

share tea, share life

CONVERSATIONS
WITH WOMEN IN CENTRAL ASIA



Women's Prayer Tea: Volume II

Little girls love to trade secrets.

They squeal and giggle, argue and pout, with spats that come and go as quickly as summer thunderstorms.

But then those little girls grow up. Shame and exhaustion replace carefree innocence. Responsibilities grow exponentially. From morning till night there are a thousand chores that must be done.

For Central Asian women, the strain of life is exacerbated by complex relationships with in-laws and harsh demands from employers. The days of skipping rope with friends in the schoolyard become a distant memory.

Through all these changes and amidst all the demands, however, one aspect of these women's lives never changes: the sharing of life that happens over a cup of tea.

Tea time for the Kazakhs, Turks, Dungan, Persians and every other Central Asian people group is not the stuffy affair depicted in Jane Austen novels. Tea time for them is any time—any excuse will do, or none at all. Children first taste the sweet substance from their bottles; little girls learn to serve tea as one of their first chores. And around every sip, every empty cup refilled, conversation flows. *Life happens.*

It is with a warm cup of tea in hand that a Central Asian woman is most likely to relax enough to open her heart. Sitting at a table, enjoying a rare moment of quiet with a friend, she might just feel safe enough to trade secrets like the little girl she once was. The difference is that the secrets are bigger, the joys deeper, and the sorrow more crushing than she ever imagined possible.

Through the following stories you have the opportunity to sit in on some of those tea times. The stories are written by Christian women who have learned the art of lingering with their Central Asian friends. As you read, please take the time to linger in prayer. *Ask God to meet these women with hope at the point of their deepest grief.*



So pour a cup of tea
and imagine you are in Central Asia.



*“...They don’t think I hear them, but I do.
And I am so ashamed...”*

In the **photo** above two women walk the streets of Erzurum, Turkey. There is wide diversity in the way Muslim women dress and in standards of modesty from one community to another. The **photo** at right is of a Persian woman in Iran.

Photos do not represent the women in the story.

BLESSING A BARREN TREE

“She’s a no good tree. Pretty on the outside; but not useful for anything. A tree that doesn’t produce fruit. And when it finally does, the fruit just falls to the ground and rots.”

“That’s what my husband’s family says about me,” Azadeh* recounted bitterly. “They don’t think I hear them, but I do. And I am so ashamed.”

This was a conversation I had with a new friend who had come over to congratulate me on the birth of my daughter.

Azadeh, is the second wife. Second—not after the first wife, but in addition to the first wife, who has seven children. Azadeh had twins who died shortly after birth. A week before this meeting she had a miscarriage due to a car accident.

She is an extremely conservative Muslim. She is swathed in black from head to toe, covered so completely that not even her eyes show. She follows the tenets of Islam closely. Despite her devotion to Islam, Azadeh tearfully stated that Allah was punishing her.

My eight-year-old daughter and I sipped our tea in silence, internally praying as we listened to Azadeh pour out her heart. We shared the story of Rachel and Leah with her. Then, with boldness, (and without my prompting) my daughter quoted Isaiah 41:13, *“For I am the LORD your God who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, Do not fear; I will help you.”*

With surprise, Azadeh turned to my daughter and said, “Oh! Allah sent me here tonight just for that verse! Thank you. Thank you so very much!”

**Names changed to protect individuals.*



PRAY

—Please pray that Truth would be planted in Azadeh’s heart and that she, and women like her, would one day soon be “a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither—whatever they do prospers.” (Psalm 1:3)



"I spend much time worrying about the outside looking great, when my inside is still unclean."



In the **photo** above women living on the Black Sea coast of Turkey enjoy afternoon tea. In Turkey tea is usually served steaming hot in tulip shaped glasses with no handle. Women sip the tea while holding the rim of the cup. In the photo at right, a woman prays in *Ulu Cami*, a magnificent mosque in Bursa, Turkey.

Photos do not represent the women in the story.

