

MISSION
EURASIA

OUR MISSION

To train, equip, and mobilize Christian leadership throughout Eurasia, who will be engaged in indigenous evangelism, church-planting, holistic ministries, and church growth by developing creative and strategic ministries and by facilitating partnerships between nationals and Western Christians.

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UNITED IN Prayer

14-Month Prayer Guide For The Nations Of Eurasia, 4th Edition



MISSION
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“Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving.”

– Colossians 4:2

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Dear Prayer Partner,

We are so grateful for you and your willingness to pray for our ministry among the people of Eurasia. We hope you will find this 14-month prayer guide helpful as you seek the Lord each day in prayer.



In this guide, you will learn more about the countries of Eurasia and the needs of the people we serve. The needs are great! Nearly every day we receive prayer requests—and often they are urgent concerns—from those who are desperately seeking hope and a fresh beginning. Our leaders in the 14 countries where we serve face unprecedented challenges in this region amid ongoing conflict, political strife, economic turmoil, refugees searching for hope, and so much more!

Isn't it wonderful to know we can lay all of our troubles at the feet of our Savior Jesus Christ? Our faithful Next Generation leaders are trained and equipped for ministry, but all of this will only take them so far—they need your prayers.

We live in a spiritually dark world with millions of people throughout Eurasia needing Christ to touch their hearts. Thousands of refugees in places like Armenia continue to struggle to rebuild their lives following a war that erupted in 2020 over the disputed Nagorno-Karabakh region. So many in Eurasia, like these refugees, remain vulnerable to crime, economic challenges, loss of a family member, and other emotional pain. Throughout Eurasia, you will find other issues such as human trafficking, drug and alcohol abuse, disease, and spiritual emptiness that continue to plague many in countries where it is increasingly difficult for Christians to live out their faith.

Again, we thank you for partnering with us as we continue to lift up the people of Eurasia in prayer! We pray you will faithfully use this prayer guide throughout the year as you turn to the Lord in times of uncertainty and tremendous opportunity to expand His Kingdom!

Sergey Rakhuba
President



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“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”

– 1 Thessalonians 5: 16-18

Pray For Armenia



General Population: **2,927,000** Evangelical Christians: **9.18%**



SHARING TRUTH DURING WAR & A REFUGEE CRISIS

Armenia is one of the earliest Christian civilizations, where its first churches reportedly date back to the fourth century. This small nation is situated in the mountainous Caucasus region between Turkey, Iran, Azerbaijan, and Georgia. The country's main languages are Armenian and Russian. While the majority of Armenia claims to be Christian, only about 9 percent are evangelical Christians.

In 2020, Armenia and Azerbaijan made headlines when war broke out between the two nations over the disputed Nagorno-Karabakh region, which has stirred tensions between the two nations for decades. The most recent conflict left more than 5,000 soldiers and civilians dead, and more than 100,000 refugees were forced to flee the region. As a result of the ceasefire agreement, which was signed a few weeks after fighting erupted, Azerbaijan reportedly regained much of the territory it had lost during the first war over this region that broke out 1988-1994. As a result of the war, the Armenian government has also cracked down on freedom of speech by not allowing journalists to report negative stories about state officials or the military. Overall, the country has experienced great suffering and conflict throughout its history. The Armenian Genocide took place in 1915 when the Ottoman Empire killed 1.5 million Armenians.

Today, through your prayers and support, we are reaching out to refugee families and other hurting individuals with counseling, food packages, Scripture, "Bread of Life" bakeries, and other needed outreach efforts. We are also continuing to see growth in our School Without Walls (SWW) leadership development program that trains and equips Next Generation leaders for ministry.

"The Lord is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation; this is my God, and I will praise him, my father's God, and I will exalt him."

– Exodus 15:2

January Prayer Requests

WEEK 1

Please pray for refugees impacted by the 2020 war in the Nagorno-Karabakh region. While many have returned home, our teams continue to minister to refugees and communities that were impacted.

WEEK 2

Please pray for our ministry partners who have launched Bread of Life bakeries in Armenia. These bakeries will provide bread for those in need and will also help spread the hope of the gospel.

WEEK 3

Please pray for political leaders in Armenia as they guide the country with important decisions and that God would continue to move those of influence to put their faith in Him.

WEEK 4

Please pray that our SWW program in Armenia would grow and build bridges between communities and the evangelical church.

Ani's Story

"I am 22 years old, and I was born into a Christian family. I used to think my parents' faith was sufficient for my salvation. Even though I went to church every week, I wasn't doing it for Jesus, but rather, I didn't want to upset my parents by not going. However, as time passed, I struggled with loneliness and feelings of rejection, so I decided to learn more about the God who gave His life for me. And, as soon as I began pursuing Him, He filled the void in my heart. Now, I have dedicated my life to Jesus, and I want to serve others for His glory. That is why I am serving on my church's worship team, and providing administrative services in the church office. I also love traveling to new countries and discovering new cultures, so I am currently studying several foreign languages.

"Before I joined School Without Walls, I had a superiority complex, and I thought I was very spiritually mature, but SWW opened my eyes and helped me understand that Christians should always be learning and growing spiritually. I am focusing on surrendering my finances and relationships to God."



Pray For Azerbaijan

 General Population: **10,180,000** Evangelical Christians: **0.26%**



CONFLICT AND GOSPEL OPPORTUNITY

Located in the Caucasus Mountains, Azerbaijan is a predominately Muslim country with a population of more than 10.1 million people. Only 0.26 percent of the population in this relatively young country is evangelical Christian where about half of the people are under the age of 30. While Azerbaijan depends heavily on its petroleum and natural gas industries, most of its export revenue comes from oil and gas. Throughout its history, Azerbaijan has endured multiple invasions and was first conquered by the Persians in the sixth century B.C. The majority of the people have practiced Islam ever since it was first introduced there in the seventh century. Russia was attracted to the Transcaucasia region for its raw materials. In 1922, Azerbaijan became a part of the Soviet Union before gaining its independence in 1991 after the fall of the Soviet Union.

