



*United
in
Prayer*



“Pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ.”

- Colossians 4:3, ESV

Dear Prayer Partner,

Thank you for joining us on this exciting prayer journey!

This 15-month prayer guide offers you vital information about the countries of Eurasia and Israel, the needs of millions of people in these places, and Mission Eurasia’s leaders and outreach.

As you may know, this is a spiritually critical time in Eurasia, and the needs can seem overwhelming. Ukraine has been ripped apart by war, creating the world’s greatest current humanitarian crisis. In this war, Russia has targeted houses of worship, seeking to destroy churches and a Christian witness. But we know that by God’s grace and through your prayers, the forces of evil will not prevail.

Ukraine is not the only nation suffering. Millions remain vulnerable to crime, economic challenges, political turmoil, persecution, loss of family members, and other emotional pain. Eurasia is plagued by human trafficking, drug and alcohol abuse, disease, and spiritual emptiness.

So many need the hope and salvation that can only be found in Jesus—the fields truly are ripe for harvest (John 4:35). Our desire is to spread God’s love and the gospel across these nations that are home to millions

of people who are desperate for an encounter with Jesus Christ. Additionally, this region presents unprecedented challenges for our in-country leaders. And this is why, like the Apostle Paul, we ask that you also pray for us, that God may open a door for the Word so we can declare the mystery of Christ (Col. 4:3).

And we are seeing doors open for our Next Generation leaders who have been trained and equipped for ministry—doors opening because so many of you have supported and labored with us for years. We need to pray that these leaders and all believers living under oppression would be daily strengthened in their faith.

We are so grateful you have come alongside us in prayer for the people of Eurasia. We are confident that “The prayer of a righteous person has great power” (James 5:16, ESV). We hope 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!

Most gratefully in Him,

Sergey Rakhuba
President



MISSION
EURASIA

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***Be careful for nothing;
but in everything by prayer and
supplication with thanksgiving let
your requests be made known unto God.***

- Philipians 4:6



Pray for Armenia

General Population: **2,989,091**

Evangelical Christians: **9.31%**

A LAND OF GOSPEL OPPORTUNITY

Armenia is a small country whose people have faced intense political violence throughout their history. The Armenian Genocide, committed by the former Ottoman Empire in 1915, claimed an estimated 600,000 to 1.5 million Armenian lives. War and conflict continued with neighboring Azerbaijan over the Nagorno-Karabakh region, which the Soviet Union controversially placed in Azerbaijani territory despite its Armenian-majority population.

As a result, hundreds of thousands of Armenian lives were lost, and tens of thousands were displaced. Most recently, starting in late 2022, Azerbaijan blockaded Nagorno-Karabakh, sparking more conflict and fears of genocide by starvation. Eventually, in September 2023, the Armenian separatist government in Nagorno-Karabakh announced its dissolution, and nearly 80 percent of remaining Armenians fled in fear as Azerbaijan seeks greater control of the region.

Armenia's economy has remained weak and been made worse by these conflicts as well as ongoing trade conflicts with Turkey. Unemployment and poverty soar at an estimated 20 and 26 percent, respectively. Many working-age people have left Armenia for work abroad, putting increasing pressure on the government's struggle to fund the pension system, health care, and other services for the growing senior population. Armenia has heavily depended on Russia, both economically and politically—however, Russia has neglected its peacekeeping promises and strengthened its political and economic ties with the Azerbaijani government. The future of Armenia remains very uncertain.

While Armenia prides itself as the world's first officially Christian nation, the Armenian Apostolic Orthodox Church that represents the vast majority of Armenian Christians remains a mostly cultural rather than spiritual institution. Though "Armenian" and "Christian" are considered synonymous, many Armenians have never heard the gospel. Through our School Without Walls (SWW) initiative, however, young leaders are being trained and equipped to share the hope of Christ with their neighbors. In 2023, you supported our SWW ministry training for 95 enrolled leaders, 32 of whom graduated from the full two-year program.

"Keep alert with all perseverance, making supplications for all the saints."
Ephesians 6:17–18

ALVARD'S STORY

"My name is Alvard, and I am 28. I accepted the Lord into my heart during Covid season. I realized my heart was very heavy. The hardest thing was to feel the uncertainty of what would come. I didn't know how to overcome fears that were gripping me from all sides. My family and I started watching online sermons. From the first day of listening to them I decided to give my life to God and experience His love.

"I started attending Abovyan City Church and was baptized. I was invited to be part of a ministry at the church. The Bible takes the first place in my life and when I learned about School Without Walls (SWW), I knew it was a new opportunity to grow in God's Word. I wanted to have a better vision of

what else I could do for God. I learned so much about the church and all the multifaceted ministries, about the essence of the church and its purpose in this world.

