

## PRAYING FOR THE SPREAD OF THE GOSPEL

### No. 4: Praying For The Workers In The Vineyard (Part 2: Evangelistic Missions in Australia)

*My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message*  
(John 17:20)

**News:** During the week we have been praying for one another, that we might be empowered, emboldened, articulate, and wise in spreading the gospel this week. Who has a story to share in regard to how that prayer was answered?

#### Share

What are some groups you know of who are involved locally or nationwide in sharing Christian faith outside a church context? (eg. groups such as Crusaders, Scripture Union, providers of SRE in schools, Church Army evangelists, etc.)

In just one or two sentences say who they focus on reaching and how they share Christian faith.

#### Teaching

In John 17 Jesus prays for his disciples. This is happening right before Jesus is betrayed and arrested. The disciples don't know what is about to happen, but Jesus does. He is talking with his Father in heaven, but at the same time commissioning and equipping the disciples for what lies ahead. In this prayer Jesus reflects on how his followers now understand the connection between himself and his Father, and that they have accepted and obeyed the words he has given them. He prays for them that they will continue to follow his example even when he is no longer physically with them on earth. He has previously explained to them that once he goes the Holy Spirit will come and be working in the world and guiding the people of God. (John 16: 7-15)

Read John 17: 6 – 19

Jesus' whole prayer has this end in mind: "As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world" (v18)

- What specific things does Jesus pray and want for his disciples? List them out. (v11, 13, 15, 17)

Jesus's prayer doesn't stop there...

Read John 17: 20 – 26

- What does Jesus want for future believers - those who will come to believe in him through the disciples? List out some specifics.

### **Prayer Activity**

Choose one of the evangelistic groups (EG) that was mentioned in the earlier sharing time. This can be done as one group together, or as multiple small groups or individuals each choosing their own EG. If working as individuals come back at the end to share your prayers.

- a) Look back at the things you listed out from Jesus' prayer in John 17: 6 -19.
  - Which of those things would be relevant to pray for your chosen EG workers? Why? What difference do you think it would make to them as they are "out in the world"?
  - What other specific things could you be praying for those workers? (Think back to last week and the things you discovered in the scriptures to be praying for "the workers".)
- b) Look back at the things you listed out from Jesus' prayer in John 17: 20 - 26 concerning those who will come to believe through the disciples.
  - Which of those things would be relevant to pray for the people your chosen EG is working with? Why?
  - What other specific things could you be praying for the people your EG is working with?
- c) c) Turn the thoughts and ideas from a) and b) above into a prayer for your EG. You could rewrite John 17: 6- 26 as a prayer for them, or use a different style. You may like to draw a visual representation of your prayer. Pray out the prayer(s).

If appropriate, consider sending your prayer(s) and/or a note of encouragement to your chosen EG.

### **During the week**

Spend at least 10 minutes each day (or every second day) praying for the spread of the gospel in Australia through a specific evangelistic group. As you pray ask God for insight into what to specifically pray for the workers and/or those they are reaching out to.

## PRAYING FOR THE SPREAD OF THE GOSPEL

### No. 5: Praying For The Spread of the Gospel in All Places & Nations

*My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message*  
(John 17:20)

**News:** Who has a recent story about prayer to share? Are you aware of someone you have been praying taking a step towards Jesus in some way? Perhaps God has given you a new insight, inspiration or strategy related to prayer.

#### Teaching

God wants all his people reconciled to him, not just a few.

Read Revelation 5:6-10

Today we are going to be praying for the spread of the gospel in all places and nations and for those responsible on earth for governing the nations.

Read 1 Timothy 2:1-5 in NLT and The Message versions. (You could use another version, but these two versions highlight some particular concepts in an easy to understand way.)

- Why does us living peaceful and quiet lives in godliness and dignity please God? (see v4-5). This is about more than us just having nice easy life.
- What are some ways our government and world leaders can help or hinder the spread of the gospel, whether or not they are believers themselves? What are some real world examples of this?  
(Ensuring freedom of speech & action for believers is one part of this, but think more broadly as well. What aligns with God's heart and character and his desire for people and creation? How are such values supported or contradicted by governments?)

#### Prayer Activity

Spend 5 minutes at each of the following 3 'prayer stations'. Set it up however works best for your group. You could designate different physical areas for each station and actively move to each one. You could rotate around them simultaneously in three groups or all together. Or you could introduce each station to the group, without moving anywhere. Pray (perhaps in smaller groups) before introducing the next station.

