



STATE OF THE NATIONS

Mission Intelligence for
Everyday Christians

Weekly
Briefing
JULY 1, 2026

**THE GOSPEL ISN'T
EVERY
WHERE
YET**





KEY STATS

OF THE WEEK

3.58B

3.58 billion people in more than **4,000** people groups still lack meaningful Gospel access.

40%

That's over **40%** of humanity.

97%

An estimated **97%** of missionaries serve where churches already exist.

2.3B

2.3 billion people identify as Christians (29% of the world).

<2%

An unreached people group has **<2% Evangelicals** and **<5% Christians**.



THE GOSPEL ISN'T EVERYWHERE

Why billions still lack meaningful gospel access.

You might be surprised to learn that in our hyper-connected world the story of Jesus still hasn't reached everywhere. Major mission researchers estimate that 3.58 billion people, over 40% of the world's population, still live without meaningful access to the Gospel.

That's not just individuals who haven't heard; it's entire communities called "**unreached people groups.**" An unreached group usually has a tiny, non-

self-sustaining Christian community, commonly defined as under 2% Evangelical and under 5% who identify as Christian. Even more serious are “**frontier people groups**” (FPGs): People groups with virtually no Christians, often fewer than 1 in 1,000 people (<0.1%). For them the gospel isn’t a rejected option. Many have simply never had a chance to hear it from a neighbor, find a local church, or read Scripture in their language.

You might say, “There are a lot of Christians already.” True: Pew Research counts about 2.3 billion people who identify as Christian (nearly 29% of the world). But that still leaves 71% of people who aren’t Christian, including **1.9 billion** who are religiously unaffiliated. And because most Christians are clustered where the gospel is already known, huge regions remain unreached. **Shockingly, estimates suggest about 97% of missionaries work among already-reached populations, while thousands of people groups — over 4,000 — remain without a local witness.**

These are not abstract statistics; they're families and communities waiting for a story they've never heard. Knowing the gap exists is the first step.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

PRAY

Pray for one unreached or frontier people group this week.

LEARN

Pick a region and read about a specific unreached group.

SHARE

Tell a friend or your church about these numbers.

GIVE

Support organizations focused on church-planting, Scripture translation, and training local leaders.

GO OR EQUIP

Consider short-term trips, training, or partnering with missions that prioritize unreached groups.

3.58

BILLION

people across **4,486**
distinct people groups
still have not heard
the Gospel.

Source: Joshua Project, 2026



Welcome to **State of the Nations** where we look beyond the headlines, beyond the maps, and beyond the numbers to understand what God is doing among the nations... and where the unfinished task remains.

State of the Nations translates complex global missions data into engaging, practical, and biblically grounded teaching.

Through maps, statistics, trends, stories, and Scripture, we help audiences answer four key questions:

- 1. What is happening among the nations?*
- 2. Where is the gospel advancing?*
- 3. Where is the unfinished task?*
- 4. How can I respond?*



The State of the Nations Weekly Briefing is brought to you through the ministry of **Joe & Precious Olayinka**

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