"As I continue my SWW studies, I want God to strengthen me in ministry and for me to be the salt and light to the people in my surroundings. I want to share about God, His goodness, kindness, and everything He's done for



us. Because of the SWW classes, I discovered that I want to be involved in other ministries too, even in those where I need to be bolder. I want to start sharing the gospel boldly, using the knowledge that I received during SWW classes about evangelism. We spend so much time in vain on minor things, but everyone needs to find the most important and valuable thing in this life—and that's the salvation of their souls."

January Prayer Requests

1

Please pray for political stability in the region between Armenia and its neighbors, and for economic opportunities for Armenians struggling with poverty and unemployment.

2

Please pray for Mission Eurasia ministry opportunities such as Bread of Life which can serve people physical bread as well as the Bread of Life found through the hope of the gospel.

3

Please pray that God would bring revival to the evangelical church in Armenia so that even more Armenians would realize their need for Jesus Christ.

4

Please pray that our SWW program in Armenia would develop more passionate Next Generation leaders and provide them with the necessary ministry tools needed as they seek to transform their nation for Christ.



Pray for Azerbaijan

General Population: **10,420,515** Evangelical Christians: **0.22%**

A LAND OF GOSPEL NEED & GOSPEL OPPORTUNITY

Azerbaijan is a Muslim-majority nation that shares a border with Armenia. Like Armenia, it was also incorporated into the Soviet Union for several decades and continues to suffer the same fate of many former Soviet nations, even in independence: corruption, weak education and health care, and an unreliable judicial system stifle progress.

In recent years, presidential term limits were abolished, and term lengths were extended from five to seven years. This, combined with highly questionable elections, has pushed Azerbaijan toward autocracy. Economically, Azerbaijan has an oil-based economy that consequently fluctuates with oil prices. While some measures have been taken to diversify the economy, progress is stunted by corruption and other political endeavors like the decades-long conflict with neighboring Armenia in the Nagorno-Karabakh region.

Between 85 and 97 percent of Azerbaijan's population are culturally Muslim and roughly 0.22 percent are evangelical Christian. Religious laws remain restrictive regarding registration requirements for religious bodies (like churches), limits to proselytizing by foreigners, control over religious literature, and harassment of "non-traditional" religions like Jehovah's Witnesses and evangelical Protestant Christians. Despite these difficulties, the evangelical church in Azerbaijan is growing over 1 percent faster than the global growth rate of 2.6 percent. It is a land of gospel need but also of gospel opportunity.

Thanks to your support, our School Without Walls (SWW) program has surely contributed to boosting this statistic as the initiative continues to grow and our students continue to fearlessly share the gospel with their neighbors. In 2023, you supported our SWW ministry training for 70 enrolled leaders, 23 of whom graduated from the full two-year program. Not confined to Azerbaijan, our efforts can affect neighboring Iran where roughly 17.5 million ethnic Azerbaijanis live. For Western missionaries, Iran is nearly impossible, however, the doors are open for our SWW students and those they share the gospel with.

"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

RAFAEL'S STORY

"My name is Rafael, and I am 28 years old. I was born into a Muslim family, and I practiced Islam until 2020. I survived conflict during my time in the military, but I also had memories of war and friends whom I lost. The scenes kept passing before my eyes, but it was about that time when I met Brother Novruz from Baku and a School Without Walls (SWW) student. He told me about Jesus and how Jesus could help me.

"I asked, 'Why Jesus?' Of course, He is a prophet in Islam, but how could He help me? We spoke constantly and Novruz invited me to a local church service where something touched my heart and healed my wounds. I couldn't contain my tears. I realized that Jesus had been with me all along, but I didn't know Him. Now I do.

"I met Brother Zaur who invited me to join the SWW program. I gladly accepted the invitation and never regretted it. After I started attending Schools Without Walls sessions, faith took root in my heart and I started growing spiritually. Jeremiah 29:11 became an important verse in my life—and it turned everything upside down.

"I began to think sensibly about how to live and to believe that the Lord would direct me. Through people who have mentored me, I believe I will be able to learn to grow in my service to others. It's amazing how I have learned to direct my energy as I started to learn how to delve into Scripture. I now want to put my knowledge into practice to glorify our Lord."



February Prayer Requests

1

Please continue to pray for the evangelical church in Azerbaijan. Pray it will continue to grow so that believers can share the hope of Christ in a country that is predominantly Muslim.

2

Please pray for our Next Generation leaders. Pray they will boldly share their faith in the face of persecution and continue to seek out ways to serve as leaders through their churches and in their neighborhoods.

3

Please pray for the thousands of people living in Azerbaijan who have been displaced by its war with Armenia.

4

Please pray for the expansion of our School Without Walls (SWW) program as we seek to train new ministry leaders, organize strategic conferences and other events, and establish new churches throughout the nation.



Pray for Belarus

General Population: **9,383,853**

Evangelical Christians: **1.69%**

FAITH IN THE FACE OF OPPRESSION

Belarus is the birthplace of Mission Eurasia’s founders, the Deyneka family. A former Soviet state, Belarus has remained largely dictatorial. Its only president—Aleksandr Lukashenko—is a Soviet holdover who continues consolidating his power. His 2020 re-election was disputed, but protests were violently suppressed. Belarus has been instrumental in Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, allowing the use of Belarusian territory for transit.

