



PRAYERPOINTS

A PRAYING PEOPLE IMPACTING A LOST WORLD

The Luli of Central Asia

GYPSIES, CON-MEN, BEGGARS... ASK ANY CENTRAL ASIAN ABOUT THE LULI PEOPLE, AND THEY WILL TURN ASIDE, SPIT, AND CALL THE LULI WORTHLESS. BUT WE KNOW THAT GOD THINKS OTHERWISE. HE HAS BEGUN CALLING THE LULI PEOPLE TO HIMSELF—IN ANSWER TO MANY PRAYERS. PLEASE JOIN US IN ASKING GOD TO MULTIPLY HIS BLESSINGS TO THE LULI AND TO PLANT HIS CHURCH AMONG THEM.

God Initiates, We Participate

When God determines to move, he calls us to pray. This has been the clear pattern with the Luli people of Central Asia.

The number of Central Asian Christians has steadily grown in the former Soviet Union over the last 25 years. But the Luli have remained largely unseen and unengaged with the gospel. Wanderers and professional beggars, the Luli are the lowest people on the social ladder in the primarily Muslim countries of Central Asia. Unwelcome and mostly ignored, they move north in the spring and return to the warmer climate of home in the late fall.



A Central Asian boy plays outside. The Luli people are the lowest on the social ladder in many Central Asian countries.

In early 2017, as a part of a regional prayer effort, IMB workers in Central Asia began lifting up the Luli, asking God to begin a work among them. In November of 2017, a Luli family showed up on the doorstep of some of those workers. God clearly opened a door for the gospel to impact the Luli and their community. In the early summer of 2018, a Central Asian pastor who had previously believed that the Luli were unreachable con artists shared the gospel with two Luli families. They embraced the good news of Jesus with joy.

“For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility” (Eph. 2:14 ESV).

1 VIETNAM. Quang* says that he believes in Jesus, but his friends are not sure that he truly understands. Will you pray for Quang to have a faith-filled, radical commitment to Jesus Christ?

2 EAST ASIA. A Christian recently met an East Asian sister in Christ who had just moved to her neighborhood. These two women will begin meeting regularly to study God’s Word together. Please intercede for this time of Bible study.

3 LULI OF CENTRAL ASIA. Pray that God will establish his church among the Luli people. Pray that they will embrace his Word and submit to his authority as they grow in their understanding of Jesus’s love and sacrifice for them.

4 AMAZON RIVER BASIN. Pray for the Amazon Peoples Team as they continue working with a local community. Pray that the team will encourage the community to desire a deeper walk with Jesus and to begin to lead and evangelize their own people.

5 SOUTH ASIANS IN SOUTH AMERICA. God is bringing South Asian peoples to the Americas in large numbers. Some are looking for a safe haven from struggles in their homeland, and others who are seeking a better life economically. Pray they will encounter Christians and hear the gospel.

6 LULI OF CENTRAL ASIA. Pray for Central Asian Christians to reach out to their Luli neighbors. Ask God to break down walls of prejudice and hatred.

7 THAILAND. Paul* is 86 years old and is finally hearing the message of the gospel. Please pray for continued opportunities to explain to Paul more about God and what Jesus has done for him. Pray for his eyes and heart to be open to receive the gift of salvation.

8 TIHAMA YEMENI ARABS OF YEMEN. Mousa* is a middle-aged man who has aged rapidly in the past four years since the war began. Pray for Mousa and other Tihama Yemeni Arabs who feel hopeless and in despair. May they come to know Christ.

9 LULI OF CENTRAL ASIA. Pray that God will save Luli men. Pray that he will give them a desire to support their families through hard work rather than sending their wives and children to beg. Pray that Luli women will trust God as their ultimate Provider.