##### **1. Pray the News**

Pick a current global news story. Make it accessible to everyone (eg. print out, show video clip, tell or read the story).

- What in this story reflects God's kingdom values & God at work? (eg. people's actions & reactions, concern for things that are dear to God's heart, regardless of whether the players actually acknowledge Jesus as Lord or not)
- What in this story is evidence of a fallen world (a world not as God desires it)?
- How can you pray "God's kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven" for this situation and/or the people and institutions involved?
- Pray now.

## 2. Pray for Politicians & National Leaders

You may like to print out some photos and/or brief information on relevant politicians and leaders to inspire your prayers.

*(The following points are taken from the There Is Hope / trypraying 2016 resource "Catching the Wave – 40 day Prayer Guide.)*

- Pray for those in local and national government. Most people enter public life with a desire to serve and often at great cost.
- Pray for your MP and local councillors that their desire to serve would remain uppermost and that their work would benefit those they represent.
- Ask God that the decisions made in the corridors of power this week would have positive effect in the life of community and nation.
- Pray for wisdom to be given, petty power- broking to be absent and integrity maintained.
- Pray also for leadership to strengthen justice, freedom and the spiritual life of the nation.

## 3. Pray for Unreached People Groups

An unreached (or least-reached) people is a people group among which there is no indigenous community of believing Christians with adequate numbers and resources to evangelize this people group without outside assistance.

Different definitions of what makes up a "people group" means there are statistics vary as to the number of people groups and unreached people there actually are. But don't get bogged down in that. Regardless of the actual numbers, it is clear there are still many, many people who need to hear the good news of Jesus. The Joshua Project ([joshuaproject.net](http://joshuaproject.net)) identifies over 17,000 people groups worldwide, 7,086 (41.6%) of which are unreached. 41.6% of the global population are in those unreached groups.

People from various unreached people groups may live outside their home country, including in countries like Australia. Here they may have more opportunity to hear the Gospel and be taught and encouraged as followers of Jesus. The Joshua Project identifies people from 20 unreached people groups living in Australia. (See prayer card printout at end of this week's notes.) You may have the opportunity to share the good news of Jesus with someone from one of these groups without ever venturing overseas!

- Pray for people currently living in Australia who are from unreached people groups that they will hear and respond to the Gospel. (Refer to prayer card printout). Pray for Christians in Australia that they (we) will effectively reach out to these people in our communities.
- Pray for the believers in unreached people groups around the world. That they will grow in faith and be able to share the gospel among their own people. Pray for the missionaries who go to serve them.
- Pray for those in closed countries and those who face persecution or hardship because of their Christian faith. Pray for the work of the Holy Spirit in these places.

For more information on specific people groups go to [https://joshuaproject.net/people\\_groups/](https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/)

## **To Finish**

Read Psalm 22:27-31 (Message Version) together as a prayer & thanksgiving:

From the four corners of the earth  
people are coming to their senses,  
are running back to God.  
Long-lost families  
are falling on their faces before him.  
God has taken charge;  
from now on he has the last word.  
<sup>29</sup> All the power-mongers are before him  
—worshiping!  
All the poor and powerless, too  
—worshiping!  
Along with those who never got it together  
—worshiping!  
<sup>30-31</sup> Our children and their children  
will get in on this  
As the word is passed along  
from parent to child.  
Babies not yet conceived  
will hear the good news—  
that God does what he says.

## **During the week**

*Some suggestions:*

- As you listen to or read the news, pray for those making headlines. Follow Timothy's instructions from 1 Tim 2:1, ie. Ask God to help them, intercede on their behalf, and give thanks for them.
- Pray for a local politician or community leader every second day
- Download the Joshua Project's smart phone app "Unreached of the Day" and pray for a different unreached people group everyday.  
(Or visit their website: <https://joshuaproject.net>)

