PRAYERPOINTS

IMB

JUNE 2026

"And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers."
Acts 2:42

CENTRAL ASIAN PEOPLES

From small house fellowships to more established congregations—both in Central Asia and among the diaspora—we praise God that some Central Asian churches are experiencing growth in unity, clearer teaching, and stronger partnerships with gospel workers. Please pray for the church in Central Asia—for continued depth in holiness, bold outreach, healthy leadership development, stability in difficult locations, and perseverance for workers and local partners across the region who are carrying heavy loads.

Central Asian churches grow in health

Wes Blakely and his team gained a clearer vision for deeper partnership after an exhortation from a Central Asian pastor: "Stop using the word foreigner. That's not how we see you. Use your giftings and be a part of us." His words reshaped their approach. They committed to join local churches, practice the biblical "one another's," and serve where needed. Now, working with local partners as members of the same body, they witness God's work in more intimate ways.

Such unity is significant in a place where the Soviet mentality of distrust still lingers, even affecting relationships in the church. God is transforming this. As believers grow in spiritual health, they long for unity with each other. Recently, churches in Wes's city gathered for their first joint prayer service—interceding not only for their country but for all of Central Asia.

One source of this spiritual growth is the increasing ability of church leaders to faithfully handle Scripture. Wes and his colleagues coordinate trainings that help pastors and other members understand a passage's meaning and teach it with integrity. These efforts equip Central Asians to present God's Word as it truly is rather than use verses to support personal agendas.

Bread and juice are prepared for the Lord's Supper in a Central Asian church.

Continued on back page

ANSWER TO YOUR PRAYER

A few years ago, you prayed God would raise up churches in the many Central Asian districts without a church. Praise God for several new believers and a fledging group meeting together in one of these districts. Several other locations have recently, or soon will be, home to new church plants. Pray the Lord will establish them, mature them, and help them to commit to covenanting together as a church.

1 Unity in local churches is a need in Central Asia. The Bible says nonbelievers should recognize believers because of the sincere love they have for one another. Pray for genuine unity among the church in Central Asia, so that outsiders will be drawn to repent and believe.

2 Recognizing the authority and sufficiency of God's Word is crucial for church health. Please pray local churches and pastors in Central Asia will continue to submit themselves and their teaching to God's Word.

3 Any healthy church must be committed to taking the good news to those who still have not heard. Please pray all local churches in Central Asia will be praying for the lost, sharing the gospel, and sending laborers to unreached peoples and places.

4 Personal holiness and godly character show the reality of genuine faith. Please pray believers and churches across Central Asia will grow in their understanding of sanctification. Ask God to help them see His grace clearly, so they're moved to pursue purity in heart, mind, speech, and action.

5 The prosperity gospel is a false teaching that has crept into many places in Central Asia. Pray God will help all church leaders to rightly interpret the Word, expose false teaching, and help church members have a biblical understanding of trials and faith.

6 Humility and gentleness are essential traits of servant leadership, and Jesus modeled them perfectly during His time on earth. Please pray that church leaders in Central Asia will embrace this example and remember they are called to serve, not to be served. Ask God to continue shaping them in growth and transformation.

7 Local churches in Central Asia must raise up the next generation of pastors and deacons. Please pray for the young people in the churches to hunger and thirst for Jesus and develop lives fully dependent on the Lord. Ask God to save and mature young people into faithful, godly leaders.

8 Each Central Asian church needs to plan how they can reproduce and plant other churches. Even though most churches in Central Asia are not at this point of maturity, there is a great need for many more healthy churches. Pray for new churches in every city and village.

9 Many Central Asian churches have fewer than 10 members, and believers are often young and transient. As people move for work, church planters struggle to reach a stable "critical mass." Pray for growth in spiritual depth and steady membership.

10 Various teams across Central Asia face unique challenges in obtaining visas and access to the communities where the Lord has called them to serve. Pray God will flourish these efforts and allow workers to continue to labor in both their community and ministry roles.

11 Gospel workers and their local ministry partners often carry heavy loads. Working to support the local church, seek out the lost, raise children, and handle various other responsibilities can take a real toll. Pray for the Lord to encourage them and give them stamina.

12 Many local believers struggle in weak economies to support themselves and their families. Work options can pull them away from regular worship and church life. Pray for the Lord to provide jobs that meet their needs and allow them to remain faithful church members.

13 In an increasingly globalized world, many foreign expats now live across Central Asia. In one area, there are African factory workers and students—and many of them are believers. Pray for wisdom in how to serve these expats and welcome them into the church.

14 Many local churches in Central Asia remain "underground," lacking legal status or the ability to broadcast themselves to the public. Pray for favor and that, where safe and possible, these churches would be able to acquire space and legal status to reach the community.

15 Praise God that university students from the U.S. are coming to Central Asia to engage the community, participate in internships, fellowship with believers, and support local teams. Pray their labors would serve the ministry of the local churches.

16 Stability and sustainability can be difficult for gospel workers in Central Asia. Those who have endured loss or major transitions often need renewed vision, strong relationships, and physical and emotional strength. Pray God will encourage and equip them to carry the gospel to the nations living among them.

17 One Central Asian church in the diaspora recently installed two local pastors. Ask God to deepen the maturity of these new pastors as the IMB workers transition out of leadership and toward partnership.

18 One European church sent a church-planting team to a university city with many Central Asians. Ask God to strengthen the team and root the new work in gospel health.

19 Praise God two new Central Asian believers were recently baptized in a church in Europe. Pray for their discipleship and for the church's continued growth and health.

20 One church in Europe is beginning intentional outreach to the minority population of Central Asians in their community. Ask God to grow their love, boldness, and dependence on Him.

21 Pray for a European church whose members now visit immigrant neighborhoods to meet Central Asian families. Ask God to use their presence to open doors for the gospel.

