeting people from their own background who have come to faith in ways that are consistent with our mission of empowering communities to develop their own distinctive ways of following Jesus has been integral to their faith journey.

The Global Interaction team among the B people

The intercultural team is instrumental in the operation of a locally-led development organisation. Through this organisation, many local people are being empowered through education and upskilling, which is growing opportunities for meaningful employment and a better life. Through our partner NGO's work, local project participants and local employees also have a safe place to quietly explore and grow their faith in Jesus.

Local believers and seekers are equipped with a translation of the Bible, written in culturally understandable language. The team is seeing believers engage with God's Word and grapple with what it means for their lives. Groups of believers are meeting together, growing in faith and supporting each other.

Prayer Needs

- Pray that God will raise up more long-term intercultural workers to disciple believers
- For protection of believers and safe spaces for them to explore God's Word and encourage each other
- For the Holy Spirit to open opportunities for B believers to share the message of Jesus with people of peace
- That relationships built through our partner NGO's projects will lead to faith sharing conversations
- For the B faith community to be strengthened, growing in their love and knowledge of God as they gather together

Pray for the Team Members

Phil

Lisa (based in Australia)

Morris (Team Leader based in Australia)

Ryan and Suzie (Candidates)

Graeme (short-term visitor based in Australia)

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

Stories of Hope from South Asia

Overcoming Challenges

When Amin first began working at our partner NGO in South Asia he chose to join the daily staff Bible study. The discussions were all new to him and he wanted to explore more. Long-term cross-cultural worker Morris recognised this interest and said to him, “If you are going to follow Jesus, there are going to be challenges.” One challenge was the social and family pressure to conform to tradition and another was his entrenched beliefs about who God is and how He relates to people.

However, perhaps the biggest roadblock was the question of what following Jesus meant in his context. How could he follow Jesus in distinctively B ways that enabled him to remain in his community? As a Muslim background B man in a community where there are very few followers of Jesus, it was unlikely that Amin would ever hear the Gospel in a way that made sense to him.

Give thanks that God made a way! God placed him in contact with our team and local believers, in an environment where it was safe to explore Jesus and with people who were living out their faith in Jesus in ways that were born out of their own culture. Over the past six years the team and local believers answered Amin’s questions and journeyed with him.

Recently, Amin chose to follow Jesus! When he spoke to Morris about his decision, Amin reminded Morris of the conversation they had all those years ago, telling him that it was indeed worth it.

Seeking God

Morris met a B woman who recently became widowed. She was struggling to raise and provide for her three young daughters. This is just one story and there are many, many others like it in South Asia. Our partner NGO is working hard to respond to the great need around them and empower B people to better their own lives through a range of projects.

We praise God that many of the local NGO staff are followers of Jesus. On this trip to South Asia, Morris saw the impact of the staff regularly sharing the Word of God together. They are hungry for more of God and a deeper experience of His love and mercy

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