# Unreached People Groups represented in Australia

Page 1 of 3

## Pray for the Nations

### Afghan, general in Australia



Population: **26,000**  
World Popl: **77,500**  
Total Countries: **4**  
People Cluster: **Pashtun**  
Main Language: **Dari**  
Main Religion: **Islam**  
Status: **Unreached**  
Evangelicals: **0.00%**  
Chr Adherents: **0.00%**  
Bible: **Complete Bible**

www.joshuaproject.net

"Declare his glory among the nations." Psalm 96:3

## Pray for the Nations

### Arab, general in Australia



Population: **68,000**  
World Popl: **3,287,200**  
Total Countries: **8**  
People Cluster: **Arab World, general**  
Main Language: **Arabic, Mesopotamian Spok**  
Main Religion: **Islam**  
Status: **Unreached**  
Evangelicals: **0.30%**  
Chr Adherents: **0.50%**  
Bible: **None, Definite Need**

www.joshuaproject.net

"Declare his glory among the nations." Psalm 96:3

## Pray for the Nations

### Arab, Iraqi in Australia



Population: **68,000**  
World Popl: **16,771,000**  
Total Countries: **23**  
People Cluster: **Arab, Levant**  
Main Language: **Arabic, Mesopotamian Spok**  
Main Religion: **Islam**  
Status: **Unreached**  
Evangelicals: **1.00%**  
Chr Adherents: **4.00%**  
Bible: **None, Definite Need**

www.joshuaproject.net

"Declare his glory among the nations." Psalm 96:3

## Pray for the Nations

### Bosniak in Australia



Population: **33,000**  
World Popl: **2,739,300**  
Total Countries: **24**  
People Cluster: **Slav, Southern**  
Main Language: **Bosnian**  
Main Religion: **Islam**  
Status: **Unreached**  
Evangelicals: **0.30%**  
Chr Adherents: **0.50%**  
Bible: **Complete Bible**

www.joshuaproject.net

"Declare his glory among the nations." Psalm 96:3

## Pray for the Nations

### Burmese in Australia



Population: **13,000**  
World Popl: **32,047,900**  
Total Countries: **18**  
People Cluster: **Burmese**  
Main Language: **Burmese**  
Main Religion: **Buddhism**  
Status: **Unreached**  
Evangelicals: **0.07%**  
Chr Adherents: **0.35%**  
Bible: **Complete Bible**

www.joshuaproject.net

"Declare his glory among the nations." Psalm 96:3

## Pray for the Nations

### Hazara in Australia



Population: **16,000**  
World Popl: **4,296,000**  
Total Countries: **5**  
People Cluster: **Uyghur**  
Main Language: **Hazaragi**  
Main Religion: **Islam**  
Status: **Unreached**  
Evangelicals: **0.03%**  
Chr Adherents: **0.03%**  
Bible: **Portions**

www.joshuaproject.net

"Declare his glory among the nations." Psalm 96:3

## Pray for the Nations

### Hmong Njua in Australia



Population: **2,100**  
World Popl: **751,700**  
Total Countries: **10**  
People Cluster: **Miao / Hmong**  
Main Language: **Hmong Njua**  
Main Religion: **Ethnic Religions**  
Status: **Unreached**  
Evangelicals: **2.00%**  
Chr Adherents: **4.00%**  
Bible: **Complete Bible**

www.joshuaproject.net

"Declare his glory among the nations." Psalm 96:3

## Pray for the Nations

### Japanese in Australia



Population: **36,000**  
World Popl: **124,941,000**  
Total Countries: **44**  
People Cluster: **Japanese**  
Main Language: **Japanese**  
Main Religion: **Buddhism**  
Status: **Unreached**  
Evangelicals: **1.60%**  
Chr Adherents: **5.00%**  
Bible: **Complete Bible**

www.joshuaproject.net

"Declare his glory among the nations." Psalm 96:3

# Unreached People Groups represented in Australia

Page 2 of 3

*Pray for the Nations*

## Jew, English Speaking in Australia



Population: 115,000  
World Popl: 5,941,500  
Total Countries: 13  
People Cluster: **Jews**  
Main Language: **English**  
Main Religion: **Ethnic Religions**  
Status: ■ **Unreached**  
Evangelicals: 0.02%  
Chr Adherents: 1.00%  
Bible: **Complete Bible**

www.joshuaproject.net 

*"Declare his glory among the nations." Psalm 96:3*

*Pray for the Nations*

## Khmer in Australia



Population: 34,000  
World Popl: 16,180,500  
Total Countries: 14  
People Cluster: **Mon-Khmer**  
Main Language: **Khmer**  
Main Religion: **Buddhism**  
Status: ■ **Unreached**  
Evangelicals: 1.40%  
Chr Adherents: 5.00%  
Bible: **Complete Bible**