Today, Azerbaijan's constitution states that people have the freedom to practice their own faith without restriction. But when you take a closer look, it becomes clear that the evangelical church has endured many challenges as government restrictions and surveillance of religious groups continue to tighten.

Among other issues, Azerbaijan has had a strained relationship with Armenia over the Nagorno-Karabakh region. The two countries first went to war over this area in 1988 and signed a ceasefire in 1994, which gave Armenia control of the region. In 2020, war broke out again over the territory for several weeks. When the smoke cleared and a ceasefire was signed, Azerbaijan regained control of territories in the region. In response, Mission Eurasia distributed food packages, other aid, and Scripture to Azerbaijani refugees impacted by the crisis. As challenges continue to unfold in this spiritually dark area of the world, we keep training and equipping Next Generation leaders to fearlessly shine the light of the gospel in their communities.

“And what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also.”

– 2 Timothy 2:2

February Prayer Requests

WEEK 1

Please pray that God would move among hearts in the Muslim community and that evangelical Christians would have the opportunity to speak truth to these communities.

WEEK 2

Please pray that ongoing tensions with Armenia over the Nagorno-Karabakh region will ease. Pray for our teams as they continue to minister to hurting families whose lives were disrupted during the conflict.

WEEK 3

Please pray that fellow brothers and sisters in Christ will be able to live out their faith in a Muslim-dominated country without fear of being persecuted.

WEEK 4

Please pray for our Next Generation leaders in Azerbaijan. Pray new leaders will continue to be trained and equipped for ministry and that they will stand boldly for Christ.

Phaig's Story

“I was born in 1984 in the city of Salyan, which is about 100 miles from Azerbaijan's capital city, Baku. My parents were Muslim and raised me in Islamic culture. In 2004, I moved to Ukraine with my father. One day, one of our neighbors invited me to a youth event for Christmas, and since I had always wondered how Christians celebrate this holiday, I agreed to go.

“When I arrived at the church, I was pleasantly surprised by how friendly and kind everyone was. I started attending youth meetings on a regular basis. One day, I asked one of my new friends at church why Jesus was crucified, and he said that Jesus was crucified for our sins so that those who believe in His death and resurrection would not go to hell, but have eternal life with God. These words touched my heart, and I was moved to learn that Jesus loves me so much that He died for my sins. After this conversation, I repented and put my faith in Christ.

“When I returned to my homeland, I found a church in Baku, which I have been attending for the last 15 years. About a year ago, I heard about School Without Walls (SWW), and I joined the program. When I started attending, I immediately saw changes in my character, and I started reading my Bible more frequently. This contributed greatly to my spiritual growth and understanding of Scripture.

“Since I like to play soccer, and my church has a soccer team, we started a sports ministry that we are using to reach non-Christians with the gospel. At the end of the tournaments, we distribute evangelistic brochures and invite them to church.”



Pray For Belarus



General Population: **9,376,000** Evangelical Christians: **1.68%**



FAITH AMID PROTESTS

While nearly 70 percent of the population in Belarus claims to be Christian, the majority identifies with the Orthodox Church, leaving only 1.68 percent which is evangelical Christian. Over the past two decades, authorities have continued to crack down on church activity that isn't registered with the government. While foreign missionary work is not allowed in the country, Mission Eurasia was grandfathered in as an approved organization before harsh religion laws were passed in 2002 and has continued its ministry efforts there. Belarus, which many consider to be "Europe's last dictatorship," is the birthplace of the Deyneka family, Mission Eurasia's founders.

Once seen as a leader among European nations in industry, the country's industrial production dropped significantly in the early 90s and its economy didn't begin to rebound until later that decade. Since then, the country has maintained control over many of its industries and has kept strong ties to Russia, which accounts for nearly 50 percent of the country's imports and over 50 percent of its exports. In recent years, Belarus has continued to draw criticism from neighboring countries and the Western world for ongoing corruption, human rights violations, and continued efforts to tighten control on the media and the evangelical church. In 2020, tens of thousands of protestors took to the streets to voice opposition against presidential election results that declared Alexander Lukashenko the winner, giving him a 6th term in office. Lukashenko has been in office since 1994. The news of the disputed election results, mass protests, and thousands of detainments drew quick rebuke from the European Union, the United States, United Kingdom, Canada, and other countries who publicly questioned the legitimacy of the election.

Despite these challenges, our School Without Walls (SWW) leaders trained 145 leaders in 2020 and continue to equip these Next Generation believers to mobilize the church for ministry.

"Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him."

- James 1:12

March Prayer Requests

WEEK 1

Please pray for this nation as it continues to struggle with corruption and human rights violations. Pray that God will raise up political leaders that will honor God in their work.

WEEK 2

Please pray God will give boldness to our Christian brothers and sisters in Belarus, a country considered to be the last dictatorship in the world. Pray that they remain strong in their faith.

WEEK 3

Please pray for the leadership of Belarus. Pray that God will move in the hearts of those with influence and those who can make a difference for Christ.

WEEK 4

Please pray for the young leaders in our SWW program in Belarus. Pray that God will lead them to accomplish great things for His Kingdom.

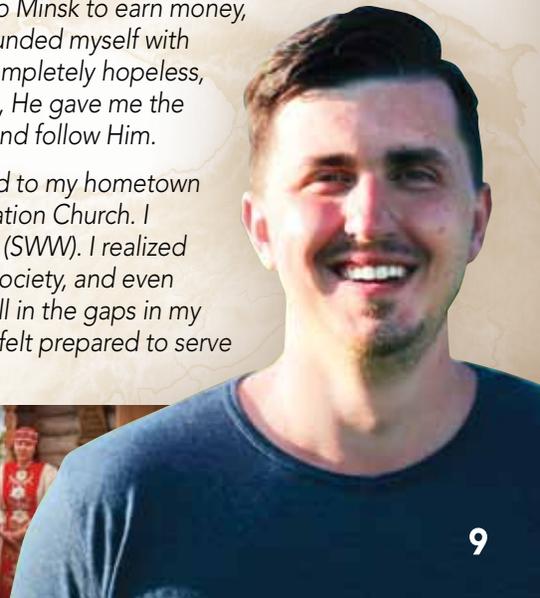


Sergey's Story

"I am 27 years old, and I came to Christ in Minsk in 2013. When I was 18, I was drafted into the army, and I was no longer sure if I even believed in God. While I was in the army, I was treated as an outcast after I tried to desert my post. I recognized that what I did was wrong, and I wanted to make things better, but I had no idea where to start. I was in such deep despair that I finally asked God for help. This was not repentance, but rather a request for God to solve my problems. Despite my bad intentions, God heard my prayers, and soon the other soldiers started treating me with kindness but I still didn't submit my life to the Lord.

