



# PRAYERPOINTS

A PRAYING PEOPLE IMPACTING A LOST WORLD

*Many of Central Asia's remote locations are challenging for Americans to serve in. A Westerner may need several years to become fluent in a local language and comfortable in the culture. Visa difficulties also bring unique complications in accessing these places. Pray for IMB partnerships with "proximate workers"—cross-cultural workers who have closer, more natural connections to the languages or cultures of Central Asia.*

## Vision Casting and Ministry Training

How can a handful of Americans reach the 1.5 million Central Asian Muslims in a large, former-Soviet city? For Jude and Leanne Stack,\* the answer is simple: that expectation is completely unrealistic.



But God has shown them another way—mobilizing Christians from similar languages and cultures of Central Asia. These "proximate workers" can impact neighbors like the Uzbek street cleaner or the Tajik butcher, if only they're given the calling and the skills.

The Stacks' house church includes nine nationalities. Within the church, Russian and Central Asian Christians are reaching across ethnic lines. Jude takes men to the markets for training in intentional gospel conversations. Leanne also helps the women learn to interact with Central Asian sellers.

Two women in their fellowship are from Central Asian peoples once at war with each other. As Christians, these women look past their ethnic differences to serve each other with love. For Jude and Leanne, that is the gospel lived out, and the heart of their calling.

"Finally, brothers, pray for us that the Lord's message may spread rapidly and be honored" (2 Thess. 3:1 HCSB).

**1 PROXIMATE WORK IN CENTRAL ASIA.** Praise God for IMB teams partnering with proximate workers. Pray for unity among these teams and that this unity will witness to the person and work of Christ.

**2 TAIWAN.** Revival is sweeping across Taiwan. Please join us in praying for the winds of revival to continue to blow.

**3 BANGKOK.** Please pray for Barbara,\* who has late-stage cancer. The doctors have told her there is no hope for a cure. Please ask the Lord to open her heart to the hope of the gospel, and pray that she will know real hope through the Savior.

**4 PROXIMATE WORK IN CENTRAL ASIA.** Pray that Christians from the predominant cultures will show the love of Christ to minority people. Pray that they will approach Muslim communities with humility and intentionality so they can be more effective in bridging cultural barriers.

**5 SOUTH ASIA.** A couple has followed through with baptism, but they are facing heavy family opposition. Pray that God will create a way for them to be equipped to grow.

**6 GUINEA.** Please keep lifting up the young men who are studying the Bible with Gary.\* Ask for the truth of God's Word to penetrate their hearts.

**7 PROXIMATE WORK IN CENTRAL ASIA.** Pray that leaders in Russian churches will gain a vision for ministry to Central Asian Muslims. Pray that God will burden them to host training events that will teach them how to share the gospel with Muslims.

**8 AMAZON BASIN.** Lift up team members as they travel to a key community with volunteers from a church. Pray that this trip will serve to advance the kingdom.

**9 NIGER.** In remote Fulani villages, Christians and seekers are gathering to hear about women of the Bible. Pray for these women "to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ" (Ephesians 3:18 NIV) for them.

**10 PROXIMATE WORK IN CENTRAL ASIA.** Pray for God's blessing on summer volunteer groups who will serve in the Jacksons' village. Pray for fruitful partnerships between American and proximate volunteers as they share the gospel with Chinese Muslims.

**11 MIDDLE EAST.** A fellowship of Christians does not have a leader, and its members feel discouraged. Pray for the Spirit to lead someone to this group of people who are struggling.

**12 WEST AFRICA.** Recently, IMB leaders met with representatives from Baptist conventions in West Africa to encourage them in their role in international missions. Pray for these convention leaders as they encourage churches in fulfilling the Great Commission.

**13 PROXIMATE WORK IN CENTRAL ASIA.** Pray for wisdom in finding diversified platforms for recruiting more Chinese workers to join the Jacksons. Pray for access to visas and open doors for work among Chinese Muslims in Central Asia.

**14 PHILIPPINES.** A Filipino community developer is beginning work in new areas, with the goal of church planting. Pray for Dan,\* asking that he will have opportunities to boldly proclaim the gospel.

**15 HUNGARY.** You have been praying for the new gardening outreach program in eastern Hungary, and God is working! Continue to lift up the development of this program, asking the Lord to work in a mighty way.