www.joshuaproject.net 

*"Declare his glory among the nations." Psalm 96:3*

*Pray for the Nations*

## Kurd, Kurmanji in Australia



Population: 4,400  
World Popl: 15,421,000  
Total Countries: 33  
People Cluster: **Kurd**  
Main Language: **Kurdish, Northern**  
Main Religion: **Islam**  
Status: ■ **Unreached**  
Evangelicals: 0.70%  
Chr Adherents: 1.00%  
Bible: **Complete Bible**

www.joshuaproject.net 

*"Declare his glory among the nations." Psalm 96:3*

*Pray for the Nations*

## Lao in Australia



Population: 11,000  
World Popl: 3,603,400  
Total Countries: 10  
People Cluster: **Lao**  
Main Language: **Lao**  
Main Religion: **Buddhism**  
Status: ■ **Unreached**  
Evangelicals: 1.90%  
Chr Adherents: 3.50%  
Bible: **Complete Bible**

www.joshuaproject.net 

*"Declare his glory among the nations." Psalm 96:3*

*Pray for the Nations*

## Malay in Australia



Population: 139,000  
World Popl: 11,787,200  
Total Countries: 25  
People Cluster: **Malay**  
Main Language: **Malay**  
Main Religion: **Islam**  
Status: ■ **Unreached**  
Evangelicals: 0.25%  
Chr Adherents: 0.30%  
Bible: **Complete Bible**

www.joshuaproject.net 


*"Declare his glory among the nations." Psalm 96:3*

*Pray for the Nations*

## Malay, Cocos Islands in Australia



Population: 1,300  
World Popl: 7,500  
Total Countries: 3  
People Cluster: **Malay**  
Main Language: **Malay, Cocos Islands**  
Main Religion: **Islam**  
Status: ■ **Unreached**  
Evangelicals: 0.00%  
Chr Adherents: 0.00%  
Bible: **Translation Need?**

www.joshuaproject.net 

*"Declare his glory among the nations." Psalm 96:3*

*Pray for the Nations*

## Mandaean in Australia



Population: 4,000  
World Popl: 67,400  
Total Countries: 6  
People Cluster: **Assyrian / Aramaic**  
Main Language: **Mandaic**  
Main Religion: **Other / Small**  
Status: ■ **Unreached**  
Evangelicals: 0.00%  
Chr Adherents: 0.00%  
Bible: **None, Definite Need**

www.joshuaproject.net 

*"Declare his glory among the nations." Psalm 96:3*

*Pray for the Nations*

## Pashtun, Northern in Australia



Population: 8,700  
World Popl: 40,683,700  
Total Countries: 20  
People Cluster: **Pashtun**  
Main Language: **Pashto, Northern**  
Main Religion: **Islam**  
Status: ■ **Unreached**  
Evangelicals: 0.00%  
Chr Adherents: 0.00%  
Bible: **Complete Bible**

www.joshuaproject.net 

*"Declare his glory among the nations." Psalm 96:3*


## Unreached People Groups represented in Australia

Page 3 of 3

### *Pray for the Nations* **Persian in Australia**



Population: **58,000**  
World Popl: **41,123,800**  
Total Countries: **42**  
People Cluster: **Persian**  
Main Language: **Persian, Iranian**  
Main Religion: **Islam**  
Status: **Unreached**  
Evangelicals: **0.70%**  
Chr Adherents: **0.80%**  
Bible: **Complete Bible**


www.joshuaproject.net 

*"Declare his glory among the nations." Psalm 96:3*

### *Pray for the Nations* **Sinhalese in Australia**



Population: **110,000**  
World Popl: **412,200**  
Total Countries: **17**  
People Cluster: **Sinhala**  
Main Language: **Sinhala**  
Main Religion: **Buddhism**  
Status: **Unreached**  
Evangelicals: **0.00%**  
Chr Adherents: **0.00%**  
Bible: **Complete Bible**

www.joshuaproject.net 

*"Declare his glory among the nations." Psalm 96:3*

### *Pray for the Nations* **Thai, Central in Australia**



Population: **67,000**  
World Popl: **20,739,800**  
Total Countries: **26**  
People Cluster: **Thai**  
Main Language: **Thai**  
Main Religion: **Buddhism**  
Status: **Unreached**  
Evangelicals: **0.30%**  
Chr Adherents: **0.80%**  
Bible: **Complete Bible**