A CLEAN HEART

On Friday afternoons all of the ladies in my apartment building gather to read the Koran together and then drink tea. I normally join in for the tea party that follows the *Koran* reading.

One particular day I arrived early, so I went to sit in the kitchen and wait while they prayed and read. One of my neighbors was sitting in the kitchen alone.

"Aren't you going to pray?" I asked her.

She explained that she wasn't able to pray because she was unclean. I began to talk with my friend about what it means to be clean or unclean. I told her that Jesus said it's not what goes into the mouth that makes one unclean but what comes out.

I told her that whether or not her hands were dirty, God wants her to have a clean heart. She sat for a few minutes not responding and then burst out with a list of questions.

"What does this mean about reading the holy book during menstruation?" "What does this mean about gossip?" "What does this mean...?"

We discussed James 3 and several other passages of scripture and then she paused to reflect.

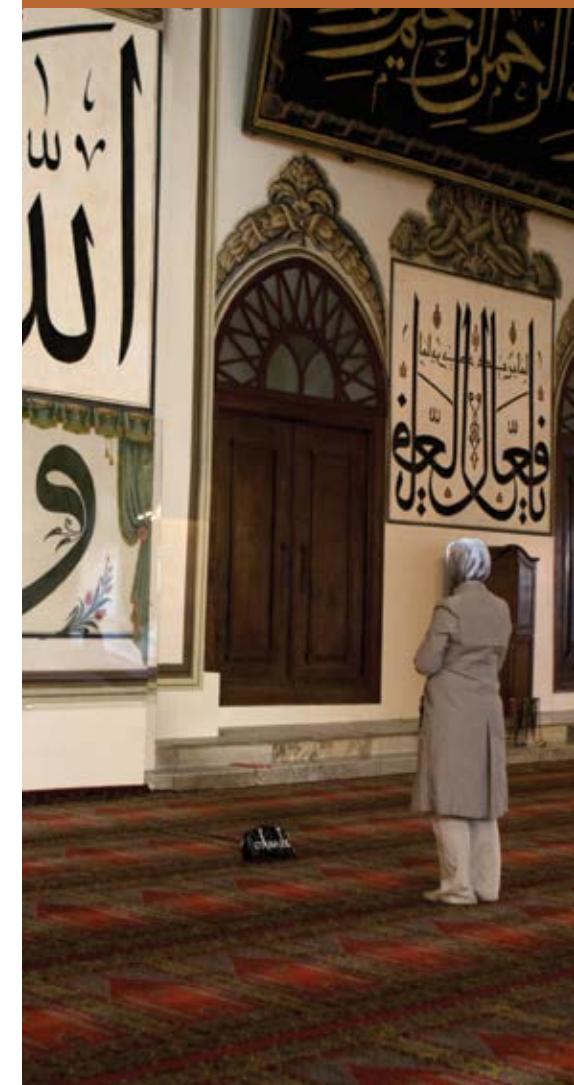
"This is right," she stated simply. "I don't know about Christianity and I don't know about your book, but what you say is right. I spend much time worrying about the outside looking great, when my inside is still unclean."

We shared a glass of tea that day, but we shared so much more. My friend and I shared a desire to have a clean heart.

PRAY

—The majority of MBBs (Muslim Background Believers) are men. Please pray for wives, daughters, and mothers of these men to come to know Christ.

—The women on our teams often balance homeschooling, local church involvement, practicing hospitality, and many other ministries while trying to learn difficult languages. In a Muslim culture, our women must have language for national women to hear truth. Please pray for uncommon language acquisition for our ladies.





In the **photo** below a Tatar family welcomes a guest into their home. The Tatars are a Muslim people group living in an area of Russia known as Tatarstan. Christian words often carry negative connotations for Tatars who suffered forced conversion and years of oppression under the Russians who they perceived as a Christian people. Pray that the Holy Spirit will overcome these barriers and allow the Tatars to hear the gospel with fresh insight. In the photo at right a Tatar woman serves tea.

Photos do not represent the women in the story.

