



**STATE OF THE
NATIONS**

Mission Intelligence for
Everyday Christians

Weekly
Briefing

Issue 003 • July 2026

BEYOND 195 COUNTRIES

Why the Harvest is
Bigger than the
World Map



195

The number of **countries** in the world. Yet the Great Commission cannot be measured by countries alone—it must be measured by people groups.

10,432

The estimated number of distinct **people groups** in the world, reminding us that God's mission is directed toward peoples, not just countries.

4,486

Unreached People Groups (UPGs) remain worldwide, representing 43% of all identified people groups.

2,041

Unreached people groups found in **India alone**, making one country home to thousands of distinct mission fields.

2.1 Billion

The combined population of the **100 largest unreached people groups**—nearly one in every four people on earth.

860 Million

People living among just **31 large Frontier People Groups**, where fewer than **1 in 1,000** people identify as Christian.

BEYOND 195 COUNTRIES

Why the Harvest Is Bigger
Than the World Map

When we think about world missions, we often picture countries. But God's mission is not defined by political borders—it is centered on **people groups**.

A **country** is a political territory. A **people group** is a community united by a common language, culture, and identity. While there are only about **195 countries**, Joshua Project identifies **10,432 distinct people groups** worldwide. Of these, **4,486** (43%) **remain unreached** with the gospel.

This changes how we see the Great Commission.

Take **India** as an example. Although Christianity has existed there for centuries, the country is home to more than **2,000 unreached people groups**. Churches may flourish in one city while neighboring communities—separated by language, caste, or culture—have little or no meaningful access to the gospel.

The same pattern appears across the world. Many countries that are considered "Christian" still contain unreached minority peoples. Conversely, some people groups span several countries, meaning the same community may be accessible in one nation but completely isolated in another.

The scale of the challenge is enormous. The **100 largest unreached people groups** represent more than **2.1 billion people**. Joshua Project also reports that around **860 million people** belong to just **31 large frontier people groups**, where fewer than one in 1,000 people identify as Christian.

WHY THIS MATTERS

If we measure missions by countries alone, we may assume the task is nearly complete. But when we measure by people groups, a different picture emerges: **billions of people still lack a culturally relevant opportunity to hear and respond to the gospel.**



KEY TAKEAWAY

One country can contain hundreds of mission fields. While political borders help us organize the world, **people groups reveal where the gospel is still needed most.** That's why the Great Commission is not finished when every country has a church, but when **every people group has meaningful access to the gospel.**

Your response

Change Your Prayer Map



Ask God to raise workers who will cross not just geographical borders, but cultural and linguistic barriers, bringing the hope of Christ to every people group.

Learn One New People Group



Spend 10 minutes learning about an unreached people group—their language, culture, religion, and the barriers they face in hearing the gospel. Understanding fuels informed prayer.

Rethink the Great Commission



The next time you hear someone say, "That country has churches," remember that a country may still contain hundreds of unreached peoples. Begin to think of the mission field in terms of people groups, not political borders.

Share the Perspective



Forward this briefing to one friend, church leader, or missions advocate. Help someone else discover why people groups—not countries—are the true measure of gospel access.

Resources & Links

PRAY

[Use Prayer Map](#)

[Join our WhatsApp Channel](#)

[Use UPG Prayer App](#)

LEARN

[Visit Joshua Project](#)

[Join our WhatsApp Channel](#)

SHARE

Share this briefing with one friend, your small group, or your church missions team.

[Share the link with others](#)

Pray for the
top 120
Unreached peoples
(UPGs) in Africa

Join the GlobalCAST Africa
Whatsapp channel [here](#)





Yazeed

IN SUDAN

POPULATION: **573,000**

LANGUAGE: **SUDANESE ARABIC**

RELIGION: **ISLAM**

ABOUT THE YAZEED

The Yazeed are one of the 19 tribes of the Dar Hamid confederation in Sudan. They are nomadic camel herders, with men traveling across the desert while women and children remain at home.

The Yazeed are Sunni Muslims, and few have heard the gospel. Their remote, nomadic lifestyle makes long-term, culturally sensitive outreach especially needed.

PRAY NOW

- Pray for African believers to have hearts ready to understand the Yazeed culture and be willing to take the name of Jesus to Muslims throughout their region.
- Ask God to open the Yazeed's hearts to the abundant blessings of Jesus Christ.
- Pray for their families to prosper financially and spiritually as they experience a relationship with Christ.
- Ask God for a movement to Christ among the Yazeed that will spread joy, peace and salvation to other peoples in Sudan.

Profile source: Joshua project

[Receive daily UPG Prayer Cards on your WhatsApp](#)

ABOUT

State of the Nations Weekly Briefing is a free publication designed to help everyday Christians understand God's heart for the nations through clear, biblical, and data-informed missions education.

This briefing is produced by the ministry of **Joe & Precious Olayinka**.

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*Together, we can help God's people to
see God's heart for the nations.*

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