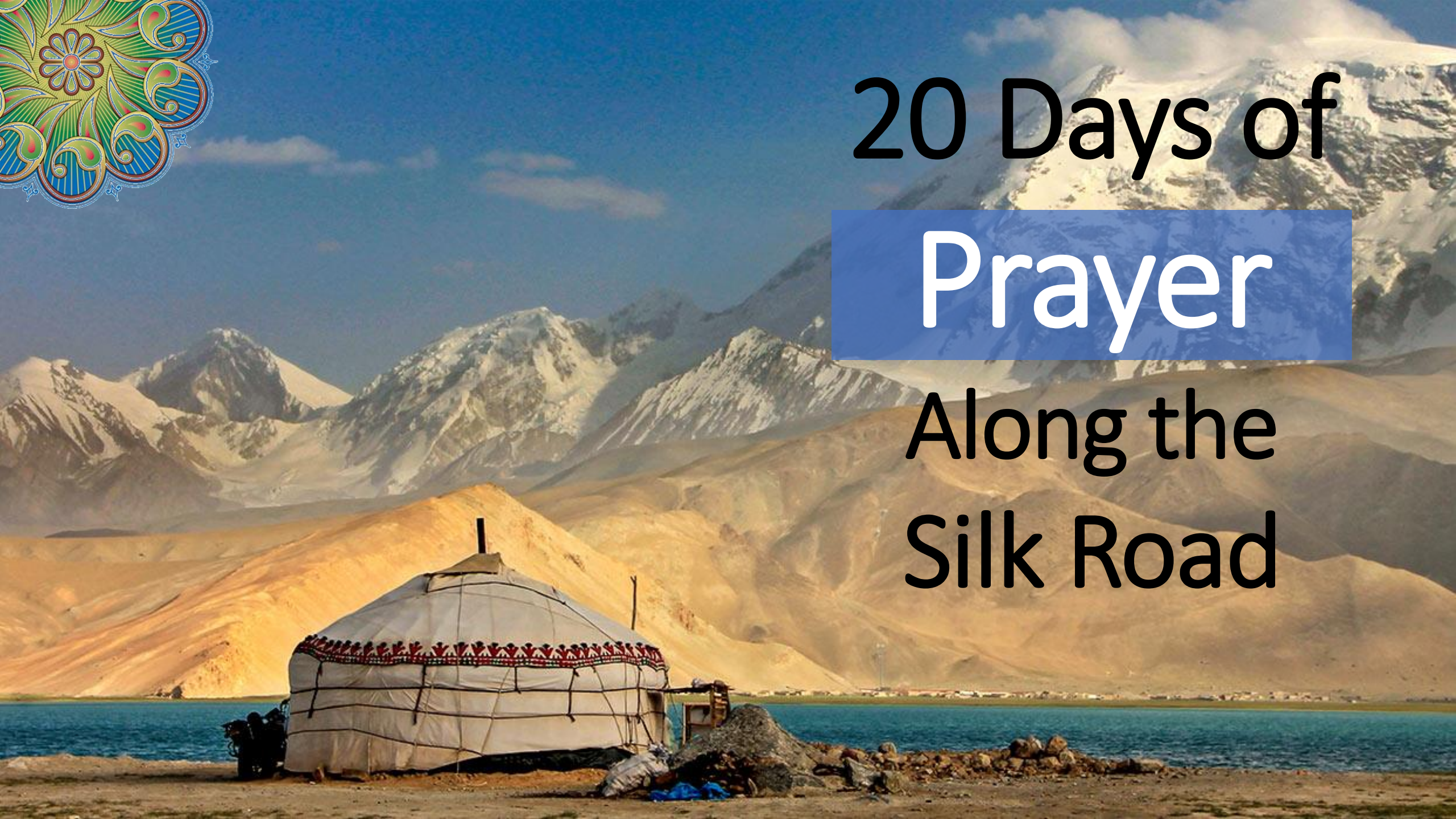




20 Days of Prayer

Along the
Silk Road



History

The Silk Road was an ancient network of trade routes that connected the East to the West. It was central to cultural interaction between the regions of the world for many centuries.

The Silk Road derives its name from the lucrative trade in silk carried out along its length, beginning in Chang'an during the Han dynasty (207 BCE–220 CE). Trade along the Road played a significant role in the development of the civilizations of China, Korea, Japan, India, Iran, Afghanistan, Europe, Africa and Arabia, opening long-distance political and economic relations between the civilizations. Though silk was the major trade item exported from China, many other goods were traded, as well as religions, syncretic philosophies, sciences, and technologies. Diseases, most notably the plague, also spread along the Silk Road. In addition to economic trade, the Silk Road was a route for cultural trade among the civilizations along its network.

Traders in ancient history included the Bactrians, Sogdians, Syrians, Jews, Arabs, Iranians, Turkmens, Chinese, Malays, Indians, Somalis, Greeks, Romans, Georgians, Armenians, and Azerbaijanis.





Day 1 Istanbul - Turks



Istanbul is one of the world's most populous cities and ranks as the world's 5th-largest city proper and the largest European city. Istanbul is viewed as a bridge between the East and West. Istanbul's strategic position on the historic Silk Road, rail networks to Europe and the Middle East, and the only sea route between the Black Sea and the Mediterranean have produced a cosmopolitan populace.

Turkey is considered to be a "link" between the Orient (Chinese and Mongols) and the Occidental (Anglo-Saxons, Slavs, Goths, and Latins). The Turks, therefore, have a knowledge and mixture of both Eastern and Western cultures. The primary religion practiced by the Turks is Sunni Islam, the largest branch of Islam. Sunni Muslims follow the teachings of the Qur'an and consider the first four caliphs to be the rightful successors of Muhammad. However, they also have many ethnic beliefs and superstitions as well.

Prayer Points

- ❖ Pray that churches and missions organizations will accept the challenge of adopting and reaching the Turks.
- ❖ Ask God to give the Turkish believers boldness to share the Gospel with their own people.
- ❖ Pray that God will grant wisdom and favor to missions agencies focusing on the Turks.
- ❖ Ask the Lord to save key leaders among the Turks who will boldly declare the Gospel.
- ❖ Pray that many Turks living abroad will be reached with the Gospel and will take it back to Turkey.
- ❖ Pray that Turkey will avoid both ethnic strife (especially with the Kurds) and resurgent Muslim fundamentalism.



