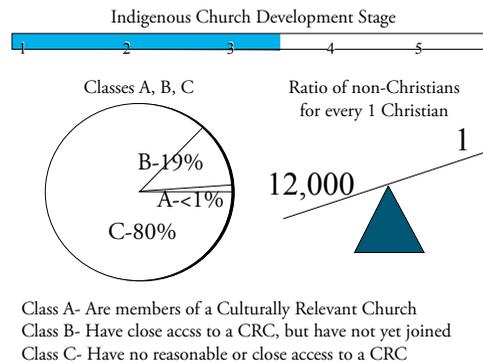




## Quick Facts

**Population:** 23,000,000  
 India: 21,000,000  
 United Kingdom: 400,000  
 Canada: 220,000  
 United States: 200,000  
**Religion:** Sikh  
**Believers:** 0.008%  
**Scriptures:** NT, OT  
**Ministry Tools:** JGT  
**Church Status:** 3  
**Mission Status:** 2  
**MS Subgroups:** 25+



**Identity:** The Sikhs are an ethno-religious grouping of various South Asian caste groups which were converted by the teachings of Guru Nanak in the 16th century. Converts were primarily from the Panjabi Jat and Rajput, which are forward castes, though today there are followers from many lower caste peoples as well. The state of Punjab is 65% Sikh today.

**Lifestyle:** The Sikhs are the most affluent group in India due in part to their upper caste origin. As an Indian group, they have the highest percentage of overseas diaspora, most of whom are engaged in successful family businesses. Their courage and skill in the military brought them wealth under British rule but led to civil war and a desire for autonomy after the British left, causing 25,000 deaths.

**Customs:** The Sikh gurus preached against the caste system, and one of the results was that male Sikh converts

were all given the surname of “Singh,” which means lion. Female converts were given the surname “Kaur,” which means princess, and they retain this surname even after they are married.

**Religion:** Many scholars regard Sikhism as a syncretism between Islam and Hinduism, though the Sikhs reject this idea. Like Muslims, the Sikhs are monotheists, and like Hindus they believe in liberation from reincarnation and reunification with God as the goal of salvation. Sikhs are devoted to a collection of teachings which is regarded as a “living guru” called the *Guru Gobind Singh*. They recite assigned scriptural passages in the morning when they awake and before bathing. The Sikh congregational hall (*Gurdwara*), houses the Guru Gobind Singh and is the center for important ceremonies.

**Christian Outreach:** Among the Mazhabi Sikhs, who are a low caste Panjabi group that converted to Sikhism, there

has been significant progress, and dozens of churches have been established. However, among the upper caste Jat and Rajput Sikhs the gospel continues to find strong resistance. Ministry among the Sikhs in the UK has been successful and many have come to faith.

## How to Pray:

☞ Praise God for the effective ministry of the India National Inland Mission which has established over 40 discipleship groups among the Punjabi Sikhs. Pray for their continued growth and expansion.

☞ Pray for the upper caste Sikhs who have come to Christ in the UK, that many would return to become leaders of the Sikh church in India.

☞ Ask God to empower the Mazhabi Sikh believers to reach out to the Jat and Rajput, despite the enormous social barriers between them.

☞ Many young people are becoming disillusioned with reciting Sikh Scripture, which tend to focus more on the praises of Guru Nanak than God. Pray that among this generation a powerful movement to Christ would begin.

**Every year 210,000 Sikhs die without Christ.**