"After completing my service, I moved to Minsk to earn money, but my life spun out of control as I surrounded myself with bad influences. One night, when I felt completely hopeless, I asked God to forgive me, and this time, He gave me the strength to abandon my old way of life and follow Him.

"For health reasons, I eventually returned to my hometown in Bobruisk, and there I joined Reconciliation Church. I began studying at School Without Walls (SWW). I realized that I knew so little about God, church, society, and even myself. The SWW seminars helped me fill in the gaps in my faith, and after completing my studies, I felt prepared to serve the Lord and others."



Pray For Georgia

 General Population: **3,929,000** Evangelical Christians: **1.38%**



OPENNESS TO THE GOSPEL

While the majority of people in Georgia identify as Christians, 80.71 percent of them claim to be a part of the Orthodox Church. Only 1.38 percent of the population is evangelical Christian in a country where religious liberty is protected, according to its constitution.

Georgia is located in the Caucasus region of Eurasia and is known for its agriculture and tourism, which has continued to help strengthen its economy. While Georgia's economy struggled following the collapse of the Soviet Union, Georgia has worked to rebuild itself as a free market economy, and in 2021, it ranked 12th in the world for economic freedom. While Georgia's unemployment numbers have dropped since 2014, the impact of COVID-19 has impacted job growth.

Since 2008, Georgia's tense relationship with Russia has only escalated with disputes over land in Abkhazia and South Ossetia. This tension and conflict have led to tens of thousands of people in Georgia being displaced and forced into makeshift camps.

Through our School Without Walls (SWM) leadership development program, that you help support through your prayers and gifts, we trained 195 Next Generation leaders in 2020 and graduated 65 from the program. As a result, these young leaders are bringing the hope of Christ to their own communities, which continue to show openness to the gospel.

*"I have set the Lord always before me;
because he is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken."*

– Psalm 16:8

April Prayer Requests

WEEK 1

Please pray that God will move among the church and its leaders in Georgia. Pray they will boldly embrace opportunities to impact their neighborhoods and beyond.

WEEK 2

Please pray for those in Georgia who have been displaced and are homeless, in need of food and water. Pray that more Christians in Georgia will be a light to those living in spiritual darkness.

WEEK 3

Please pray that the people of Georgia will find true freedom in Christ and not money or worldly possessions. Pray they will embrace the hope that only Christ can offer.

WEEK 4

Please pray that our SWW leaders will cross paths with more people with hearts open to the gospel. Pray the gospel will spread among their communities.

Helena's Story

"I am 17 years old, and I heard about Jesus for the first time at a summer Bible camp. I only went to this camp to have fun, but I ended up putting my faith in Jesus after hearing the gospel. After camp, I started going to church. Even though I am facing a lot of challenges, I am surrendering them to the Lord, and I know He is helping me. Right now, my family isn't walking with God, so I feel called to help them find their way back to Him."

"I love School Without Walls (SWM) because we talk about so many important topics that are relevant to everyday life. I am also learning that, in order to achieve my goals, I must submit my desires to the Lord. Everything I learn at SWW is helping me pursue Christ more deeply, and I love the teaching, which includes many different spiritual topics. My ultimate goal is to serve God with all my heart, and even though I know how challenging this can be, I know that the Spirit is helping me. With His strength to encourage me, I will walk with the Lord every day of my life."



Pray For Israel



General Population: **8,698,000** Evangelical Christians: **0.69%**



HUNGER FOR GOD'S WORD IS GROWING

Though Christians from around the globe have flocked to Israel to explore the Holy Land for decades, evangelical Christians make up less than 1 percent—and Israel remains the world's only Jewish-majority state with 74 percent of the population being Jewish. Muslims make up about 18 percent of the population. Today, there also are about 900,000 Russian Jews from the former Soviet Union living in Israel, and we are partnering with groups like Living Israel, a local messianic ministry, to reach them.

The COVID-19 pandemic hit Israel's tourism industry hard as it reportedly lost more than \$3 billion in 2020. With a population of around 8.7 million, more than 4.5 million visitors traveled to Israel the year before the pandemic. Despite the pandemic, Israel's economy has shown steady growth and it is recognized for having the second largest number of startup companies—following the United States—in the world.

Israel continues to clash with Palestinians and neighboring Arab nations, which has resulted in various conflicts and regional wars. Among the most recent violence between Israel and the Palestinians, fighting broke out in May of 2021 when protests led to Hamas and the group Palestinian Islamic Jihad firing missiles on Israel. Israel responded with airstrikes on the Gaza Strip that resulted in more than 250 dead, nearly 2,000 injured, and reports of more than 70,000 others displaced from the conflict.

Through our efforts to continue building relationships with local church partners in Israel, our School Without Walls program trained 45 Next Generation leaders and had 24 graduates in 2020 during the COVID-19 global pandemic.

“But go rather to the lost sheep of Israel. And proclaim as you go, saying, ‘the kingdom of heaven is at hand.’”

– Matthew 10:6-7

May Prayer Requests

WEEK 1

Please pray for families displaced by the conflict that broke out between Israel and the Palestinians in May of 2021. We continue to pray for the ongoing tensions between these groups and that hearts would be transformed for Christ.

WEEK 2

Please pray that the gospel will spread among the growing Muslim population in Israel and that they would come to know Jesus as their Lord and Savior.

WEEK 3

Please continue to pray for our ministry partners, like Living Israel, and that they would continue to grow. Pray that more unreached people in Israel can hear the Good News.