Day 2 Feodosia – Crimean Tatars

Feodosia was founded by Greek colonists in the 6th century BC. Like the rest of Crimea, Feodosia fell under the domination of the Kipchaks and was conquered by the Mongols in the 1230s. In the late 13th century, traders from the Republic of Genoa arrived and purchased the city from the ruling Golden Horde. They established a flourishing trading settlement called Kaffa, which virtually monopolized trade in the Black Sea region and served as a major port and administrative center for the Genoese settlements around the Sea.

The Crimean Tatars are descendants of Pontic Greeks, Armenians, Scythians, Ostrogoths, Kipchaks and Cumans. Their history has been both complex and turbulent. For many years they have endured hardship, oppression, and injustice. The Crimean Tatars are Sunni Muslims who belong to the Hanafite branch. However, they have no version of the Qu'ran in their language. The Muslim faith includes observing Ramadan, a month of ritual fasting.



Prayer Points

- ❖ Ask the Lord to call full-time Christian workers who are willing to go to Crimea and share Christ with the Tatars.
- ❖ Ask God to strengthen, encourage, and protect the small number of Crimean Tatar Christians.
- ❖ Ask the Holy Spirit to soften their hearts toward Christians, so that they will be receptive to the gospel.
- ❖ Ask the Lord to raise up a strong church among Crimean Tatars.
- ❖ Pray that Crimean Tatars will come to know Jesus as God's Son and Savior of the world.
- ❖ Pray for the distribution of the recently completed Crimean Tatar Bible.





Day 3 Batumi - Adjarians

Batumi is the capital city of Adjara, an autonomous republic in southwest Georgia, located on the eastern coast of the Black Sea. The history of Batumi is inextricably bound with that of Adjara. At the turn of the 20th century, Batumi was linked to the oil fields of Baku by one of the earliest pipelines and a railway, and it became one of the most important ports in the world. With the re-establishment of Georgia's independence an accelerated re-Christianization of Adjara began, especially among the young. Today, much of Batumi's economy revolves around tourism and gambling, but the city is also an important sea port and includes industries like shipbuilding, food processing and light manufacturing.

Adjarians are like Georgians in almost every respect, except for their extensive history with Islam. The ancestors of the Adjarians were once Christian. However, in the seventeenth century the Turkish Ottoman Empire conquered Adjara and many people converted to Islam. Adjara remained under Turkish rule until 1878, when it was seized by the Russian Empire. By that time Adjarians had been Muslim for ten to fifteen generations. However, the region's religious balance appears to have shifted significantly, with many young Adjarians in particular succumbing to the implicit societal pressure to adopt a 'true' Georgian identity. It's thus estimated that only 30% of Adjara's population now considers itself Muslim, mainly in the Khulo district. Nonetheless, Turkey's influence in the region remains strong, in part through funding provided by Ankara for local mosques and for young Adjarians to study at Turkish universities.



Prayer Points

- ❖ Pray that Adjarians will hear the message of Christ and then testify about Christ among their people.
- ❖ Pray that the forces of darkness will be defeated and the Adjarians will follow Christ.
- ❖ Pray for the Holy Spirit to work among the Adjarians, for them to get rid of anything that deprives them of their freedom.
- ❖ Pray for Christianity to be honored in their traditions, and the Gospel will become attractive to them.
- ❖ Pray for whole families to turn to Christ.
- ❖ Ask that Adjarian Christians will share the light of the Gospel to other people groups who come to Adjara.



Day 4 Vladikavkaz - Ingush



In 1784 Russians built a fortress at the location of the Ingush village of Zaur and named it Vladikavkaz ("ruler of the Caucasus"). Vladikavkaz is situated on the traditional route used by invaders and traders throughout the ages. A major route through the Caucasus from Georgia to Russia linking Rostov-on-Don and Tbilisi. Ingush land then came under Russian rule, but during World War II the Ingush were falsely accused of collaborating with the Nazis and the entire population was deported to Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan. They were rehabilitated in the 1950s, after the death of Joseph Stalin, and allowed to return home in 1957, though by that time western Ingush lands had been ceded to North Ossetia. Soviet authorities attempted to prevent Ingush from returning to their territory in Prigorodny district; however, Ingush families managed to move in, purchase houses back from the Ossetians and resettled the district in greater numbers. Ethnic tensions in Prigorodny District orchestrated by Ossetian nationalists, led to an outbreak of violence in October-November 1992. Some stability and relative calm has returned to the area.

The Ingush refer to themselves as Ghalghai (from Ingush: Ghala ("fortress" or "town") and ghai ("inhabitants" or "citizens")). The Ingush speak the Ingush language, which has a very high degree of mutual intelligibility with neighboring Chechen. They are predominantly Shafi'i Madhhab of Sunni Islam with a Sufi minority. The gospel of Luke was translated in 2012. There is no church among the Ingush people.

Prayer Points

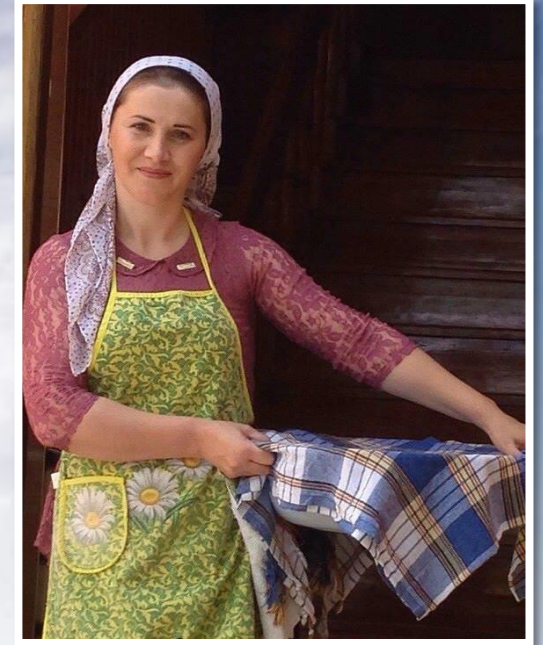
- ❖ Pray for the Muslim Ingush people who feel double-harmed by both Russians and Ossetians, which are both known as majority-Christian nations.
- ❖ Pray for more of Christ's ambassadors to practice audacious love for Ingush people.
- ❖ Pray for the Ingush people to seek and find their Savior. John 13:34—"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples if you have love for one another." Presently, of the 415,000 Ingush, there are approximately 30 known Ingush believers living in many scattered places, including a few inside Ingushetia.
- ❖ Pray for breakthroughs of Jesus' grace in Ingush villages.



Day 5 Derbent - Lezgin

Derbent claims to be the oldest city in Russia with historical documentation dating to the 8th century BCE. Derbent's location on a narrow, three-kilometer strip of land in the North Caucasus between the Caspian Sea and the Caucasus mountains is strategic in the entire Caucasus region. Historically, this position allowed the rulers of Derbent to control land traffic between the Eurasian Steppe and the Middle East.