www.joshuaproject.net 

*"Declare his glory among the nations." Psalm 96:3*

### *Pray for the Nations* **Turk in Australia**



Population: **45,000**  
World Popl: **60,505,700**  
Total Countries: **70**  
People Cluster: **Turkish**  
Main Language: **Turkish**  
Main Religion: **Islam**  
Status: **Unreached**  
Evangelicals: **0.15%**  
Chr Adherents: **0.20%**  
Bible: **Complete Bible**

www.joshuaproject.net 

*"Declare his glory among the nations." Psalm 96:3*



## PRAYING FOR THE SPREAD OF THE GOSPEL

### No. 6: Neighbourhood Prayer

*My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message*  
(John 17:20)

News: Any prayer stories from the last week or two?

Intro: Over 6 house church gatherings we have been *learning* about praying for the spread of the gospel and *praying* for the spread of the gospel. This week we are focusing on our local neighbourhoods.

Just for fun: Does anyone remember the Sesame Street song “Who are the people in your neighbourhood?” Can anyone in the group sing it now?

Oh, who are the people in your neighborhood?  
In your neighborhood?  
In your neighborhood?  
Say, who are the people in your neighborhood?  
The people that you meet each day.

*If you weren't a parent or child in the 70s, or need a reminder, you can check out one of these vintage Sesame Street clips of the segment:*

<https://youtu.be/YZIC-GhzNos>(librarian & plumber) or  
<https://youtu.be/jwDq32MtOQU>(teacher & news dealer)

### Teaching

When we talk about what it means to be a good neighbour the bible story that probably springs to mind for many people is that of the Good Samaritan. Luke tells us that story in his gospel, but interestingly, it doesn't appear in any of the other gospel accounts.

Read: Luke 10: 25 -37

There are many insights and lessons to take from this parable, but this week let's focus on the question and answer that lead Jesus to tell the story (verses 25 – 28).

- What was the question, and what was the answer in Luke's account?

Although the Good Samaritan story doesn't appear in the other gospels, the initial question and answer is included in Mark and Matthew's accounts.

Read: Mark 12: 28 -31 and Matthew 22: 34 - 40

- For the record, what was the question, and what was the answer in these two accounts?
- Why do you think Jesus linked these two concepts of “love God” and “love neighbour” so strongly here? What does it say about God and/or what is important to him?

In Matthew's gospel it is Jesus who makes the statement that answers the question. There is no follow up recorded from person who asked.

In Mark's gospel Jesus states the answer to the question put to him, and the person who asked the question confirms it as a good answer. That person (a teacher of the law) adds an extra comment that these two commandments are "more important than burnt offerings and sacrifices." Jesus commends him for his wisdom.

In Luke's gospel though, note how Jesus turns question back for the questioner to answer for himself. Jesus then affirms it as right answer. Yet the questioner wants to justify himself and asks a supplementary question "who is my neighbour?" This leads to Jesus telling the parable of the Good Samaritan.

- What was the main point Jesus was making in this parable? (Luke 10: 36-38)
- So what does that mean for us today? What might it look like for you in your local community?

### **Prayer Activity**

Have each person draw a simple sketch map of the area around their home. (Approximately a 1km radius.) Mark on it things like shops & businesses, schools, child care centres, aged care facilities, libraries, hospitals, parks, sports grounds, any other community facilities, landmarks or points of interest. Also key neighbours, not just the easy to love ones!

As you look at your map take a 5 minute virtual prayer walk around your neighbourhood. (You could do this in pairs, taking a friend or family member with you on your "walk". If you live in different areas, split your time between both your neighbourhoods.)

- How is God prompting you to pray for the spread of the gospel here?
- How is the gospel good news for your local community? How might you show and share that with them?
- Put an x where there are particular people God has put on your heart to pray for and to share his love and gospel with them.
- Mark areas of physical danger and spiritual darkness and pray that God's light will shine there.

In groups of 5 or 6 share one or two aspects of what the Holy Spirit was showing you during the virtual prayer walk exercise.

### **During the week**

This coming week, keep praying for your neighbourhood using your map. If possible it would be great to do an actual physical prayer walk around where you live. Take a TryPraying booklet with you and keep alert for an opportunity to "lose it".