**16 PROXIMATE WORK IN CENTRAL ASIA.** The Chinese Muslims in the Jacksons' village live under constant scrutiny. Pray that families will believe and follow Christ even though it may bring persecution.



Chinese Muslims in Central Asia gather for worship in their local mosque.

**17 COLUMBIA.** Praise the Lord for the way the Mir people have welcomed a missionary couple into their community. Pray that as a church is formed, this community will have an impact on neighboring communities.

**18 NAIROBI, KENYA.** Pray for the leaders in this city to seek the Lord and walk in a manner pleasing to him. Oh, that this city would be unified and there would not be political unrest!



*Nairobi, Kenya.*

**19 PROXIMATE WORK IN CENTRAL ASIA.** Pray that Chinese Muslim Christians in the big city will be bold in their witness. Pray that they will begin to gather for worship in their own language.

**20 NORTH CAUCASUS.** Please continue to pray for the ongoing audio recording project and the Scripture translation project underway in a local language.

**21 DEAF PEOPLES OF SOUTH ASIA.** Shaun\* is a South Asian man with a mixture of Hindu and Buddhist beliefs. Pray that he will learn that Jesus is the only true one to follow.

**22 PROXIMATE WORK IN CENTRAL ASIA.** Pray for the development and creation of a student ministry with Muslim exchange students across the former Soviet Union.

**23 UKRAINE.** There are still tens of thousands of Ukrainians

living in the Kharkov region who were displaced by war. Pray churches continue to reach out to the multitudes of displaced and hurting.

**24 LAST FRONTIER.** Not too long ago, Mary\* prayed that God would help her to live by faith. And recently, she confidently accepted the Good News. Pray that her faith will increase, and petition for protection from the evil one.

**25 PROXIMATE WORK IN CENTRAL ASIA.** Pray that God will raise up more leaders within the Stacks' expanding house church so it can multiply into two churches.

**26 RIO DE JANEIRO.** Pray for a 'person of peace' (Luke 10:6) who will open doors for workers to meet people who are interested in studying the Bible and becoming part of a small group.

**27 SOUTHEAST ASIA.** Praise the Lord for the Mon-Khmer pastors who faithfully shepherd the flocks of Mon-Khmer Christians. Even in the midst of hardships, they press on to serve the family of God.

**28 PROXIMATE WORK IN CENTRAL ASIA.** Pray that God will equip and send more Central Asian workers to join the Stacks in full-time ministry to Muslims in their city.

**29 DEAF PEOPLES OF WEST AFRICA.** Willie Bascom\* is working hard to help Deaf Christians share Bible stories in their heart languages, and the work is progressing well. Please continue to ask that the Deaf of West Africa will continue to learn God's stories and tell others.

**30 PAKISTAN.** Pray for God to raise up laborers to work in Pakistan. Ask the Holy Spirit to call out his church from countries all over the world to pray, give, and go so that many in Pakistan will have the opportunity to hear the gospel.

**31 PROXIMATE WORK IN CENTRAL ASIA.** Pray that God will give wisdom and strength to Jude Stack and others like him who train majority-culture Christians to minister to Central Asian Muslims.



*Ukrainian woman.*



There is a significant Chinese Muslim minority in Central Asia.

## Love: By This Everyone Will Know

Jonathan and Cheri Jackson's\* team members speak three languages when they gather. Despite their varied ages, backgrounds, cultures, and languages, the team is united in vision: their focus is Chinese Muslims in Central Asia.

Some of the Jacksons' teammates are from East Asia. These teammates have found access into their Central Asian village through modern Chinese lessons and acupuncture.

The Jacksons see great value in the ministry of "proximate" workers like their Chinese teammates, who can adjust to the local language more quickly than Americans do. Jonathan and Cheri even pair American and proximate volunteers together for summer visits in local homes.

The local government welcomes the Jacksons' team and its help with community development. Even with the local government's welcome, however, many people fear professing Jesus. Conservative Islam and social pressure hold their village captive. But the team perseveres in faith that God will open hearts as they proclaim the gospel.

The villagers are intrigued by such a unique team. How could people from different countries love each other like family? The answer is also the solution to the villagers' deepest need—the gospel of Jesus Christ.

# CENTRAL ASIA

**365**  
MILLION PEOPLE

**394**  
PEOPLE GROUPS



Learn more about the IMB's work among Central Asian peoples at [IMB.org/Central-Asia](http://IMB.org/Central-Asia).

\*Names changed

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