WEEK 4

Please pray for ministry growth and new opportunities to raise up young Christian leaders in Israel through our SWW program.

Michael's Story

“After I was released from prison, I tried again to free myself from addiction but I was unable to do it. I went to jail again and I spent a total of 10 years in prison. I suffered greatly and I was filled with despair, but then I heard the gospel and I immediately put my faith in Jesus.

“As soon as I was released from prison, I completed a rehabilitation program and I graduated from Bible school. Now, I am studying at School Without Walls (SWW). Thanks to this program, I understand that I am called to serve and that God can use me to lead many other people to Christ. SWW has helped me find my calling. This training has taught me how to serve the Lord and those in need.”



Pray For Kazakhstan



General Population: **18,872,000** Evangelical Christians: **0.61%**



STANDING STRONG, RAISING NEXT GENERATION LEADERS

Known as the world's largest landlocked country, Kazakhstan is a land of nomadic groups and empires. When the Soviet Union collapsed in 1991, it was the last Soviet republic to declare its independence.

With a population of nearly 19 million people, Kazakhstan has the strongest economy among other Central Asian nations. Up until experiencing a slowdown in 2014, the country's oil industry reportedly grew its economy an average of 8 percent annually.

The majority of the population in Kazakhstan is Muslim—less than 1 percent is evangelical Christian. Through the years, the government has continued to tighten its grip on faith-based groups and many churches have been forced to close their doors. In 2021, Kazakhstan ranked 41 on the 2021 World Watch List, a list of the top 50 countries where the persecution of Christians is most severe.



In a country where Christians face ongoing persecution for their faith, our School Without Walls (SWW) program continues to train and equip young leaders for ministry. In 2020, we trained 200 students and had 124 graduates.

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.”

– *Philippians 4:6-7*

June Prayer Requests

WEEK 1

Please pray for our church partners who are discouraged, tired, and desperately in need of encouragement as they lead churches and ministries that face harsh restrictions from the government.

WEEK 2

Please pray for the evangelical Christians, who only make up 0.61 percent of the population. Help them as they seek to be lights in the spiritual darkness.

WEEK 3

Please pray for God would open up opportunities for the Christian church to thrive in a Muslim-dominated society, where few have heard the hope of the gospel.

WEEK 4

Please pray our young SWW leaders will be equipped to boldly stand up for their faith and reach out to those in their communities.

Kristina's Story

“I attend a church in Taraz, Kazakhstan, and I have been serving in children's ministry since I was 14. I want to use my gifts to serve the Lord as effectively as possible, so I joined School Without Walls (SWW) so I could grow spiritually and learn more about ministry.

“Through SWW, the skills I've gained have strengthened my ministry efforts. Also, I was reminded of the gifts God has given me. Now, I am primarily interested in evangelism, because I believe this is the most important command that the Lord gives to each believer. I'm primarily interested in sharing the gospel with children, because I've noticed that many believers focus on reaching adults, so there is great need for Christians to step into this gap and minister to children.

“My life has changed significantly because of SWW. In the future, I plan to continue sharing the gospel with children, along with expanding this ministry through social media by filming videos of Bible lessons for young people. Also, I don't want to get hung up on serving in the church, but rather I also want to take the gospel beyond the church's walls to reach nonbelievers in my community. In this way, I hope that many people will come to faith in Jesus.”



Pray For Kyrgyzstan

 General Population: **6,589,000** Evangelical Christians: **0.33%**



SHINING THE LIGHT OF THE GOSPEL

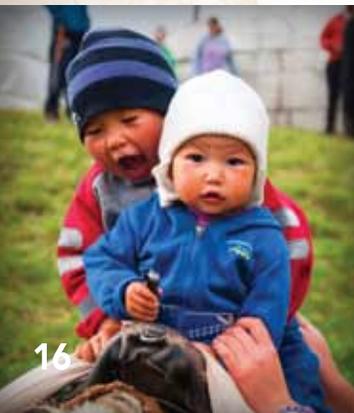
Kyrgyzstan has been called by some as the “Switzerland of Central Asia,” because of its mountainous region that covers more than 80 percent of the country. While less than 8 percent of the land is cultivated, agriculture is a big part of the economy in Kyrgyzstan. Overall, Kyrgyzstan’s economy has improved since the days following the collapse of the Soviet Union, but today it is the second poorest country in Central Asia after Tajikistan. More than 20 percent of the population lives below the poverty line.

In a county of more than 6.5 million people, 92 percent of the population practices Islam—evangelical Christians only make up about 0.3 percent of the population. In 2021, a Freedom in the World report classified Kyrgyzstan as “not free” with a score of 28 out of 100. While much of that score focuses on flaws related to its election process, religious freedom is an issue as evangelical Christians struggle to live out their faith. Proselytizing is illegal in Kyrgyzstan, and in 2009, the country passed a law raising the number of people needed to register a church group from 10 to 200. Religious activity in schools and unregistered organizations also has been banned, and police have raided church meetings and tightened control around Scripture distribution. Despite these challenges, the courts have ruled in favor of religious minorities in some cases.

Thanks to your prayers, our School Without Walls program continues to equip young leaders to be light in the spiritual darkness. In 2020, with the help of more online options for training, we saw 215 students and 80 graduates.

“Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving.”

— Colossians 4:2



July Prayer Requests

WEEK 1

Please pray for Christians in Kyrgyzstan as they lead their congregations to boldly live out their faith in a country where only 0.33% of the population is evangelical Christian and 92% is Muslim. Please pray Christian brothers and sisters will see a harvest of new believers.

WEEK 2

Please pray for government leaders of Kyrgyzstan. Pray that God will raise up Christians of influence and will transform the lives of those who can take a stand for the Christian community.

WEEK 3

Please lift up church partners and young ministry leaders as they look for creative ways to advance the gospel in a country where religious persecution is escalating.

WEEK 4

Please pray that the evangelical church will be able to build relationships through sharing the love of Christ in practical ways with its neighbors, meeting both physical and spiritual needs.