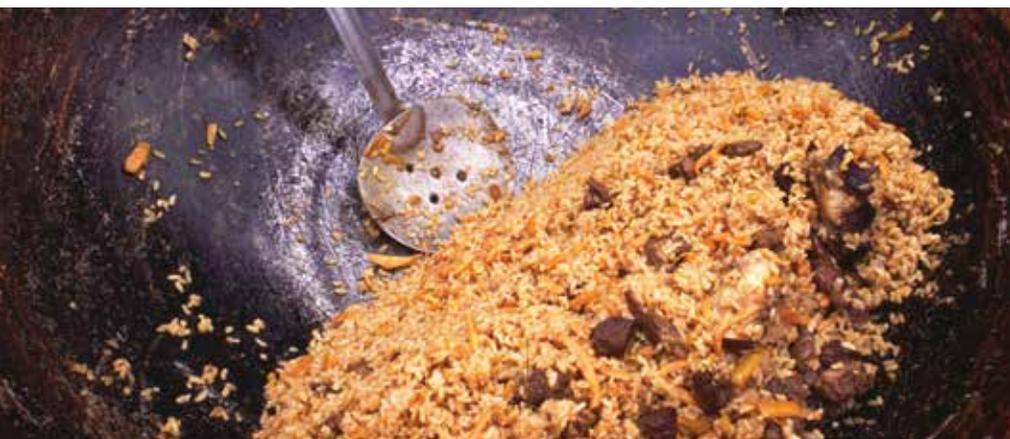
10 ZAMBIA. Every week, Priscilla* teaches men and women in her community how to read and write. These literacy classes meet a great need while also allowing her an opportunity to share the good news with others. Pray for Priscilla as she speaks the Word of God each week and shows the love of Christ to her neighbors.

11 DEAF PEOPLES OF SOUTHEAST ASIA. Bethany Forrester* and her team celebrated a local festival with their neighbors over the summer. This festival was the perfect time to share with their friends how we can have our sins completely washed away once and for all. Praise God for this opportunity to share the gospel, and pray for more opportunities.

12 LULI OF CENTRAL ASIA. Pray that Christian workers will learn more about the Luli culture, including which language will be best for discipling young Christians. Pray for the development of effective discipleship resources.

13 LAST FRONTIER. A suppressed people group needs your prayers. Christians are petitioning God for the salvation of these people and are exploring cooperative possibilities with other like-minded Christians. Their desire is for this people group to have a chance to hear the gospel. Pray for God’s wisdom and guidance as they meet and explore possibilities.

14 LIBYAN ARABS OF LIBYA. Ahmed is a young man who was born with poor eyesight. He isn’t blind, but his inability to see as well as his peers has caused him heartache. As a result, he lives in a state of depression. Please pray that Ahmed will come to know that God loves and cares so much for him that God sent Jesus to ransom Ahmed from his sins.



This rice dish is a staple in many Central Asian homes. As believers choose to open their homes and tables to the Luli people, many will hear the gospel.

15 LULI OF CENTRAL ASIA. The Luli are an oral culture. Ask God to raise up Central Asian Christians who are skilled at sharing God's Word through storying. Pray that the Luli will remember and retell the stories accurately.

16 TAIWAN. Many know Taiwan by the name "Ilha Formosa" (Beautiful Island). Will you ask God to bring salvation to the people who live on this beautiful island? Ask that they will see the lifelessness of their idols and realize that life itself is found in God alone.

17 RIO DE JANEIRO. Rio de Janeiro has been hit hard by disasters in 2019. Fire engulfed the sleeping quarters of up-and-coming teenage soccer stars at one of the elite soccer clubs, killing ten. Major rain and windstorms have swept through the city and caused extensive damage and loss of life. In April, two residential buildings collapsed, and at least ten people were killed. Please pray for peace.

18 LULI OF CENTRAL ASIA. Pray for God to put evangelists in the paths of Luli who are traveling and living far from their home villages. Pray that they will receive the good news and return home to share it with their families.

19 SLOVAKIA. After being in Slovakia for six years, IMB colleagues are seeing the results of their labor of love in relationships. Ask that the seed of God's Word will be planted and come to fruition in the lives of those who attend a new church plant in Bratislava.

20 SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA. The Kaliko people reside in the southwest corner of South Sudan along the border of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and near the northwest border of Uganda. Currently, no one is engaging them with the gospel in South Sudan. Pray that the Kaliko will hear and receive the gospel.

21 LULI OF CENTRAL ASIA. Pray that governments will treat the Luli justly, providing them with opportunities for education, employment, and medical care. Pray that Luli Christians will respect the authorities God has placed over them.

22 MEXICO. Please pray earnestly that God will extinguish the darkness that grips southern Guerrero. While some churches exist in certain areas, there are still numerous villages with no churches and no evangelical presence. Please pray that we can work together with the Christians in our area to share the good news.

23 DEAF PEOPLES OF CENTRAL ASIA. Pray for Gretchen Snow* and other workers in Central Asia as they share God's stories with the Deaf. Pray that the hearts of the Central Asian Deaf will be drawn to the resurrected Savior.