PLAYING TEA, SHARING FAITH

My friend *Dove** is a government official who works to raise awareness about AIDS. She is also a very strong believer. Through her work, Dove visits villages and in the process finds opportunities to talk about Jesus. The setting for her ministry is often the family table, where over countless glasses of tea, Dove is able to get to know other women and share her faith.

Among Dove's people group, women have found a way to take time out just for themselves. They call it "playing tea." Neighbors and friends gather for these organized, regularly scheduled times for drinking tea and talking about life. For example, once a month a group of women might meet at a café or at one of their houses, with everyone chipping in for a meal. Depending on what's been happening in the women's lives, tea time discussions often turn toward spiritual topics. Recognizing this as a unique, culturally appropriate avenue for sharing her faith, Dove has encouraged the believing women she knows to host and participate in tea times with their lost neighbors.

Since a foreigner "playing tea" in one of these groups would probably stifle the freedom the women feel, the closest I get to these meetings is when I sit around a low table drinking tea with Dove and her friends. I listen with joy as they recount the conversations they have had with their unbelieving neighbors. Among a population of 300,000 people—where only about 1,000 are believers in Jesus—these women are being faithful to shine the light of Jesus through the ordinary, everyday opportunities God is providing.



PRAY

—Central Asian women have very specific servant roles within their families. Often their only respite from work comes when they sit down with a friend for a cup of tea. Ask God to bless those moments of stillness by stirring within the women a hunger for knowing Him. Pray for women like Dove who are sharing the truth of Jesus daily with women they know.

**Names changed to protect individuals.*





TEARS OVER TEA

I stared into my teacup with a heavy heart and apologized to *Aygun** for being so quiet. I finally told her that I had spent the past week sitting with another friend as she died from cancer. I had no words for my pain.

In my grief I explained that I was following the verse in the Bible that commands, “Be still and know that I am God.”

Aygun is a Muslim and I wondered how she would take the words of the Bible. She began to cry and shared with me that her brother was killed two years ago. She understood grief only too well.

We cried for each other, shared our hearts, and shared our faith. That afternoon over tea cultural barriers were broken and religious doors were opened wide for us to go much deeper in our relationship.

“Be still and know that I am God.”

**Names changed to protect individuals.*

PRAY

—To many Muslim women, God feels distant and demanding. They have no concept of God’s love as expressed through Jesus, “a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering” (Is. 53:3). Pray that the burdens of this life would cause Central Asians to seek Jesus. Ask God to send out more workers who will tell them how to find new life and hope.

In the **photo** above a young Tajik girl sells bread in a market in Dushanbe, Tajikistan. Many young Tajiks have left their country to look for work in Moscow or in cities in Europe or the Middle East. They often work grueling hours for little pay and with no legal protection. In the **photo** at right an Afghan woman sits outside a mosque in Mazar-i-Sharif, Afghanistan.





Sweet Milk Tea: Sher Chai

- 3 teaspoons black tea for every 4 cups water (or more according to taste)
- 2 cups milk
- 1/3 cup sugar

In a tea kettle or saucepan, add 3 teaspoons loose black tea to 4 cups boiling water. Stir and simmer for 5 minutes on medium heat. To the simmering tea, add 2 cups milk and 1/3 cup sugar. Stir to mix. Bring the mixture to a boil. Careful! Milk tends to foam over. Immediately reduce heat and simmer for 15-30 minutes, stirring frequently. Milk tea can be kept simmering on the lowest heat setting on the stove until ready to serve. Strain tea as you serve.



ONE PERFECT LAMB

One of the most important holidays in the Muslim culture is the day of sacrifice. It is a day when Muslims commemorate God providing Abraham a substitute sacrifice for his son Ishmael by sacrificing an animal. They sacrifice out of gratitude to God for his blessings and then share the meat with those less fortunate.

One day after the sacrifice holiday, I went to our English Language Center to study. Thankfully, it was quiet.

Allie*, our office administrator was there, and she sweetly welcomed me. After a few minutes of greeting, I headed to a classroom. I was excited about the opportunity to be alone and focus on language, which always seems to be a challenge.