The Lezgin make up approximately 34% of the population of Derbent. While the Lezgin are primarily Sunni Muslims, many of their former beliefs have been mingled with their Islamic practices. For example, the names of many pagan gods have become synonymous with Allah. During the spring, as well as during planting and harvesting seasons, several ancient rituals are still practiced. Also, the bones of animals are thought to have magical and healing powers. Bible translation in the Lezgi language is in process. The four gospels were completed and published in 2013.



Prayer Points

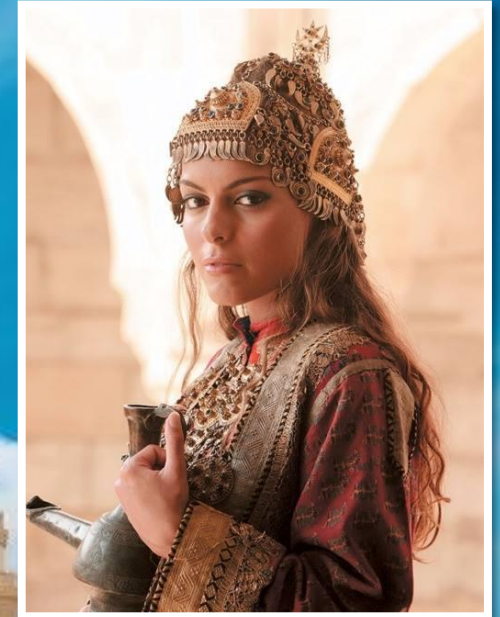
- ❖ Ask the Lord to call people who are willing to go to Derbent and share Christ with the Lezgin people. Pray for wisdom and favor for them as they serve.
- ❖ Ask that the Lezgin will know Jesus as the Good Shepherd who laid down His life for them.
- ❖ Ask the Holy Spirit to soften the hearts of the Lezgin Muslims toward Christians so that they will be receptive to the gospel.
- ❖ Pray that God will protect and encourage the small number of Lezgin Christians and use them mightily to make disciples among their people.
- ❖ Ask the Lord to raise up strong multiplying churches among the Lezgin.
- ❖ Pray for the completion of a Bible translation in the Lezgin language.



Day 6 Shamakhi - Azerbaijani

Shamakhi was an important town during the Middle Ages and served as a capital of the Shirvanshah realm from the 8th to 15th centuries. Shamakhi maintained economic and cultural relations with India and China in the 12th century and also had relations with the Central Asian cities at around the same time. Historically, Shamakhi was famous for its carpets of which decoration using the buta motif dominate as with other Shirvan carpets. Shirvan carpets are on display at some of the world's famous museums.

The Azerbaijani are primarily Shi'ite Muslims, but there are a number of Hanafite Muslims as well. Islam among the Azerbaijani is a reflection of the historical ties that exist between Azerbaijan and Iran. Until the twentieth century, most Azeri identified themselves as Muslims rather than Azerbaijani or Turks. They believe that being a "spiritual community of Islam" was much more important than being a nation. In Azerbaijan, religious practices are less restrictive of women's activities than in most other Muslim countries. Most women have jobs outside the home, and a few have attained leadership positions.



Prayer Points

- ❖ Pray that God will open doors for Christian businessmen to share Christ with the Azeri.
- ❖ Ask the Holy Spirit to soften their hearts towards Christians so that they will be receptive to the gospel.
- ❖ Pray for God to give wisdom, favor, and strategies to the mission agencies that are focusing on the Azeri.
- ❖ Ask the Lord to raise up strong local churches among the Azeri.



Day 7 Tehran - Persian

The ancient city of Rey was one of the capital cities of the Seljuq Empire. The bazaar, located to the north of Shah-Abdol-Azim's shrine, has long been a center for the sale of spices, traditional herbs, and commercial goods which were imported by traders via the Silk Road. Rey today has been absorbed into the Greater Tehran metropolitan area. The majority of the population of Tehran are Persian-speaking people, and roughly 99% of the population understand and speak Persian, but there are large populations of other ethno-linguistic groups who live in Tehran and speak Persian as a second language.

Prior to the Arab invasions, the Persian religion was Zoroastrianism. This religion taught that there was an eternal struggle between the forces of good and evil. Shiite Islam became the national religion of Iran in the sixteenth century, at which time the ulama (clergy) began playing an important role in both the social and political lives of the people. Today, most Persians are Shia Muslims of the Ithna Ashari branch. It is illegal to evangelize in the country of Iran and conversion is punishable by death. However many are coming to faith in Christ through supernatural encounters with Jesus.



Prayer Points

- ❖ Pray for the harvest of the Persian people, which is strong in the Lord's heart.
- ❖ Pray for a way for churches to meet legally and for religious freedom in their country.
- ❖ Pray for the believers in Iran, that they would be safe and grow in their relationship with Jesus.
- ❖ Pray the Lord would meet them in supernatural ways where missionaries cannot go.



Day 8 Kabul - Hazaras

Kabul is located high up in a narrow valley between the Hindu Kush mountains, with an elevation of 1,790 meters (5,873 ft) making it one of the highest capitals in the world. The city is said to be over 3,500 years old, mentioned since at least the time of the Achaemenid Empire. It is at a strategic location along the trade routes of South and Central Asia, and a key location of the ancient Silk Road. Kabul is known for its historic gardens, quaint bazaars, and vast amount of palaces.

Descendants of the Mongol armies of Genghis Khan, the Hazara people make up the third largest ethnic group in Afghanistan and form a significant working class. Hazara women are honored in legend and folk tales. Shunning burkas, their traditional garb is bright green and red floral dresses, worn without the long under-trousers customary in Afghan culture and accessorized with heavy stockings, fur-lined boots, beaded headgear and heavy, coin strung necklaces. Hazara make up 25% of the population of Kabul. As a minority group, Hazaras are constant targets of oppression and persecution.