Akdana's Story

Akdana started serving in Sunday school after completing her first year of training with our School Without Walls (SWW) leadership development program.

Before attending SWW, she went to church and shared the gospel with non-Christians. But after beginning her studies, Akdana had an even greater desire to serve the Lord, so she became involved in children’s ministry and has participated in our Gift of Hope evangelistic children’s outreach. She also joined our children’s ministry leadership team.

Whenever Akdana attends a SWW session, she shares what she learned with the young volunteers on our children’s ministry team. Her positive influence has led many young people at our church to join SWW. We rejoice with Akdana and the other SWW leaders as they grow in faith and dedicate their lives to serving the Lord.



Pray For Moldova

 General Population: **3,951,000** Evangelical Christians: **4.67%**



LOVING THE POOR, BRINGING THEM HOPE IN CHRIST

Moldova, known for its mild weather, is one of the most agriculturally rich countries in southeastern Europe, providing vegetables, fruits, grains, and more. With a population of nearly 4 million, Moldova remains one of the poorest countries in Europe, even though it has seen a decline in poverty in recent years. Human trafficking continues to be a major issue in the country.

More than 75 percent of Moldova's population is Orthodox Christian with most of these belonging to the Moldovan Orthodox Church. Evangelical Christians make up only about 5 percent of the population.

In 2019, the country's government experienced a crisis, when its president Igor Dodon was removed from power. In 2020, the country made history by electing its first female president Maia Sandu, a pro-European opposition candidate to Dodon, who was considered to be a pro-Russian president.

Despite Moldova's political strife and economic uncertainties, our Next Generation leaders see a promising mission field. In 2020, you helped us train and equip 118 School Without Walls (SWW) leaders and we saw 53 graduates.



"Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you."

– Jeremiah 29: 12

August Prayer Requests

WEEK 1

Please pray that the evangelical church will stand up and help fight against abuse and injustice in a country where human trafficking continues to be a major problem.

WEEK 2

Please pray for Moldova's ongoing political strife and economic uncertainties. Pray that we will find opportunities to speak truth amid confusion.

WEEK 3

Please pray for church leaders and ministry partners who need encouragement as they seek to reach communities where there are few evangelical Christians.

WEEK 4

Please pray for those who have completed our SWW program and are seeking ministry opportunities in their communities.

Nurlan's Story

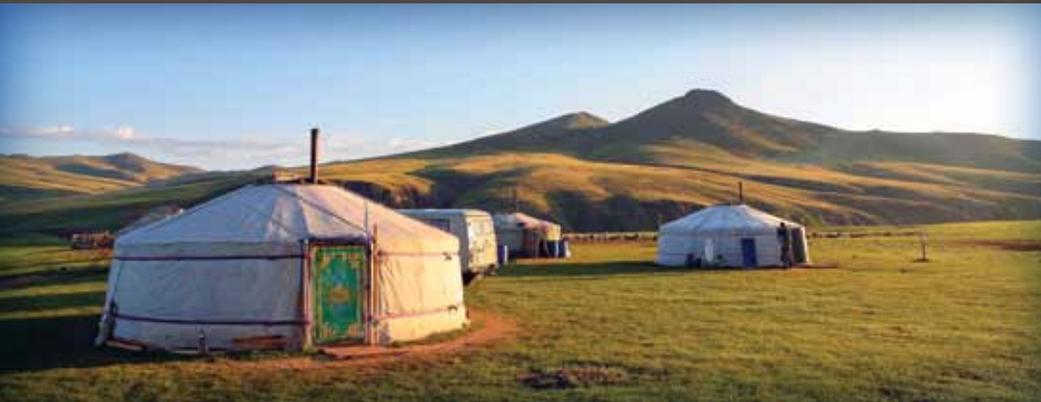
"School Without Walls (SWW) awoke in me abilities that had laid dormant my whole life!" Nurlan said. After giving his life to Christ in his native country in Central Asia, Nurlan decided to attend a Christian university in Moldova to learn more about theology. Once in Chisinau, he started attending Church Without Walls, a church pastored by one of our School Without Walls directors. There, he was invited to become a SWW student. "SWW helped me discover my leadership abilities," Nurlan shared. "Thanks to SWW, I was able to assume leadership of a student organization at my university. Now, I have returned home to Central Asia and have put my newfound leadership abilities, honed by SWW, to use and through youth ministry in my hometown. I believe that God has called me to be a missionary, and I am grateful for the knowledge and experience I gained in SWW that have equipped me to fulfill this calling!"



Pray For Mongolia



General Population: **3,279,000** Evangelical Christians: **0.86%**



TRANSFORMING DISTANT TERRITORIES FOR CHRIST

Called the “Land of the Eternal Blue Sky,” Mongolia has more than 250 sunny days a year. With a population of 3.2 million people, it is the largest landlocked country that does not border a closed sea, like Kazakhstan, which borders the Caspian Sea. Buddhism is Mongolia’s largest religion, drawing about half the population, and Islam is the second-largest religion. Less than 1 percent are evangelical Christian.

In Mongolia, about 30 percent of the population is nomadic and its economy focuses on herding and agriculture. Mining among the country’s vast mineral deposits also is a key part of its industrial production.

In 2020, Mongolia closed its borders in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite this challenge to our outreach teams from neighboring Russia, you helped them utilize creative online approaches and connections with local ministry partners to train 70 School Without Walls (SWW) leaders that year. This was a slight increase over the 60 leaders we trained in 2019. Through your prayers and support, our School Without Walls (SWW) program first began organizing in Mongolia in 2012.

Today, we are reaching groups like the Tuvans, who believe in a mix of Shamanism and Tibetan Buddhism, and helping them launch churches and other outreach efforts.

“Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.”

– Romans 12:12



September Prayer Requests

WEEK 1

Please pray for the “Land of the Eternal Blue Sky” and those who are hungering for hope. Pray that the gospel will fill their hearts with purpose and a mission to serve Him.

WEEK 2

Please pray that more people, like the Tuvans, will turn from their Buddhist beliefs and shamanistic ways to put their faith in Jesus Christ, who rose from the dead and is alive.