Not long after I spread out my notes on the table, Allie asked if I would like to have some tea. Realizing this was an opportunity to chat with her, I accepted.

While we sat together and drank tea we talked about our families. Her husband wants her to follow Islam more devoutly and she is trying to be a good Muslim wife. “Maybe one day when I am older, I will cover my head,” she conceded.

Allie began to explain to me that for the first time she had sacrificed a lamb for the holiday. She admitted that one reason she sacrificed was because she was so thankful for her job at our language center. She observed that we do things differently. She said that it feels like family here, and God’s love and light are around her every day that she is at the office.

This conversation opened up the opportunity for me to tell her about Jesus’ sacrifice. Asking the Holy Spirit for wisdom, I proceeded to introduce her to the Son. That was a beautiful moment for me because she heard truth, possibly for the first time. Pray that she would accept Jesus, the perfect Lamb.

**Names changed to protect individuals.*

In the **photo** at left a woman leaves a mosque in Shymkent, Kazakhstan after attending Friday prayers. Islam is making a resurgence in many former Soviet Republics where it was suppressed during the years of Russian control. In the **photo** on the right a young Turkmen woman shops in a bazaar in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan.



PRAY

—Pray that Christian women serving in Central Asia would have the wisdom and discernment to know how to use opportunities during Muslim holidays to share truth with their friends.



Time had done little to heal this family's deep wound.



FINDING FATHER

My question was the same as always, “What have you been up to this past week?” Each time *Gul’s** answer had been the same—soft smiles and shrugged shoulders preceded the expected response, “Sweep the house, make bread, and wash clothes.”

But her gentle smile masked a lifetime of pain that bubbled to the surface this particular day. I was caught off guard as my friend’s mother, spoke for her, explaining, *“Gul is sad because she never knew her father. He was killed in the war when I was pregnant with her.”*

I could sense the emotion in my friend’s eyes and the lines of worry on her face seemed to emphasize the grief accumulated over the years.

Time had done little to heal this family’s deep wound. I glanced at my 30-year-old friend who shyly looked at me. I knew that her mother was speaking the truth that was in her heart.

Many women in this Central Asian country have lost loved ones in a war or battle. The death of *Gul’s* father still weighs heavily on her, even though she never knew the man whose absence has left a whole in her heart. He occupies her thoughts even though she is married and has a family of her own. *Gul* is deeply sorrowful that she grew up without her father. Hard lives for women here are common, but those lives become uncommonly difficult without a husband or father.

That day I had finally received a heartfelt response from a friend and the only thing I could do was share in her sorrow and pray for her. I prayed that she would come to know the Heavenly Father who loves her, will never leave her, will always care for her, and will one day right all wrongs.

**Names changed to protect individuals.*

In the upper left **photo** a young girl in the Pamir mountains peers curiously at visitors while her mother works in the background. In the **photos** at left, young Afghan girls learn to weave carpets. In many parts of Afghanistan women are forbidden to work outside the home. Consequently, widows with children are the most vulnerable members of society because they have no means to feed their families.

Photos do not represent the women in the story.



PRAY

—Pray that God would bring peace to countries that have been plagued by war. Pray particularly for Afghanistan, where after more than 30 years of war it is nearly impossible to find a family untouched by the violence. Ask the Lord to heal the hearts of women who have lost husbands, brothers, or fathers.

—In very conservative Central Asian countries like Iran and Afghanistan women are often confined to their homes. It is a struggle for Christian women to know how to reach out to these isolated women. Pray for creative ways for the gospel to reach women who often don’t often leave their own homes.



“God is not finding me in this world.”

In this **photo** a young woman in the Pamir mountains of Tajikistan celebrates *Navruz*, the New Year. In the **photo** at right a woman walks home after working in a field in the Cappadocia region of Turkey.
Photos do not represent the women in the story.

SEEK AND FIND

“**G**od is not finding me in this world,” my language teacher, *Natalie**, said to me after sharing a sobering hardship in her life.