Prayer Points

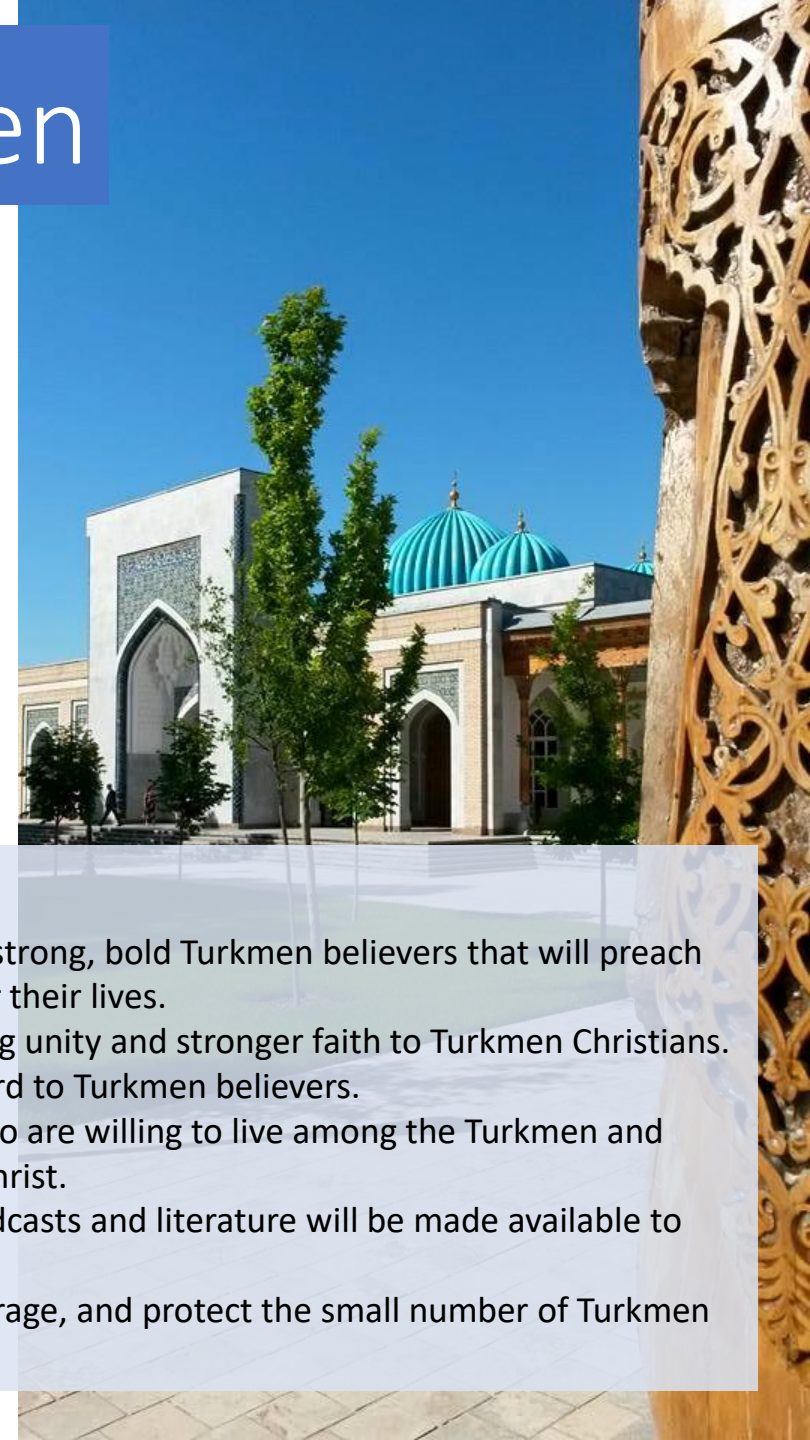
- ❖ Ask the Lord to call people who are willing to share Christ with the Hazara and to help meet their physical needs.
- ❖ Pray that God will call doctors and nurses, construction volunteers, and agriculturists to Afghanistan.
- ❖ Pray that God will send Christian teachers and literacy workers who can minister to the Hazara.
- ❖ Ask God to protect medical and benevolent workers in Afghanistan.
- ❖ Pray that the Lord of the harvest will send forth laborers into the fields where the Hazara are located.
- ❖ Ask the Lord to help you learn more about the Hazara and what you can do to reach out to them.
- ❖ Pray that the Christians who live near and among the Hazara will be bold in sharing their faith in Jesus.



Day 9 Türkmenabat - Turkmen

Although now a modern industrial city, Türkmenabat has a history of over 2,000 years. Türkmenabat was the hub in an intersection between 3 paths of the Great Silk Way leading to Bukhara, Khiva and Merv. Its role as a railway junction, and the high fertility of the Amu Darya region, made it the major trade center for agricultural products in the northeast region of the country. The city has food processing, textile (cotton processing and silk) factories.

Turkmen culture has been strongly influenced in the past by both the Turkic conquerors, who imposed their language on them, and the Arabs, who forced them to convert to Islam. Long ago, they developed a strong ethnic identity as "children of the desert" because they would plunder rich caravans of Persian traders. For centuries the Turkmen lived as nomadic herdsman. Their society was characterized by a distinct economic division between the cattlemen and farmers. This division was present in almost every tribe, settlement, and family. Tribal loyalties continue to have a strong influence over the people.



Prayer Points

- ❖ Pray that God would raise up strong, bold Turkmen believers that will preach the Gospel without fearing for their lives.
- ❖ Pray that persecution will bring unity and stronger faith to Turkmen Christians.
- ❖ Ask the Lord to anoint His Word to Turkmen believers.
- ❖ Ask the Lord to call people who are willing to live among the Turkmen and share with them the love of Christ.
- ❖ Pray that Christian radio broadcasts and literature will be made available to the Turkmen.
- ❖ Ask God to strengthen, encourage, and protect the small number of Turkmen believers.



Day 10 Bukhara – Karakalpak

The history of Bukhara stretches back millennia. In medieval times, Bukhara served as the capital of the Samanid empire Khanate of Bukhara and was the birthplace of Imam Bukhari. Located on the Silk Road, the city has long been a center of trade, scholarship, culture, and religion. During the golden age of the Samanids, Bukhara became a major intellectual center of the Islamic world. The historic center of Bukhara, which contains numerous mosques and madrassas, has been listed by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site.