WEEK 3

Please pray for the national evangelical church, ministry partners, and other evangelical Christians, who make up less than 1 percent of the population. Pray that they will find more ways to reach the more than 3 million unreached people with the gospel.

WEEK 4

Please pray for the Muslim population in Mongolia. Pray as we raise up the Next Generation of Christians who will seek to reach this group with the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Sarra's Story

“I am 16 years old, and I live in the city of Khovd, Mongolia. I recently attended my first School Without Walls (SWW) conference, and I enjoyed both the entertaining portions and the spiritual teaching. I was especially encouraged to learn that I was not created by accident and that God has a specific plan for my life. Now, my dream is to tell people about God, so while studying at SWW, I am also serving in ministry. During the holidays, I go back to my village and share the Good News of Jesus with children and youth. At the SWW conference, I was inspired by many things I learned, and now I want to put what I learned into practice. I will start by creating a Facebook group for the SWW leaders from my city who attended this conference so we can start a new youth group together.”



Pray For Russia



General Population: **144,666,000** Evangelical Christians: **1.46%**



FINDING FREEDOM IN CHRIST

Spanning across 11 time zones with 185 people groups—most of which are classified as “unreached people groups” (less than 2 percent evangelical), Russia is the world’s largest country. The Russian Orthodox Church comprises the majority of its Christian population, leaving only 1.46 percent evangelical Christian. Muslims make up around 7 percent of the population.

Today, tensions and conflict between Russia and Ukraine remain high, as they have since 2014. Social unrest peaked in early 2021 with nationwide protests in support of opposition leader Alexey Navalny. While generally peaceful, many protests were marred by reports of police using excessive force. And more than 3,700 people, including at least 300 children, were detained across the country. Such actions have drawn criticism from other nations and NGOs around the world who advocate for Russian citizens’ rights to assemble and protest.

Despite protections for freedom of religion guaranteed in the Russian constitution, the law also allows the government to prohibit the activities of religious associations for engaging in vaguely defined “extremist activity.” Combined with laws requiring religious organizations to register with the state in order to operate and a recent amendment requiring new, foreign-trained clergy and religious educators to undergo recertification by a centralized religious organization in Russia, these undefined provisions have made it difficult for religious minorities, including evangelical Christians and foreign religious organizations, to practice and share their faith.

Russia is also the original location of our ministry, which began in 1991. Despite these challenges, our School Without Walls (SWW) program remains committed to sharing the gospel and training the Next Generation of ministry leaders. In 2020, 350 students were trained and equipped, including 25 graduates of the program.

“Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”

– Hebrews 4:16

October Prayer Requests

WEEK 1

Please pray for this massive nation that desperately needs more evangelical churches, more bold Christian leaders, and more hope—the hope that only Jesus can provide.

WEEK 2

Please pray for the social and political strife in the country. Pray that Christians will boldly stand up for their faith amid persecution and controlling government restrictions.

WEEK 3

Pray that missionaries will be able to enter Russia without fear of being expelled from the country. Pray more of these ministry opportunities will open up.

WEEK 4

Pray that our leaders, ministry teams, and SWW program will continue to find creative ways to thrive in a challenging environment.

Alexey's Story

“Today, I am 40 years old, and while I am now walking with the Lord, that was not always the case. When I was 16, I started using drugs. At first, I only used them occasionally, but soon I became addicted. I couldn't live without them. Drugs robbed me of everything: my job, my health, and my relationships with my family and friends. By the time I was 25, I was completely lost. I finally asked my mother to help me check into a rehabilitation program. And, it was while I was in rehab that I met Jesus, who radically transformed my life. Before I came to faith, I had no interest in God, but after I became a believer, my worldview completely changed. Instead of only living for one day at a time, I began focusing on eternity with God.

“Many years after I completed the rehabilitation program, when I was 33, I was paralyzed in an accident. The doctors said that I might not have long to live, but when I prayed, the Lord heard my cries for help. Even though it took many years, I am now able to walk again. I am so thankful to God for this amazing gift.

“Today, it has been 15 years since I put my faith in Jesus, and my interest in learning about God has never dwindled. Now that I have joined and completed my first School Without Walls (SWW) session, I feel comfortable with the other young leaders. Also, I enjoyed learning about God's plan for the salvation of humanity from Genesis to Revelation.”



Pray For Tajikistan



General Population: **9,730,000** Evangelical Christians: **0.07%**



RESPONDING WITH GRACE AMID PERSECUTION

Over the past two decades, Tajikistan has seen a substantially falling poverty rate combined with a steadily growing economy. These trends, however, are predicted to stagnate due to the ongoing effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. In other news, April 2021 saw the largest border dispute in Central Asia in many years between Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan. More than 20 people died in the conflict and an additional 200 others were wounded. Though this was an unusual show of force, and both governments have pledged to resolve their disputes over the border, it had a profound effect on the people of the region. The conflict displaced tens of thousands and dozens of houses and school buildings were destroyed.

Human rights, including religious freedoms, have continued to deteriorate under the increasingly strict government, in a country where 99.4 percent of the population is Muslim. Tajikistan is ranked 33 out of 50 on the 2021 Open Doors World Watch List. In 2020, the U.S. State Department redesignated Tajikistan as a Country of Particular Concern under the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 for its severe violations of religious freedoms. Those deemed religious extremists are targeted by the government, which must approve all organized religious activity in the country. According to the State Department, an NGO reported that heavy fines were levied against four Protestant churches in 2019 and 2020 for producing Tajik translations of the Bible without approval from the government, who denied the report. The public practice of religion by minors is also illegal, which can make children's ministries especially difficult.

Despite these challenges, our School Without Walls (SWW) program has continued to operate with underground churches in Tajikistan. In 2020, we saw 120 students trained for ministry, double the number reached in 2019, with 36 graduates from the program.

*"In my distress I called upon the Lord; to my God I cried for help.
From his temple he heard my voice, and my cry to him reached his ears."*

– Psalm 18:6

November Prayer Requests

WEEK 1

Please pray for our ministry leaders in Tajikistan as they carry out their calling amid a population where evangelical Christians comprise only 0.07 percent.

