

## **July: Praying for the Unreached in Central Asia**

### **Week One:**

Central Asia includes Kazakhstan, Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan, Pakistan, Armenia, and Georgia. This area is also strongly influenced by the presence of Islam. Pray that God would open doors for the gospel to be spread in this area and that He would make known to many the path of life. Pray that God would be at work in this area to show the great hope and joy that is found in Him alone.

***“I bless the LORD who gives me counsel; in the night also my heart instructs me. I have set the LORD always before me; because he is at my right hand, I will not be shaken. Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being rejoices; my flesh also dwells secure. For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol, or let your holy one see corruption. You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.” –Psalm 16:7-11***

### **Week Two:**

Uzbekistan has a population of a little over 25 million people and the majority of them would be considered Islamic. Sharing the gospel is forbidden as Islamic tradition teaches that the Bible has been corrupted, and those who do convert to Christianity face ostracization and persecution.

Pray that God would be opening doors to the truth being spread and that He would give people hearts to understand and respond to the gospel. Pray that God would destroy the stronghold of Islam and that many would find true freedom and peace in Christ. Pray for the persecuted believers, for protection and perseverance.

***“For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith – that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.”--Ephesians 3:14-19***

**Week Three:**

Pakistan has a population of around 225 million people and 99 % of the Pakistani people are Islamic. Pakistan is also home to 5 of the 31 largest frontier people groups; the Arain, the Jat, the Pashtun, the Rajput and the Shaikh people.

For these people groups there is a strong mistrust of Christianity and because of the strong presence of Islam many face the prospect of being shunned by their families if they convert. Pakistan is the second largest Muslim population in the world with very limited access to Scripture. Christians often come from lower castes in society and are unable to speak to or evangelize the upper castes. Pray for God to open doors between these groups and for greater access to the truth.

Scripture to pray through: Isaiah 55:10-11; Romans 10:14-17

**Week Four:**

Afghanistan has a population of almost 40 million and is one of the least reached nations in the world. After the reconquest by the Taliban in 2021 there was a swift collapse of the Afghan government as well as the suspension of humanitarian aid, the reintroduction of harsh Islamic laws, intensified persecution of Christians and worsening conditions for women and children.

The status of women deserves special attention and prayer. Virtually all of the progress to protect women and increase their rights that was made over the last 20 years has been undone by the Taliban. Women are essentially banned from participating in public life, numerous women die in childbirth because they are not allowed to receive healthcare from male doctors and at least  $\frac{1}{3}$  of Afghani women suffer physical violence. Widows also face very difficult circumstances and suicide is common for them.

Pray for the protection and care of women and children, that their lives would be valued and that there would be justice and freedom from this gender-based oppression. Pray for the spread of the gospel across this nation, that people would find hope and freedom in Christ and that the stronghold of Islam which has darkened this land would be destroyed. Pray also for strength and endurance for Christians in this area as they face extreme persecution. Pray that God would bring light and hope to these people.

Scripture to pray through: Jeremiah 22:3; Psalm 147:1-6