22 Leaders from an international church in Europe recently returned from a trip to Central Asia where they visited partner churches, led discipleship groups, prayed over unreached cities, and shared the gospel. Pray the Lord will bring fruit from their ministry.

23 Pray believers and seekers in one Central Asian country will be strengthened by the Holy Spirit to follow Jesus with wisdom and courage amid digital and physical surveillance, and that God would confound plans that aim to expose or harm house churches.

24 Ask the Lord to heal individuals and families carrying deep wounds from social unrest, imprisonment, and long-term insecurity. Pray house churches will become places of Christ's gentle restoration and hope.

25 Pray women and girls—who often carry unique social pressures—will encounter Jesus, find dignity and protection in Him, and become Spirit-empowered disciplers who nurture households of faith and help plant new fellowships.

26 Intercede for students wrestling with disillusionment, unemployment, and identity to accept Christ as the Truth. Ask God to raise up bold and wise peers who can disciple them and walk with them.

27 Pray for gospel advancement among Kurds, Azeris, Lurs, Baloch, Arabs, Turkmen, and other people groups. Ask God to expand Scripture access and to grow biblical worship and leadership development in heart languages. Pray for churches to be marked by unity in diversity.

28 Ask the Lord to break chains of addiction, provide stable livelihoods, and open doors for discreet, sustainable mercy ministries (food, counseling, job skills) among the church in Central Asia. Pray practical love would authenticate the message of the Kingdom.

29 Pray for favor, courage, and gospel opportunities for detained believers. Ask God to comfort their families, supply their needs, and use correspondence, legal proceedings, and guard interactions for witnessing opportunities.

30 Intercede for secure, Spirit-led pathways to engage Scripture (print, audio, encrypted apps) and to gather safely (micro-groups, homes, workplaces) in sensitive and high-security locations. Pray for the multiplication of trustworthy Bible teachers.

A cross on a steel door publicly marks the location of a Central Asian church building in its Muslim-majority community.

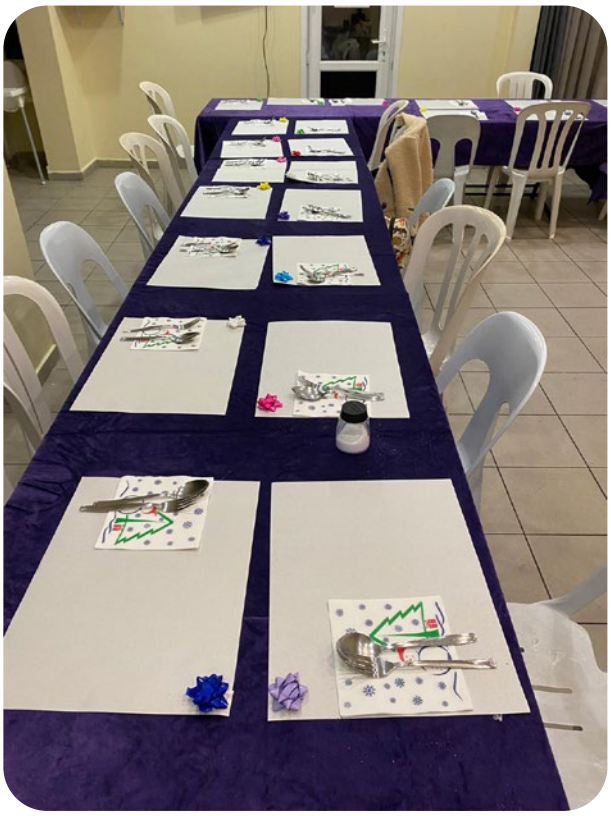
From fitness to faithfulness: cultivating healthy church DNA in Central Asia

As a fitness instructor, IMB worker Lance Capshaw knows health requires intentionality—and he brings this same focus to his relationships with the local church in Central Asia.

Though Lance and his team hesitate to call the spiritually young believers in their fellowship "partners," this handful of adults remain their first priority. From the beginning, the team has worked to model the traits of a healthy church. They try to shape every aspect of their home worship around the gospel. Through biblical teaching, worship, and Christ-centered discipleship, their hope is to form healthy church DNA early and see these believers grow into mature local partners.

Evangelical churches are rare in this part of the country, so it's especially important to partner well with others. Lance intentionally visits another church's pastor and wife, and over the years of connection, they've watched the more established congregation strengthen through faithful preaching and the development of qualified elders.

What began as a connection between leaders now extends to their congregations. Every quarter, Lance and his team bring their young church to worship with this more established body. The two congregations join in Christmas and Easter outreaches, giving new believers opportunities to greet guests, distribute Scripture, and participate in biblical drama.



A Central Asian church prepares its tables for a Christmas Eve feast for its church members.

Lance and his team pray their intentionality will promote spiritual health in their region. They ask you to be intentional too—please join them in praying for healthy partner churches in Central Asia.

Continued from front page

Wes is also initiating discussions about a potential church plant. Partnership with Central Asian believers can be complicated; yet he sees the privilege of serving alongside them as similar to a parent raising children—he is stewarding a responsibility to love and nurture the church. He does this with confidence not in himself but in Jesus, the head of the Church, who will build and mature His people until the end.

NEW!

Call our PrayerLine at 1-800-395-7729 (PRAY) to hear an audio version of the daily prayer requests in this guide. New recordings will be available every day. The printed guide will continue as always, but now you can listen to the prayer requests too!

Subscribe!

For a free email subscription, go to imb.org/prayer-points
For a free print subscription, call (800) 999-3113.
Find more prayer resources on imb.org/pray and in the IMB Pray app!

Some names may have been changed for security reasons. BI 15.5M 04-26 P7838-6

REACHING THE NATIONS, TOGETHER.