WEEK 2

Please pray for this Muslim-dominated society, where this group makes up 99 percent of the population, and there are more than 9 million unreached people.

WEEK 3

Please pray for our SWW ministry as it continues to train and equip new leaders for ministry in their communities.

WEEK 4

Please pray for churches that face the threat of heavy fines by the government as they seek creative ways to reach the people of Tajikistan with the gospel.

Ogultaci's Story

"I was born in Bishark, a village in the Dustinsky district of Tajikistan. When I was growing up, our family life was very difficult. My father went to Russia to earn more money, but he stayed there and married another woman. After we hadn't heard from my father for a while, my mother moved us to her mother's house in the Dzhilikul region and my mother started taking us to church. I went to Sunday school every week, and I really liked it, because I made a lot of new friends. At church, I learned about God, who created the entire world. I had never heard about Him before, so I loved listening to Bible stories, and my mother read the Bible to me and my sisters every night.

"In 2011, our church hosted a summer Bible camp, and many children from our region came to this event. During the camp, we learned even more about God, as well as Jesus. June 16, 2014 was the best day of my life, because it was the day that I accepted Jesus Christ as my Savior, and my soul was filled with peace.

"In 2017, our church started a School Without Walls (SWW) group, but at that point, I was too young to join. However, my older sister, Merchen, joined the program and every day I asked her what she learned. In 2019, I joined SWW, and everything I learned was new, useful, and interesting. Best of all, I can apply all that I'm learning to my everyday life and my ministry in the church."



Pray For Turkmenistan



General Population: **6,084,000** Evangelical Christians: **0.11%**



CHRIST'S LIGHT SHINING INTO SPIRITUAL DARKNESS

While Turkmenistan is known to have the fourth largest reserves of natural gas and tremendous oil resources, it is one of the most sparsely populated nations in Asia with most of its 6 million people living amid both physical and spiritual poverty.

More than 94 percent of the population is Muslim, while the majority of the remaining 6 percent are Russian Orthodox. Only 0.11 percent are evangelical Christian and live in a country with a reputation known for being among the worst for persecuting Christians. In 2021, Turkmenistan was ranked 23rd by Open Doors World Watch list of the 50 countries where Christians endure the harshest treatment. In a country where the government censors all Christian literature, and any religious group has to be registered under strict guidelines with the government, most evangelical church activity takes place underground.

Turkmenistan has also been criticized for corruption and for being one of the most repressive and isolated countries in the world, according to Human Rights Watch. "The country is virtually closed to independent scrutiny, media and religious freedoms are subject to draconian restrictions, and human rights defenders and other activists face the constant threat of government reprisal," they report. In 2015, the country suffered economic setbacks after export prices for some of its usually profitable resources, which included cotton, plunged. Reports of ongoing corruption throughout the country could make it difficult for a substantial economic rebound in the years ahead.

In the midst of these harsh conditions, you helped us introduce the School Without Walls (SWW) program in Turkmenistan in 2014. In 2020, the program drew about 20 students who continue to share the hope of Jesus with friends and family.

"As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace...in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ."

-1 Peter 4:10-11

December Prayer Requests

WEEK 1

Please pray for the people of Turkmenistan, many of whom live in both physical and spiritual poverty. Pray the Lord will fill the emptiness in their lives with the true hope of Christ.

WEEK 2

Please pray for the small minority of evangelical Christians in Turkmenistan. Pray they will feel the Lord's presence in their lives during these challenging times.

WEEK 3

Please pray for the leaders of Turkmenistan. Pray they will stand up against corruption in their country and boldly live out their faith.

WEEK 4

Please pray for the church in Turkmenistan and our Next Generation leaders, that they will flourish and find creative ways to reach their country for Christ.

Rakhim's Story

Rakhim was born in 1979 during the Soviet era. In 1993, when Christians were still able to openly preach the gospel in Turkmenistan, Rakhim attended a screening of "The Jesus Film" at his church. After watching the film, he repented and joined the church. However, a few years later, religious freedom in Turkmenistan came to an end and Christians began suffering harsh persecution. Many Christians fled the country and Rakhim's church was forced to close when he was 18.

After serving in the army, Rakhim's faith had faded, and he worked as a guard at the local prison. During that time, some prisoners recruited him to smuggle items into the prison for them. One night, Rakhim brought drugs and alcohol. That same night, the inmates started a riot and Rakhim ended up being accused of helping them start the chaos. While waiting to be interrogated, Rakhim called out to God, promising that he would commit his life to ministry if He saved him from prison. After being interrogated, Rakhim was sent home to await a court trial. A month later, Rakhim's trial began, and while the judge originally called for a five-year prison sentence, Rakhim ended up being cleared of all charges and was able to go free. As soon as he got home, he rededicated his life to Christ. He later became a pastor and continues to live out his faith and lead others to Christ.



Pray For Ukraine



General Population: **43,395,000** Evangelical Christians: **3.62%**



CELEBRATING TRUE FREEDOM, PUSHING FORWARD

Ukraine is the birthplace of Mission Eurasia's President Sergey Rakhuba, and the location of our field ministry headquarters. Ukraine has seen a long struggle against political corruption since the fall of the Soviet Union, leaving the country in a weakened economic state. In 2014, Russia annexed the Crimean Peninsula and invaded eastern Ukraine, beginning a conflict that has continued to the present time. The country has been further impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite this, Ukraine has seen generally steady economic growth over the last several years, with GDP decline from the pandemic lessened in the latter half of 2020 and predicted by the World Bank to return to pre-pandemic levels of growth in 2021.

Ukraine's constitution guarantees freedom of religion, and it is one of the most religiously free nations in Eurasia, though many faith groups have reported ineffective protections by the government. Tensions between the newly created Orthodox Church of Ukraine and the established Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the Moscow Patriarchate have also contributed to the conflict in eastern Ukraine. Religious liberties of minority religious groups in this region have continued to be curtailed due to more stringent legal requirements to register with the Russia-backed authorities, according to the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Despite these challenges, School Without Walls (SWW) continues to thrive in Ukraine, the birthplace of the program, which has remained our largest and most diverse ministry program. In 2020, we were able to train 488 students with 170 graduates in Next Generation ministries.

"Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

– Isaiah 41:10

January Prayer Requests

WEEK 1

Please continue to pray that the ongoing conflict and tensions between Russia and Ukraine will be resolved and that lives will be spared.

WEEK 2

Please pray for our church and ministry partners in Ukraine. Pray they will reach out to their hurting communities and those living in poverty, and serve as examples to their communities.

WEEK 3

Please pray for Ukraine's political leaders, that the country will remain one of the more religiously free countries in Eurasia.

WEEK 4

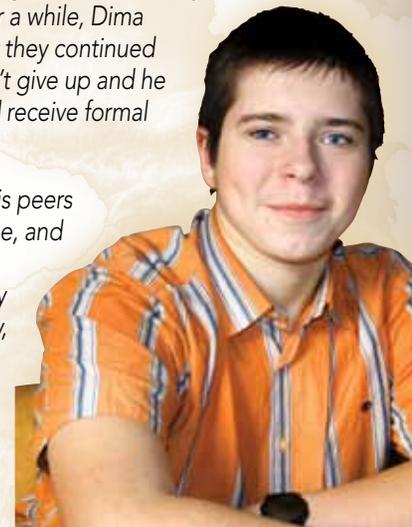
Please pray for our SWW program, that it will continue to draw more Next Generation leaders with a desire to strengthen their churches and communities for Christ.

Dima's Story

Dima comes from a devout Christian family, but many of his peers at school used to tell him that Christianity was a hoax, and that Jesus never existed.

Dima tried to convince them that he was right, but they just made fun of him. Eventually, during a break from school, Dima decided that he needed to learn how to share the gospel, so he began reading the New Testament with his grandparents. They helped him to better understand the story of Jesus. After a while, Dima tried again to share the gospel with his schoolmates, but they continued to make fun of him. Despite their unkindness, Dima didn't give up and he decided to join School Without Walls (SWW) so he could receive formal ministry training.

After studying at SWW for a while, Dima invited two of his peers from school to church. Dima hoped his peers would come, and he prayed that God would work in their hearts. The Lord faithfully answered his prayers, and that very Sunday, they came to church! During the service, they listened intently, and even though they didn't understand everything they heard, Dima's peers were interested in learning more about God. After the service, Dima's peers had many questions and they decided to continue attending church so they could learn more. Now, they no longer make fun of Dima, and they are open to discussing Christianity. Thanks to what he learned through SWW, Dima has gained the courage and knowledge he needs to effectively reach his peers for Christ.



Pray For Uzbekistan



General Population: **33,856,000** Evangelical Christians: **0.18%**



FAITHFUL HEARTS AMID SPIRITUAL DARKNESS

Uzbekistan is among the worst countries in the world for religious freedom. Muslims make up more than 83 percent of the population in Uzbekistan, and evangelical Christians only consist of 0.18 percent. Life for those who convert from Islam to Christianity can be extremely difficult as new Christians are often abandoned by their family and community.

Uzbekistan has slid down a few spots on the Open Doors World Watch List, a list of the top 50 countries that treat Christians the worst, ranking 21st in 2021. In 2016, Uzbekistan named a new president after the death of longtime leader Islam Karimov, who was known for cracking down on evangelical Christian groups and other minorities. But little has changed since Shavkat Mirziyoyev became president. While the country has made some positive strides regarding past struggles with human trafficking, the U.S. embassy in Uzbekistan reported in 2021 that the country still does not “fully meet the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking.”

Uzbekistan is one of the world’s leading cotton producers, and they also are one of the largest producers of electricity in Central Asia. In addition, the country mines 80 tons of gold annually, along with other valuable minerals like copper and uranium.

Still, our team and ministry partners in Uzbekistan continue to share promising reports of progress as more people hear the Good News of the gospel. In 2020, our School Without Walls (SWW) program trained 120 leaders with 110 graduates during the pandemic, an increase over 101 leaders and 98 graduates in 2019.

“Sing to the Lord, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day. Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples!”

– Psalm 96:2-3

February Prayer Requests

WEEK 1

Please pray for Uzbekistan, which is considered one of the worst countries for Christians to live out their faith because of harsh religion laws.

WEEK 2

Please pray that more Muslims, who make up more than 80 percent of the population, will be reached with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

WEEK 3

Please pray for Christians who convert from Islam and are persecuted by their families and communities for their faith.

WEEK 4

Please pray for our outreach efforts in countries like Uzbekistan. Pray we will be able to grow our SWW program and raise up Next Generation leaders for ministry amid the spiritual darkness.

Bobur's Story

“After I graduated from high school, I kept meeting with some of my former classmates at a local teahouse once a month. One of my friends told us that Sarvar, one of our classmates, had betrayed Islam by becoming a Christian. One day, I ran into Sarvar at the market, and we ended up talking for a while. He was very happy, and he shared that God had healed his mother from cancer. To me, it all sounded too good to be true, but I still listened out of politeness.

“Four days later, Sarvar called me and invited me to go with him to his church’s Easter service. To my surprise, I really enjoyed the worship songs and sermon. What really touched my heart was a skit about our need for Jesus. I was so moved by the message that I struggled to hold back tears. I asked Sarvar many questions about the Bible, and he happily answered all of them.



“As I read God’s Word, I had even more questions to ask Sarvar. Not long after, I started going to youth group meetings with him and I made a lot of new friends. During one of the youth group meetings, I gave my life to Christ. After repenting, I wanted to share the gospel with all of my friends and family.

“Sarvar encouraged me to join the School Without Walls (SWW) leadership development program and I immediately signed up. Thanks to SWW, I received answers to all of my questions, and the Next Generation Professional Leaders Initiative (NGPLI) helped me realize that my job as a hairdresser is an opportunity for ministry.

“Today, I take every opportunity to talk with my coworkers (and customers) about Jesus, and two of them have accepted Christ!”