

PRAY

CENTRAL ASIAN PEOPLES



Rejoice always, **pray without ceasing**,
give thanks in all circumstances; for this
is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

– 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

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PRAY

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Every day people around the world wake up and say, "Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit." Yet they do not know what tomorrow will bring, for what is their life? They are like a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes (James 4:13–14).

In these pages you will get a broad overview of the lives of people in Central Asia. You will see where and how they live. You will read about who they worship and what they fear. You will be offered a chance to join with others and pray for nations to have access to the gospel soon.

Time is not in our hands, but it is in God's sovereign hands. May these people hear and believe the gospel of Christ in their lifetime.

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This guide contains eight themes to help you pray for the peoples of Central Asia. We encourage you to gather with friends or small groups to pray for each need. It is designed to be used at your own pace. You could meet monthly, weekly, or even eight days in a row.

It is our hope that as you pray for countries and people around the world, your hearts will grow together in a desire to see Christ exalted in your own community and among the nations.



ISLAM

Across Central Asia, cultural identity is enmeshed with Islam, so that even non-practicing Muslims feel that to leave Islam is to shame their family and betray their culture. In years past, many Central Asian peoples have been attacked,

conquered, and oppressed by neighboring “Christian” nations. As a result, Christianity is often seen as the religion of the enemy. Most Central Asians are not aware that the gospel is good news.

Discuss the barriers to evangelism that may exist when sharing with someone who has only seen Christianity as oppressive and violent.

Pray that many will comprehend the faithful love of God that plucks sinners from destruction, cleanses them in Christ’s blood, and adopts them into an eternal relationship with God as Father.



ACCESS

Because governments refuse to grant missionary visas, Christians must find another credible identity that allows them to live and work in Central Asia. Many governments, suspicious of gospel activity, monitor

foreigners. In most cases, the underlying motivation behind deportation and the denial of visas is a fierce opposition to the gospel light penetrating their communities.

Discuss the skills represented in your small group and how they could be transferrable to another culture for the sake of the gospel.

Pray that God will open new avenues for Christian workers to stay in Central Asia. Pray that God will call faithful men and women with business experience to serve among the peoples of Central Asia.



WOMEN

From a high-salaried Turkish executive in a business suit to an Afghan wife in a burqa, the women of Central Asia are diverse, yet they all long for love, security, and acceptance. They want to be cherished, but Islam does

not teach men to love and sacrifice for their wives as Christ did for the church. For many Central Asian women, the passage of time destroys their dreams and leaves them empty and hopeless.

Discuss the value God gives to women and the hope the gospel offers to those who are emotionally broken.

Pray that God will open the hearts of many Central Asian women to understand that their deepest longings can be satisfied in the fountain of his saving love.

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MIGRANTS & REFUGEES

Many Central Asians today still live in a land of hostile deserts, sweeping plains, imposing mountain ranges, and harsh living conditions. Other Central Asians have made their homes in vibrant, prosperous metropolitan cities. Whether

fleeing persecution and war or looking for jobs to provide for their families, millions of Central Asians are on the move. Increasingly, Central Asians can be found in Russia, Europe, the Middle East, United States, Canada, and Australia.

Discuss the prevailing cultural attitude toward Muslim immigrants and compare that with biblical principles that should shape a believer's perspective.

Pray that God will use the mass migration of people for the salvation of many and the formation of churches among unreached peoples.



THE CAUCASUS

Every morning, the sun rises over the rugged Caucasus Mountains between the Black and Caspian Seas and casts its warm glow on more than two thousand villages. The Caucasus Mountains are largely unknown to the praying world, yet within these vast and beautiful mountains, some of the earth's most unreached peoples live in oppressive

spiritual darkness. Today, forty-five distinct languages exist among the peoples of the Caucasus. Suspicious of outsiders, resistant to change, and shaped by war, the fiercely independent peoples of the Caucasus are—from a human perspective—a daunting challenge to the spread of the gospel.

Discuss the challenges of building a relationship with someone who does not trust you.

Pray that the Russian church will develop a heart of compassion for the peoples of the Caucasus and be willing to go to difficult places to persevere in love and friendship.



SCRIPTURE

In a world where God's Word is instantly available to most of us in multiple mediums, it can be difficult to conceive of a society where there is no access to Scripture. Imagine living without the Bible translated into a language you can understand—the Bible cannot be found in bookstores,

it is not online, it is not on an mp3. These societies exist today. Many people groups in Central Asia have no Scripture in their native language. Yet God is working, and his Word—via print and electronic media—is radiating across Central Asia one language at a time.

Discuss which portions of the Scripture you would prioritize for initial translation to people who have no access to God's Word.

Pray that God will bring his Word to each language of Central Asia, by preparing and appointing willing translators and editors.



INDIFFERENCE

A common reality throughout all of Central Asia is that men and women may enjoy interacting with believers and talking about religion, yet they have no personal conviction about their own sin and need

of a Savior. Muslims who are welcoming and respectful of Christians make great neighbors and friends, but their hearts often seem completely unaffected by the truths of the gospel.

Discuss the relationships in your own life with those who respect and love you but have no interest in the gospel.

Pray that God will put a desperate hunger in the hearts of many that can only be satisfied in Christ.



PERSECUTION

The call of obedience to Christ is a call that involves suffering. For Central Asians, persecution comes in many forms: loss of employment, loss of marriage, being ostracized from family and community, beatings,

imprisonment, and death. Many who make an initial profession of faith stumble and fall away when the opposition begins. But others grow their roots deep in Christ and persevere until the very end.

Discuss the counsel you would give a new believer who is afraid to tell their family that they have believed in Jesus—at risk of their own life.

Pray that God will deliver, embolden, comfort, and encourage those who are undergoing persecution.

Thank you for joining us in praying for the peoples of Central Asia.

Did you know we have 8 more prayer guides for the other peoples of the world?

To download a FREE copy visit:

imb.world/PrayerGuides





*Rejoice in hope, be patient in
tribulation, be **constant in prayer.***

—Romans 12:12

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