My heart sank. Oh, but He has, I thought. If only you knew how much I pray for you to find peace with God. I wanted her to know that God sees her. I wanted to tell her that He even sent me so she could have access to Truth.

“Why do you say that?” I asked. But just as Natalie was about to share, one of her sister-in-laws entered the room. Her body stiffened and I knew it was time to transition back to my lesson.

After her sister-in-law left, I asked if I could pray for her. She gratefully agreed. I had just started the first sentence of the prayer when we were interrupted by her mother-in-law. I paused and waited. Then I restarted the prayer in English, affirming that God is a God who sees Natalie.

As I finished the prayer, I noticed one of Natalie’s nieces standing in the doorway. We wiped away tears from our eyes as we looked up.

After my lesson concluded, I began to gather my notebook, digital recorder, and pencil. As I stood up, Natalie looked at me and softly said, *“You pray for me a lot.”*

Once I got home, I sighed as I wearily fell onto the couch. For the second day in a row, my teacher allowed me to glimpse more deeply into her own sorrows. What I heard weighs heavily on my heart and I started to cry as I whispered a prayer for Natalie.

Private conversations during house visits are difficult. While I love visiting with so many women, being with a crowd makes having deep, personal conversations extremely difficult. I cannot change anyone’s circumstances. I cannot change anyone’s heart. Yet I continue to cling to the Truth that God is able change hearts and lives. Those who seek Him will ultimately find Him, if they seek with all their hearts.

**Names changed to protect individuals.*



PRAY

—Pray for Muslim women to know that God is a God who sees them. Pray that they would learn that He is their protector, that is always near and that His love is unconditional and was fully expressed in Jesus Christ.

—Pray for Christians serving in Central Asia to see and seize even 30-second windows to share. Pray for workers to learn the local language so we can have heartfelt conversations with women for their good and His glory.

WOMEN'S PRAYER TEA GUIDE

open your home, open your heart

Consider making the Prayer Tea a monthly or quarterly event where women can pray in a focused way for people groups around the world.

The Prayer Tea event was created to help Christian women pray with greater depth and compassion for Muslim women. A Prayer Tea for the women of Central Asia can be hosted for an intimate gathering in a home or for hundreds of women as a special event for a women's ministry, mission group or church prayer meeting.

Designed to introduce women to Central Asian cultures in an interactive way, a Prayer Tea is most inspiring when it is a cross-cultural experience. Here are some basic suggestions for hosting the event, but feel free to customize the experience to focus on a particular people group, country or region of the world.



*Mashina maimen zhuredi,
kempir shaimen zhuredi.*

*Cars run on gas,
but old women run on tea.
—Kazakh proverb*

We pray that this event will help you begin to understand the hurts, hopes and spiritual hunger of Muslim women.

PREPARE

Spread the word about the event by calling friends, sending formal invitations, or by making announcements through church communication channels. You may ask women to bring scarves so they can cover their heads during the event.

For a large gathering consider enlisting the help of several hostesses in advance. Hostesses will greet women as they arrive, seat them around carpets on the floor and begin to serve tea and treats. Brief these women ahead of time on Central Asian culture using the insights in this booklet, or better still, by talking with women who have lived in Central Asia.

Many Central Asians serve tea on tablecloths spread over carpets. Move furniture to the edges of the room and spread carpets on the floor to create groupings of 8-10 women. For a more formal event, you may prefer to seat women at tables.

WELCOME

As women arrive, greet them with three alternating kisses to the cheek, starting with the right cheek. Guests should remove their shoes at the door to the room in which they will share tea and pray. Central Asian women would never consider dishonoring a friend's home by wearing street shoes in the house.

Seat the guests on the floor around the carpets where tea will be served. You may choose to provide some tables for ladies who have difficulty sitting on the floor. In Central Asia devout women cover their heads with scarves as a sign of modesty and submission to God. Ask your guests to cover their heads with the scarves they have brought.