Prayer Points

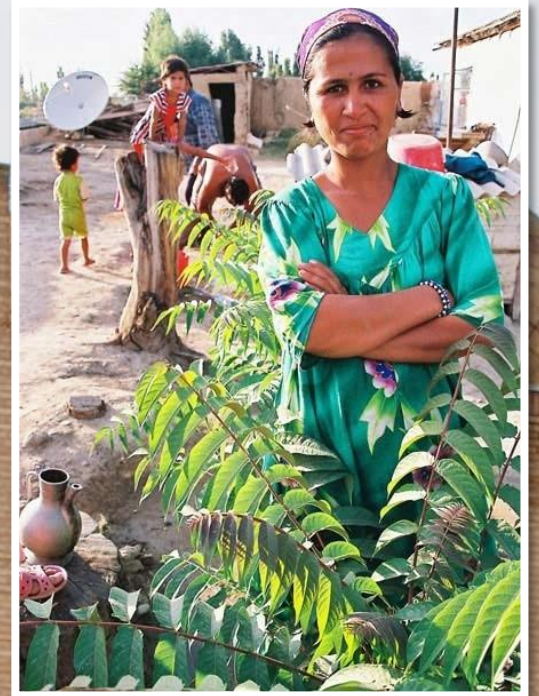
- ❖ Ask the Lord to call people who are willing to go to Uzbekistan and share Christ with the Karakalpaks.
- ❖ Pray for a clean water source for the Karakalpaks.
- ❖ Pray that the Karakalpaks will begin searching for the Truth.
- ❖ Ask God to strengthen, encourage, and protect the few known Christians and for the Lord to raise up strong local churches among the Karakalpak.
- ❖ Pray that these believers will have opportunities to share the Gospel with their own people.



Day 11 Samarkand - Mugat

Samarqand, is a city in modern-day Uzbekistan, and is one of the oldest continuously inhabited cities in Central Asia. There is no direct evidence of when exactly Samarkand was founded; some theories propose that it was founded between the 8th and 7th centuries BCE. Prospering from its location on the Silk Road between China and the Mediterranean, at times Samarkand was one of the greatest cities of Central Asia.

Mugat - Uzbeks refer to them, often with contempt, as Lyuli or Gypsies, though there is scant genetic evidence linking them to the world's Roma diaspora. The group divides itself into a caste system that suggests a migration from the Indian subcontinent into Central Asia centuries ago. Traditionally the Mugat were wandering musicians and entertainers. Today they live in tight-knit neighborhoods that are considered no-go zones by other Uzbeks. They are one of the world's marginal peoples. Many survive by begging, or by recycling scrap metal or plastic bottles.



Prayer Points

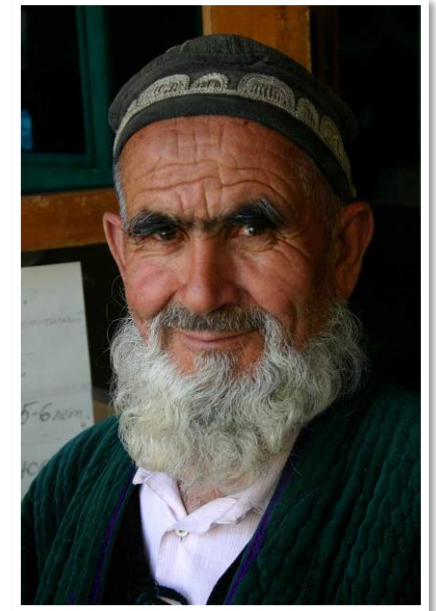
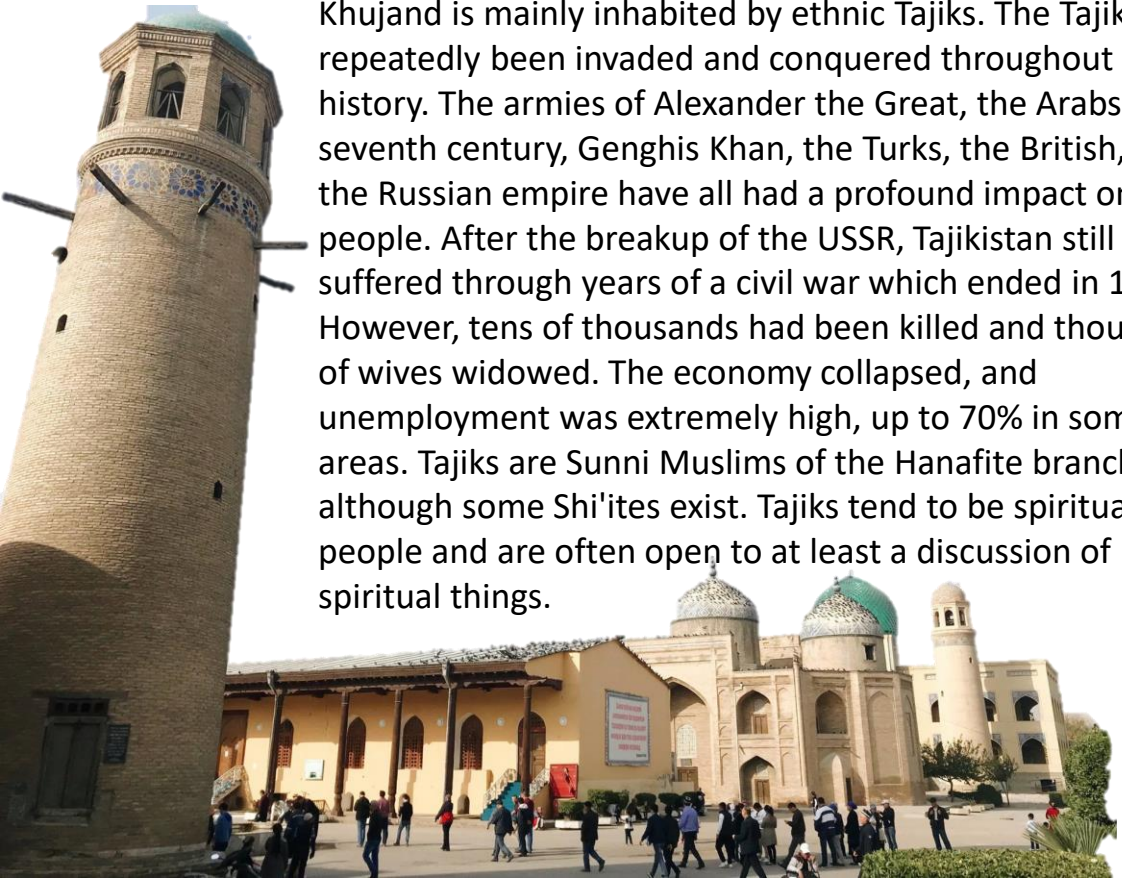
- ❖ Pray for the Lyuli people to rise above the discrimination they experience and gain their dignity through a relationship with God the Father.
- ❖ Pray that the Lord will raise the Lyuli people up as His children, and give them the chance to become part of His family.
- ❖ Pray for believers to reach out to the Lyuli people in love and compassion.
- ❖ Pray for a Disciple-Making Movement to emerge among the Lyuli people of Uzbekistan.



Day 12 Khujand - Tajik

Khujand is one of the oldest cities in Central Asia, dating back about 2,500 years. It is situated on the Syr Darya at the mouth of the Fergana Valley and became a major staging point on the northern Silk Road. It also became a cultural hub and several famous poets and scientists came from this city.

