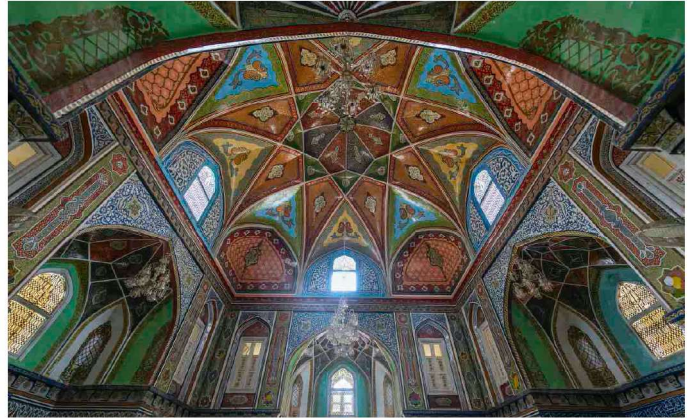


You have the opportunity to make a difference in Southwest Asia. Are you up for the challenge?

Southern Pashtuns



The beautiful interior of the tomb of Mirwais Hotak, founder of the 18th century Pashtun Hotak dynasty, in Kandahar City.

“Declare His glory among the nations, His marvelous deeds among all peoples.”

— Psalm 96:3 —



Southern Pashtuns live primarily in south central and southeastern Afghanistan.

Quick Facts

Population of Southern Pashtuns: in Afghanistan, approx. 4 million; globally approx. 6 million, including in Pakistan, Tajikistan, Iran, UAE, and UK.

Languages: Southern Pashto, mainly the Southwestern or Kandahari variant; the Quetta or Kakar dialect is also spoken.

Gospel resources: Jesus Film and Magdalena video in Southern Pashto; no Scripture portions have yet been translated into Southern Pashto.



Markets selling dried fruit and nuts are commonplace in Pashtun cities.

Opportunities to Engage

Efforts to reach Pashtuns, including Southern Pashtuns, with the gospel date to the 19th century. Beginning in the mid-1800s the Church Missionary Society (of the Church of England) initiated some efforts, mainly with medical and educational work. Scripture portions have been translated into Northern Pashto, but not the Southern variant of the language. Similarly, production of Gospel recordings and some evangelization by national (mostly Punjabi) Pakistani Christians has been done, but generally not focused on reaching Southern Pashtuns, and outreach to this people group has remained limited and challenging. Various efforts have helped bring about a small but slowly growing number of scattered Southern Pashtun believers, but there remains a great need to increase efforts to reach those who have not yet heard or had a chance to respond to a clear presentation of the good news of God in Jesus Christ.

Although Southern Pashtun areas in Afghanistan at this time are generally unsuitable for expatriate workers from North America or Europe, opportunities for living in the region may be opening for non-Westerners, and particularly those working with community development projects accepted by local communities. Kabul and Karachi offer more viable living options, along with opportunities to meet Southern Pashtuns and learn Pashto. Southern Pashtuns can be generous and loyal friends, and strong relationships may be formed between them and expat workers, and in the context of such friendships meaningful conversations about spiritual matters and faith in Jesus Christ can take place.

“I have made you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth.”

— Acts 13:47 —

Prayer Points

- The Southern Pashtun homelands have experienced decades of conflict, causing economic hardship, poor education for the young, and limited life opportunities for many. Pray for peace and stability in these areas, and for both the instigators and victims of violence.

- In the past couple of decades reports have emerged that there is more spiritual hunger among Pashtuns. Pray for more spiritual hunger among Southern Pashtuns, and that they will meet people or find other resources that will lead them to saving faith in Jesus Christ.

- There is a great need for more gospel resources in the Southern Pashto language. Pray that quality materials will be produced and made available, and that they would be discovered and used by Southern Pashtuns, and lead to faith in Jesus Christ for many.

- Ask the Lord for vocational opportunities for foreign workers in areas with Southern Pashtuns, and for meaningful relationships and witnessing opportunities for those engaged in outreach to this people group loved by God.



This Pashtun shopkeeper makes a meagre living selling water jars, glazed bowls, and mortar and pestle sets.

**Is God calling you to live among the Muslim peoples of Southwest Asia? Contact us.
We would love to help you get there!**