CLEANSE

In some areas of Central Asia a good hostess washes the hands of her guests before food is served. A child or young woman carries an empty bowl and pitcher of water into the room with a towel thrown over her arm. She places the bowl in front of a guest and pours water from the pitcher while the guest washes her hands over the bowl. The bowl is then moved to the next person as the first dries her hands with the towel. Wash each woman's hands in this manner.

*“Let us draw near
with a sincere heart
in full assurance of faith ...
bodies washed with pure water.”
—Hebrews 10:22*

SERVE

Once most women are seated, begin serving tea and refreshments. You may choose to serve a selection of hot teas—plain black tea, sweet tea with milk, green tea with a pinch of cardamom or herbal teas.

Central Asians usually serve both sweet and salty treats with tea. Women across Central Asia often serve dried fruits, nuts and cookies or candies in small bowls.
—In Uzbekistan bread is often served with tea.
—In Afghanistan cakes and cookies are rare and usually seen only on Muslim holidays, but women often serve raisins, dried apricots, dried chick peas, walnuts, pistachios or sugared almonds.
—In Turkey savory pastries filled with cheese, spinach or ground beef are often served with tea.

Be creative! Look on the internet for recipes from Turkey, Iran, Afghanistan, the Caucasus or from the Central Asian republics—Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan and Tajikistan.

SHARE

As women guests enjoy their tea, begin to share about Muslim women. If there are women attending who have lived and served in Central Asia, ask them to share about their experiences and friendships with Muslim women.

There are so many misconceptions about Muslim women. This is an opportunity to see them as mothers, sisters, aunties and friends. If no one in your group has experience living in a Muslim country, you may use the stories in this booklet by asking different women in the group to read one of the conversations aloud.



In the **photo** below young women in Kazakhstan learn how to keep *namaz*, Muslim ritual daily prayers. For a Muslim, Arabic is the only legitimate language for prayer. Most Central Asian women do not speak Arabic, but they recite prayers in Arabic five times a day during *namaz*, in order to earn *sawab*, or merit with God. Praise God that we can approach him in our heart language.

PRAY

Throughout the prayer time encourage women to voice their prayers for Muslim women and the peoples of Central Asia. Whether you pray together in a large group or break into smaller groups, the event is most meaningful when women feel free to participate and contribute.

Customize the prayer time to suit the personality of your group. Here are a few suggestions:

—Use music to transition from the tea and sharing time to the prayer time. Worship through song helps to prepare hearts for prayer.

—If you pray as a large group, try involving a number of women by giving some women Scriptures to read ahead of time and by creating openings for women to “popcorn” pray sentence prayers.

—If you break into small groups for prayer, a leader may help women transition from one section of prayer to another by leading a chorus or reading a Scripture.

— Write the names of Central Asian people groups on slips of paper and place them on the carpets or tables before the event to facilitate prayer for unreached peoples.

CENTRAL ASIAN UNREACHED PEOPLE GROUPS

Adyghe	Karachay
Afghan	Karakalpak
Afshar	Kazakh
Aimaq	Kumyk
Avar	Kurds
Azeri	Kyrgyz
Bakhtiari	Lak
Baluch	Laz
Bashkir	Lezgi
Behdini	Luri
Brahui	Mazanderani
Chechen	Meskhetian Turk
Dargin	Nuristani
Dungan	Pamiri
Gilaki	Pashayi
Hazara	Pashtun
Inguish	Persian
Iranian Arab	Pomak
Kabardian	Qashqai

PRAYER POSITIONS

In Scripture we read of God’s people praying in various physical positions—standing with hands raised, kneeling, bowing, even falling face down on the ground. Before the birth of Islam Jews and Christians used all of these positions during private and corporate worship. Muslims now use variations of these positions during *namaz*, daily ritual prayer. Thankfully, we have freedom in Christ to pray at any time of the day and in any position. Among Christians worship and prayer flow from a heart that has been made alive in Christ. In our experience, changing our physical posture during prayer can help to awaken our minds and hearts to pray with more focus and intensity. If your group chooses to use these prayer positions, make it clear that every woman in the group should feel the freedom to pray in a position that is comfortable to her. The positions are not what matters—it is the content of your prayers and the condition of your hearts that is important.