Khujand is mainly inhabited by ethnic Tajiks. The Tajik have repeatedly been invaded and conquered throughout their history. The armies of Alexander the Great, the Arabs in the seventh century, Genghis Khan, the Turks, the British, and the Russian empire have all had a profound impact on these people. After the breakup of the USSR, Tajikistan still suffered through years of a civil war which ended in 1997. However, tens of thousands had been killed and thousands of wives widowed. The economy collapsed, and unemployment was extremely high, up to 70% in some rural areas. Tajiks are Sunni Muslims of the Hanafite branch, although some Shi'ites exist. Tajiks tend to be spiritual people and are often open to at least a discussion of spiritual things.



Prayer Points

- ❖ Pray that Tajiks would not judge Christianity just as a "Russian religion," but see their own need for salvation.
- ❖ Pray for an end to the persecution of believers by Muslim relatives who believe Christians betray their ancestors.
- ❖ Pray for emerging Tajik leadership to be grounded in Scripture, build up the Tajik church, and have a heart for God's glory to be made known among all peoples.
- ❖ Ask God to send revival to Penjikent (the radical Muslim center) where there are no Tajik believers.
- ❖ Ask God to raise up long-term missionaries who will go to Tajikistan and share Christ with Tajiks.
- ❖ Pray that the Holy Spirit will give vision for outreach and a genuine burden for the Tajiks to believers in this region.



Day 13 Kokand - Uzbek

Kokand is a city in Fergana Region in eastern Uzbekistan, at the southwestern edge of the Fergana Valley. It is nicknamed "City of Winds", or sometimes "Town of the Boar". Kokand's name derives from the well-known tribal family group of "Kokan" who belong to the Kongrat tribe of Uzbeks. Kokand is at the crossroads of the two main ancient trade routes into the Fergana Valley, one leading northwest over the mountains to Tashkent, and the other west through Khujand. As a result, Kokand is the main transportation junction in the Fergana Valley.

Traditionally, most Uzbeks were semi-nomadic shepherds; however, today, most of those living in Central Asia either farm or live and work in larger towns and cities. Among those who farm, the principal crop is cotton. Fruits, vegetables, and grains are also grown. Their common staple food is rice and "osh" (a national dish cooked with rice). Pasta is also a common food item. It was probably brought to Central Asia hundreds of years ago by Italian or Chinese traders who traveled along the Silk Road. Most Uzbeks are Sunni Muslims of the Hanafite branch. Like other Muslims, the Uzbeks believe that there is one god, Allah, whose will was revealed through the prophet Mohammed and then recorded in the Koran. Many traditional beliefs have been mingled with their Islamic practices.



Prayer Points

- ❖ Pray that Christian Uzbek leaders would be unified in their evangelistic activities.
- ❖ Pray that new Uzbek Christians would understand God's Word quickly and commit themselves to a local fellowship where they will find strength.
- ❖ Pray that the Holy Spirit will soften the hearts of Uzbek Muslims towards Christians.
- ❖ Ask God to grant wisdom and favor to missions agencies focusing on the Uzbeks.
- ❖ Ask the Lord to send additional long term laborers to live among the Uzbeks and share the love of Christ with them.
- ❖ Pray that Christians in other countries to start reaching out to their Uzbek neighbors and they would be receptive for Christ's love.



Day 14 Osh - Kyrgyz

Osh is a city of ancient glory and modern tragedy. Situated at one end of the Fergana Valley, a rich agricultural area that has long been one of the hubs of civilization in Central Asia and was a major node along the Silk Road, Osh has long attracted travelers to its markets. Yet, for all Osh's ancient glories, the city has recently fallen on hard times. North and south Kyrgyzstan are starkly different places. The north is richer and more closely connected with Russia, the south is poor and more Kyrgyz. In June 2010, fighting erupted between a crowd of ethnic Kyrgyz and minority Uzbeks, and quickly mushroomed into full-scale interethnic rioting throughout the city and neighboring regions. Four days later, plumes of smoke billowed over Osh, large sections of the city lay in ruins, and 470 people were dead.

The Kyrgyz were first introduced to Islam during the seventeenth century. Within two hundred years, the majority had been completely converted to Islam. Soviets were never able to change the Kyrgyz beliefs, even though they tried a number of methods including changing the alphabet and outlawing religious activity. However, since 1990, over 2000 new mosques have been built in Kyrgyzstan. Today, most Kyrgyz still consider themselves to be Muslim; however, some Shamanistic practices still exist.



Prayer Points

- ❖ Due to harsh living conditions, the Kyrgyz often turn to opium usage to cope with day-to-day life. Pray for the Kyrgyz to find hope in Christ and a desire to live for His glory.
- ❖ Pray that local believers in Kyrgyzstan would be deeply disciplined and from that mobilized to reach even more of their own people.
- ❖ Ask the Lord of the harvest to send forth laborers into Kyrgyzstan.



Day 15 Almaty - Kazakh

Almaty is the former capital of Kazakhstan and the nation's largest city, with a population of 1,5 mln. Despite losing its status as the capital to Astana in 1997, Almaty remains the major commercial and cultural center of Kazakhstan. The city is located in the mountainous area of southern Kazakhstan, near the border with Kyrgyzstan. The dream of financial wealth is drawing many from villages throughout Central Asia to Almaty, despite the high cost of living. Thus, Almaty is a very strategic city for the light of the Gospel to shine.

The Kazakhs, a Turkic people, are the second largest Muslim people group of Central Asia. The foundation of Kazakh culture is hospitality, which always starts with a cup of tea. The host offers tea to any person who comes to his house. Guests must accept the kindness, or the host will be offended. Kazakhs embraced Islam during the sixteenth century and still consider themselves Muslim today. Changes in Kazakh society (mainly from a nomadic to a settled lifestyle) and an attempt by the Soviets to suppress religious freedoms have led the people to adopt Islam more closely. However, their Islamic practices have been combined with traditional folk religions.

