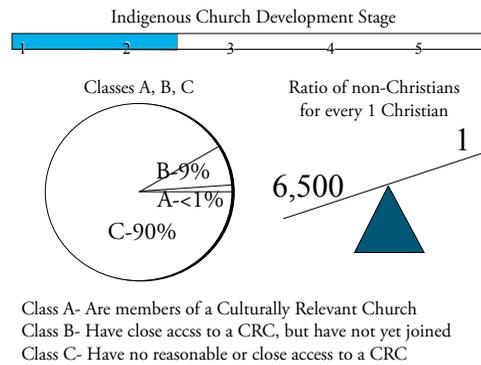
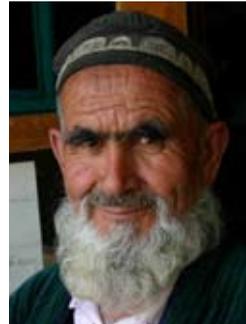


Tajik



Quick Facts

Population: 13,000,000
 Afghanistan: 5,000,000
 Tajikistan: 4,200,000
 Uzbekistan: 2,000,000
 Pakistan: 1,200,000
Religion: Sunni Islam
Believers: 0.21%
Scriptures: NT, OT
Ministry Tools: JRGT
Church Status: 2
Mission Status: 2
MS Subgroups: 30+



Identity: The Tajiks are a complex group of numerous Central Asian tribes which speak an eastern dialect of Farsi. Anthropologists believe some of these groups are of non-Persian origin, and some are proto-Iranian peoples from which the Persians descended. The term Tajik, mostly used by outsiders, has had multiple meanings throughout history, and only gradually is it being adopted by the Tajiks themselves as an ethnic identity.

Lifestyle: In the former Soviet republics, the Tajik livelihood is based primarily on agricultural and agri-related industries. Long-horned cattle and Gissar sheep are also raised. The Tajiks have had a famous horticulture from antiquity, growing and exporting apricots, cherries, figs and nuts. Pigeons, doves, and sparrows are among the wild fowl enjoyed by the Tajik.

Customs: In Afghanistan, many Tajik tribes are semi-sedentary, with summer

and winter migrations. In the summer the young men (often with their wives) will take the family's herds to alpine meadows. In late summer, whole extended families will gather in the highlands to reap the wheat and melon harvests, which grow without irrigation. In the winter, families and herdsmen retire to their respective villages.

Religion: Unlike other Farsi speaking peoples which are predominately Shiite, the Tajiks are mostly Sunni Muslims. They follow the Hanafi school of Sunni Islam, which allows much more personal freedom in the interpretation of Islamic traditions. Among the Tajik, the restrictions placed upon women in most Muslim societies is seldom practiced, and village women are regarded highly and consulted for group decisions. They are not required to live in seclusion, or fully cover their face in public.

Christian Outreach: Civil war, both in Tajikistan and Afghanistan has hindered

long-term outreach to the Tajiks. Even so, many hundreds have come to faith in Christ, and dozens of small discipleship groups have been established. However, the vast majority of Tajik believers are not being effectively disciplined by Tajik led contextualized fellowships.

How to Pray:

✞ Muslim extremism is on the rise in Tajikistan and threatens the freedoms of all believers. Pray that the government would find a way to suppress these groups without hindering the freedom of Christ-followers.

✞ The completion of the Bible in 1992 came at the perfect time. However, its distribution has been limited and most Tajiks have never seen it. Pray that every family would soon own a copy.

✞ Tajiks in Afghanistan suffered greatly at the hands of the Muslim Pashtun. Pray for reconciliation between Pashtu and Tajik believers in Jesus, and that this demonstration of love would be a powerful witness to all.

✞ Over 4,000 mosques have been built in the last decade, though less than half the Tajik attend. Pray for effective outreach to those disillusioned with spiritually empty ritual.

**Every year 115,000
 Tajiks die
 without Christ.**