I. STANDING before the THRONE

Stand up straight with arms down by your sides. Ask God to cleanse your heart and mind. Praise him for his grace and the blood of Jesus that enable you to enter God’s presence and stand before his throne. Praise him for his sovereignty over all the nations of the earth.

Read Acts 17:26-27

“From one man he made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live. God did this so that men would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him ...”

Ask God to make this the moment in history when the peoples of Central Asia will seek him, reach out for him and find him. Pray that God will continue opening doors so that his living Word can bring hope to all Central Asian people groups.





II. LISTENING to the LORD

While still in the standing position, raise your hands to your ears and cup them as though trying to hear or raise them high with palms open. Ask God to speak to you and give you the words to pray for Muslim women. Pray that he would give you his heart for Muslim women.

Read Romans 10:13-14

“For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard?”

Ask God to give Central Asian women the opportunity to hear the Gospel in their heart language. Pray for the translation of Scripture into Central Asian languages. Many women in Central Asia are oral communicators. Pray for the development of an oral Bible. Pray that the stories of the Bible would spread quickly and be etched into the hearts and minds of women so that they will teach God’s truths to their children and grandchildren.

III. BOWING in REVERENCE

Place your hands on your knees and bend forward at the waist. Use this time to give God the reverence and glory that is due him.

Read Ephesians 2:8-9

“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not of yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.”

Pray that the peoples of Central Asia will realize that salvation comes through faith alone in Christ alone. Pray that new believers will be obedient to God’s mission to share the good news of salvation with their families, neighbors and even with their enemies. Pray that new believers would have courage to share their faith despite persecution.

Women who choose to follow Christ are often ostracized and persecuted by their own families. Pray that their husbands, brothers and fathers would be saved when they witness the godly example and loving submission of these faithful women. Pray that as persecuted believers partake in the sufferings of Christ they would hold firmly to the faith they have received and be strengthened and encouraged by the Holy Spirit.

IV. WORSHIPING in BODY and SPIRIT

From the bowing position kneel down. You may bend forward and lower your head to touch the carpet. In this position worship Jesus as King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Yield your life to Him.

Read Philippians 2:9-11

“Therefore, God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow... and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

Pray that God will shower the women of Central Asia with grace. Pray that women from every Central Asian people group will become faithful, lifelong disciples of Christ. Raise the names of these peoples to his throne right now. Ask women to voice brief prayers mentioning the names of various Central Asian peoples. Praise the Lord for his promise that one day every people, tribe and nation will worship before him. Thank him for the Central Asians who will one day bow down beside you in the presence of the Lord as you worship the Lamb.

V. KNEELING in PETITION

While you are still kneeling on the floor, lift your outstretched hands with palms upward (position pictured in photo on left). This is a time to bring your petitions and thanksgiving before the Lord.

Read 2 Corinthians 3:14-17

“Their minds were blinded. For until this day the same veil remains unlifted in the reading of the Law, because the veil is taken away in Christ. But even to this day... a veil lies on their heart. Nevertheless, when one turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.”

Ask God to unveil the hearts of Muslim women and open their minds to receive his Truth. Pray that the women of Central Asia and their families will experience eternal freedom in Christ. Pray that new house churches would emerge among every people group and that these churches would multiply. Pray that the Word of God would spread through families and communities to neighboring people groups.

PRAY WITHOUT CEASING

Current prayer updates are posted online at:
imb.org

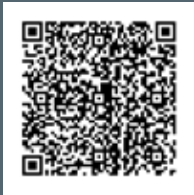


share tea, share life

—You don’t have to live in Central Asia to have tea with a Muslim woman. Reach out to international women living in your community. Invite women to tea; ask them about their home culture; share your home and your life with them.

—During a holiday invite an international student at a university near you to celebrate with your family. Did you know that most international students are never invited into an American home while they are studying in the US?

If you would like to join our monthly Central Asian Peoples prayer letter scan the QR code below.



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