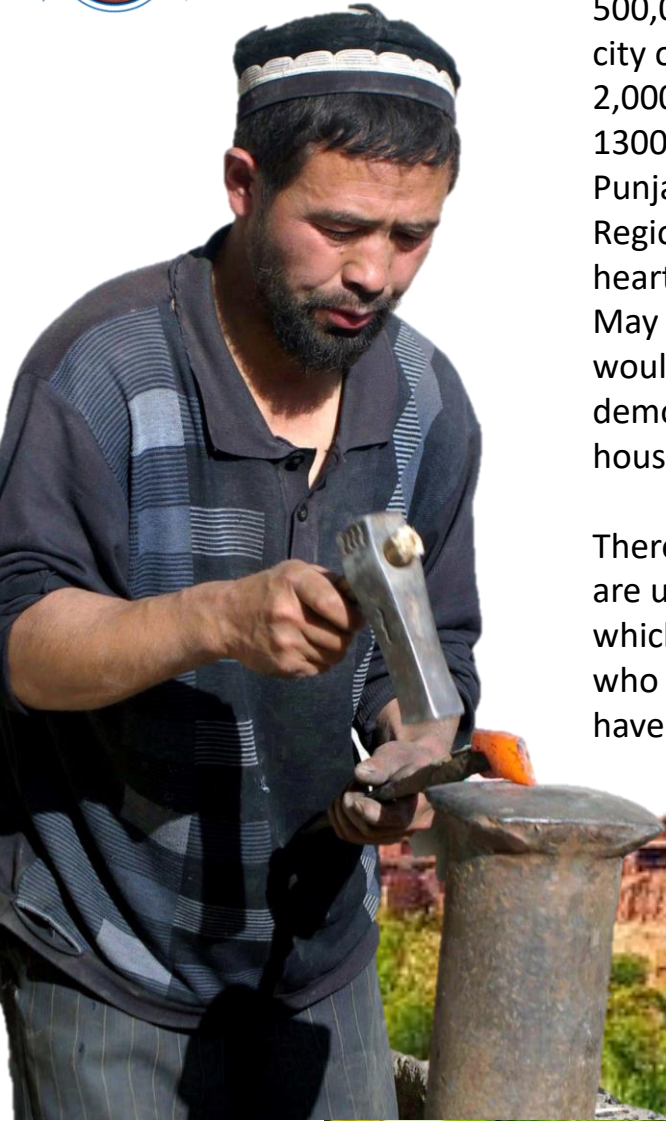


Prayer Points

- ❖ In 2013, all of the traditional, building-based churches in Kazakhstan were forced to re-register with tougher criteria and additional restrictions. Due to this scrutiny, more people are gathering in smaller house churches. Pray for the newly emerging house churches in the city—that they may grow in grace and reach out to relatives, friends, co-workers and neighbors with the message of hope.
- ❖ Pray that there would be fresh leadership training materials prepared in the Kazakh language for pastors.
- ❖ Pray for salvation for heads of families as the Gospel is clearly presented to them.
- ❖ Ask the Lord to send long term laborers to live among the Kazak and share the love of Christ with them.
- ❖ Ask the Holy Spirit to open the hearts of Kazakhs towards Christians so that they will be receptive to the Gospel.



Day 16 Kashgar – Ainu

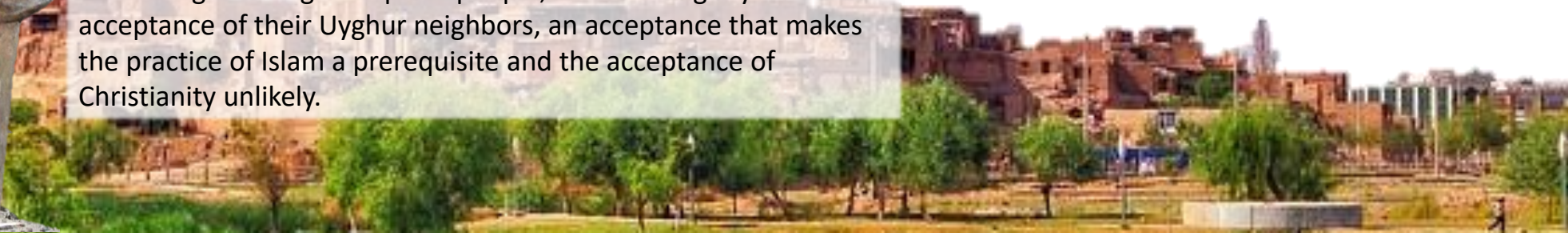


Kashgar is an oasis city in Xinjiang, China. With a population of over 500,000, Kashgar has served as a trading post and strategically important city on the Silk Road between China, the Middle East, and Europe for over 2,000 years. The city also forms a terminus of the Karakoram Highway; a 1300 km international highway which extends from Hasan Abdal in the Punjab province of Pakistan into China's Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region. Kashgar has been at the center of the region's trade, and at the heart of Uighur culture and tradition, for more than a thousand years. In May 2009, the Chinese government announced that most of the old city would be demolished and rebuilt. Two-thirds of the old city has now been demolished; many of the Uighur residents have been relocated to new housing projects on the outskirts of the city.

There are about 7,000 Ainu living in the Kashgar region. For reasons that are unclear, the majority of Uyghur despise the Ainu and call them Abdal, which means "beggar". The Uyghur refuse to intermarry with the Ainu, who are linguistically, culturally, and socially a distinct people group. They have been described as a "caste of circumcisers." The Ainu are Muslims of the Sunni sect; they worship in mosques scattered throughout their villages. Being a despised people, the Ainu eagerly desire the acceptance of their Uyghur neighbors, an acceptance that makes the practice of Islam a prerequisite and the acceptance of Christianity unlikely.

Prayer Points

- ❖ Pray that God will give the Ainu people a fear of Him that will greatly exceed their fear of their Uyghur neighbors.
- ❖ I pray that repentance and remission of sins would be preached in Jesus' name to all the Ainu. LUKE 24:47
- ❖ O God, open to us a door for the word, to speak the mystery of Christ to the Ainu. Cause us to lift up our eyes, and look at the fields, and see that they are white for harvest already. I Pray that you—the Lord of the harvest—will send out laborers into your harvest among the Ainu. COLOSSIANS 4:3; JOHN 4:35; MATTHEW 9:37-38





Day 17 Hotan - Uyghur

The oasis of Hotan is strategically located at the junction of the southern (and most ancient) branch of the Silk Road joining China and the West with one of the main routes from ancient India and Tibet to Central Asia and distant China. It provided a convenient meeting place where not only goods, but technologies, philosophies, and religions were transmitted from one culture to another. The main export item from Hotan was jade: the Chinese imported Khotanese jade beginning at least as long ago as 1200 B.C. The light colored jade known as "Mutton fat" jade is found in the river beds around Hotan. By the 6th century A.D., Hotan had become the center of silk production. Silk production is still a major industry employing more than a thousand workers and producing some 150 million meters of silk annually. Silk weaving by Uyghur women is a thriving cottage industry, some of it produced using traditional methods.