24 LULI OF CENTRAL ASIA. Ask God, who delights to show strength in weakness, to use the Luli to build his church in the rest of Central Asia. Pray that the movement of the Spirit among the Luli will extend to other unreached people groups.

25 BANGLADESH. When Aaron* became a follower of Jesus, his family disowned him. But recently, he was able to reconnect with them. His parents wept at the sight of him. His mother received a New Testament, which his niece is now reading to her. Aaron asks for prayer for the salvation of his family and for continued healing in their relationship.

26 COLOMBIA. Please pray for the formation of a hymnal of Christian songs in the language of the Katio people. It is being composed by Cuban missionaries to the Katio. These missionaries have also formed a children's ministry. Their prayer is that this ministry will grow and flourish.



Throughout all Central Asia, tea is a symbol of hospitality. Many Central Asians, however, would not dream of inviting a Luli into their home for a cup of tea.

27 LULI OF CENTRAL ASIA. Pray that Central Asian pastors and their wives will lead out in ministry to the Luli. Pray that they will set an example for their churches, crossing cultural and social barriers in order to minister to the "least of these."

28 ANGOLA. God has called a couple to come and serve in Luanda, the capital of Angola. Pray for housing and for new friends for this couple as they move to Luanda.

29 LULI OF CENTRAL ASIA. Pray that churches that grow among the Luli will be pure, protected from false teaching, and beacons of light to their communities.

30 LULI OF CENTRAL ASIA. Some Luli live in places where Islam has a strong grip. Like the culture around them, the people are also more resistant to the gospel. Pray that God will soften hearts, making them open to Jesus.



As believers choose to open their homes and tables to the Luli people, many will hear the gospel.

Loving the Luli in Jesus's name

A Luli woman recently asked a Central Asian Christian, "If I gave you bread, would you touch it?" The man said yes. "Even after I've touched it, you would accept it?" He responded positively again, so she pushed further. "If I invited you to my house, would you come?" To her amazement, the answer was still yes.

For the Luli to come to know Jesus, Central Asians who have been transformed by the gospel must choose to love. They must choose to love those whom the rest of society has determined to despise and ignore. God is beginning to raise up his people in Central Asia to share his message of salvation. Within the past year, Luli have come to faith in four cities. In one of those cities, an estimated forty to fifty people have made decisions to follow Jesus.

God's Spirit is clearly moving. Though they beg for money, food, and clothes, the Luli's most desperate need is Jesus, who welcomes them into relationship with himself.

CENTRAL ASIA

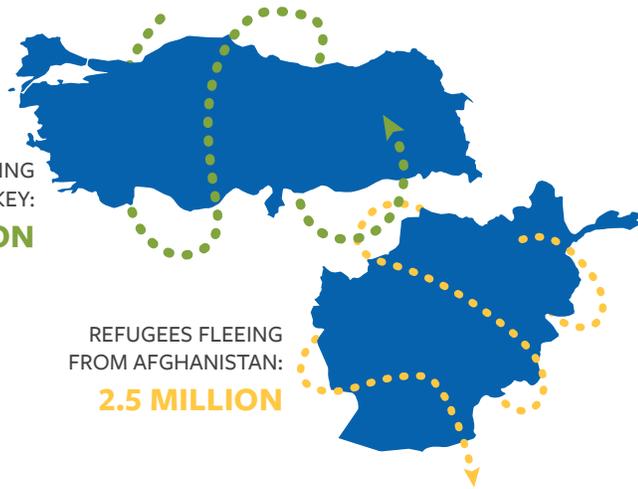
MOST CENTRAL ASIANS HAVE NO KNOWLEDGE OF BIBLICAL CHRISTIANITY AND ARE UNAWARE THAT THE GOSPEL IS GOOD NEWS.

365
MILLION
PEOPLE

394
PEOPLE
GROUPS

REFUGEES BEING
HOSTED IN TURKEY:
2.7 MILLION

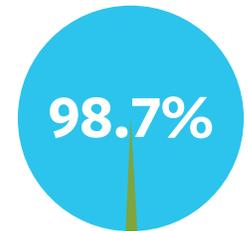
REFUGEES FLEEING
FROM AFGHANISTAN:
2.5 MILLION



**MAJOR
RELIGION**
among **CENTRAL ASIAN**
peoples:



ISLAM



OF CA PEOPLE GROUPS ARE
UNREACHED

**Names changed*

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