Hotan is populated almost exclusively by Uyghurs. For centuries the Uighurs, whose name means "united" or "allied," were an important link between China and the rest of the world. They lived along the silk road and worked as caravan drivers transporting Chinese goods. The strategic location of their oasis homes allowed them to be the "middlemen" for commerce between the orient and Europe. Islam has been the dominant religion of the Uighurs since the 10th century. In the past, they were Muslim in name only; however, there is some renewal that is currently taking place among them. The Chinese government has recently implemented extensive controls and restrictions upon the religious, cultural and social life of the Uyghur people.



Prayer Points

- ❖ Pray that the Church will again bring the gospel to the Uighur people, and that we will soon see a major spiritual revival among them.
- ❖ Pray that the Uighur people will be better respected and represented as a minority in China.
- ❖ Pray for Christ's followers living in and around this region to share the good news with the Uighur.
- ❖ Pray for their hearts to be ready to hear and to enter into a relationship with Jesus Christ.
- ❖ Ask the Lord to unite the Uighur people (Uighur means "united") in His love and establish His church among them.



Day 18 Dunhuang - Torgut



Dunhuang is situated at an oasis containing Crescent Lake and Mingsha Shan, named after the sound of the wind whipping off the dunes, the singing sand phenomenon. Dunhuang commands a strategic position at the crossroads of the ancient Southern Silk Route and the main road leading from India to Mongolia and Southern Siberia, as well as controlling the entrance to the narrow Hexi Corridor, which led straight to the heart of the north Chinese plains and the ancient capitals of Chang'an (today known as Xi'an) and Luoyang. A number of Buddhist cave sites are located in the Dunhuang area, the most important of these is the Mogao Caves. Many of these caves were covered with murals and contain many Buddhist statues. Discoveries continue to be found in the caves, including excerpts from a Christian Bible dating back to the Yuan Dynasty.

The Torgut live alongside Kazak and Uyghur communities in the Xinjiang Region and the northern border area of Gansu province near Dunhuang. The Torguts separated from other Oirat groups in Mongolia and moved west to the lower Volga region in 1630, forming the core of the Kalmyks. Due to harsh treatment by Russian governors, most Torguts eventually migrated back to Dzungaria and western Mongolia in 1771. Although all Torgut claim to be Tibetan Buddhists, many practice shamanism. There is no church today among the Torgut of China, despite the past efforts of missionaries.



Prayer Points

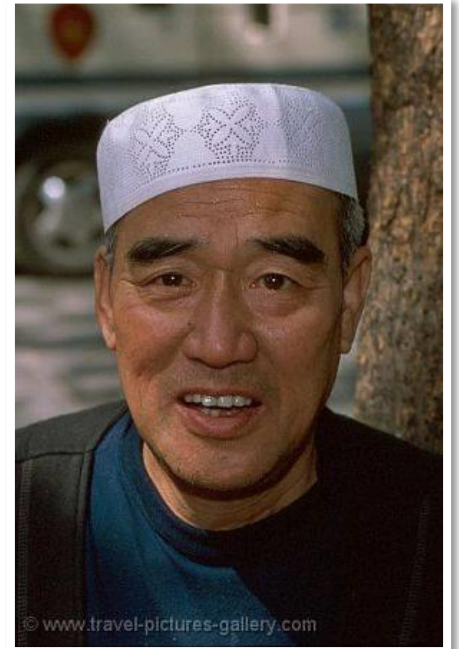
- ❖ Pray for a Christian witness and the translation of the Bible into the Kalmyk language.
- ❖ Pray for health education and expanded health care so the power of shamans will weaken or die out.
- ❖ Pray that this people group will give up abortions as a means of birth control.
- ❖ Pray that this Tibetan Buddhist people will soon understand the worthlessness of their gods, and embrace Christ, their true refuge.



Day 19 Xi'an - Hui

Xi'an it is one of the oldest cities in China, and the oldest of the Four Great Ancient Capitals, having held the position under several of the most important dynasties in Chinese history. Xi'an is the starting point of the Silk Road and home to the Terracotta Army of Emperor Qin Shi Huang. The majority of Xi'an residents are Han Chinese. There are around 81,500 people belonging to ethnic minorities living in Xi'an, including 50,000 Hui people.

The Hui trace their ancestors back to Muslim traders, soldiers, and officials who came to China during the seventh through fourteenth centuries, settling and marrying local Han women. They speak the Chinese dialect of their locality, mixed with a few Arabic and Persian words. The Hui have so well assimilated into the Chinese society that they are almost indistinguishable from the Han Chinese, except in dietary and religious practices. Among the Hui, there are many different Islamic sects. In northwestern China they are quite conservative; while in northeastern China, they are more liberal. There, they smoke, drink, and eat pork when away from home.



Prayer Points

- ❖ Pray for laborers called by God to reach the Hui – laborers from other countries as well as Chinese Christians currently living among the Hui.
- ❖ Thank God for ongoing gospel proclamation efforts among the Hui. Pray that effective strategies can be identified and implemented to make Christ's love known to the Hui.
- ❖ Pray for God to tear down the barriers that keep the Hui from hearing the Good News of Jesus' forgiveness and love.
- ❖ Pray that Hui believers will gather together and form churches that will multiply.
- ❖ Pray for followers of Jesus to boldly proclaim the gospel to the Hui, believing that God is at work among them.



Day 20 Beijing - Manchu

Beijing is an important world capital and global power city. It is the second largest Chinese city by urban population after Shanghai and is the nation's political, cultural, and educational center. Combining both modern and traditional architecture, Beijing is one of the oldest cities in the world, with a rich history dating back three millennia. The majority of Beijing's population are ethnic Han Chinese; the largest ethnic minority living in the capital, are the Manchu.

The Manchu live mostly in the northeastern region of China that borders Russia. For centuries the Manchu separated themselves from the Chinese and even erected a wooden stockade to keep them out. In 1859 the Chinese were finally allowed to migrate into Manchuria. The Chinese entered in such massive numbers that today the Manchu are a minority in their homeland. Traditionally, the religious practices of the Manchu were centered around shamanism. Today, however, many of the Manchu practice Buddhism and Confucianism. Modern Manchu tend to rely less on religion and more on logic.



Prayer Points

- ❖ Ask the Lord to call people who are willing to go to China and share Christ with the Manchu.
- ❖ Pray that God will strengthen and encourage the small number of believers who live among the Manchu. Pray for His protection over them from physical harm.
- ❖ Pray that the intellect of the Manchu will not hinder them from receiving the Gospel.
- ❖ Pray that God will grant Christian missionaries favor with the government.
- ❖ Pray that God will soften the hearts of the Manchu towards Christians.
- ❖ Pray that they will have a hunger for the Truth.