Economically, Belarus struggles to establish an identity and footing due to state control, corruption, and dependence on Russia. In tandem with government-imposed price controls on food and medicine, public debt and inflation are projected to explode with the end of Russian energy subsidies in 2024. Orphaned children number in the tens of thousands with roughly 25,000 orphaned due to the 2008 economic crisis alone. Many were separated from their parents by the state. Orphanages cannot provide necessary care—even less so for children with disabilities. Some disabilities still stem from lingering effects of the Chernobyl disaster.

Religiously, Belarus is 60–70 percent Christian (primarily Belarusian Orthodox), with the remainder of the population being mostly non-religious. Only one to two percent are evangelical Christian. A 2002 religious law intensified government regulation of religious groups and activity. Required registration remains difficult to obtain and still does not offer protection from property and tax disputes or raids that result in evictions and closures. Harassment disproportionately affects non-Orthodox groups. All activity by unregistered groups and foreign missionaries is banned and met with fines and imprisonment for non-compliance.

By God’s grace, through the Deyneka family, Mission Eurasia was grandfathered in as a recognized religious entity due to official registration before the 2002 law took effect. Amid the strict religious landscape, our SWW program remains one of the most strategic and effective means of preserving and growing the church. In 2023, you supported our SWW ministry training for 93 future leaders enrolled in the program.

“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

MILANA'S STORY

"My name is Milana and I am in 10th grade. I was raised in a Christian family. Before I was born, I was diagnosed with a serious disease that makes a child disabled for life. However, thanks to the prayers of my parents and their church, and my mom working very hard with me, everything turned out okay now. At the beginning of this year, I accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as my personal Savior.

"I am now a School

Without Walls (SWW) student. While studying the Foundations of the Faith, the topic of fasting and prayer especially resonated with me. I thought about doing it on and off, but I had no understanding of how to do it right. I realized that not only physical abstinence from food is important but fasting with the right state of the heart, including absolute humility, to get closer to God. I also realized how often we underestimate prayer—because our personal relationship with God is

built through prayer. I used to share the gospel with my friends, but now I realized that for the shared gospel to have real power, I need to be in a close relationship with God myself.

"I am sure that the SWW classes that began in our church will help people like me grow spiritually. They will also strengthen our faith in Christ to help us serve others because this is what Christ called us to do, and He showed us the example in His life by giving Himself for the sake of others."



March Prayer Requests

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 who will honor God in their work.

2

Please pray for our Christian brothers and sisters who are living in a country where religious persecution is considered intense. Pray that they will be bold in their faith.

3

Please pray for our SWW program in Belarus, and that these young leaders will receive the training they need to flourish in ministry and start new churches.

4

Please pray for the tens of thousands of orphans who have been abandoned and struggle with hopelessness. Pray the church will reach out to them and show them the love of Christ.



Pray for Georgia

General Population: **4,936,390**

Evangelical Christians: **1.35%**

A LAND OF GREAT GOSPEL POTENTIAL

After the Soviet Union dissolved, democratic reform in newly independent Georgia seemed promising. However, corruption, inter-ethnic conflict, and external political conflict hindered progress and perpetuated unrest. In 2008, Russia attacked and invaded Georgia in support of breakaway movements in Abkhazia and South Ossetia, two disputed provinces. Hundreds of lives were lost and roughly 200,000 were displaced. To this day, Russia maintains a regional military presence, political pressure, and support of the breakaway territories.

Economically, Georgia has a healthy relationship with the European Union (EU), even applying for membership in 2022. However, worldwide COVID-19 restrictions stifled tourism, transportation, and construction. Georgia's parliament also considered a bill in March 2023 that classified organizations receiving foreign funding as "foreign agents"—mimicking oppressive laws from Russia and other oppressive countries. Naturally, it was met with protest and failed, but it remains a looming question and could affect Georgia's EU bid.

While Georgia's constitution protects religious liberty, it is unequally applied. Though Georgia is roughly 80 percent Christian, the vast majority belong to the Georgian Orthodox Church—more of an influential political and cultural institution than a spiritual one. Only 1.35 percent of Christians are evangelical. The remaining population consists of less than 10 percent each of Muslims and non-religious, and less than one percent of other religions. The Georgian Orthodox Church enjoys significant public benefits while non-Orthodox communities face discrimination by way of illegal censorship, building permit rejections, historical property disputes, suppression of celebrations, and obstacles or outright bans against training clergy. Other harassment against non-Orthodox communities often goes unpunished.

With that said, our SWW has huge potential to break through with the gospel. In 2023, you supported our SWW ministry training for 95 enrolled leaders, 29 of whom graduated from the full two-year program. Despite the challenges in their nation's religious freedom landscape, these young leaders are bringing the hope of Christ to their countrymen.

"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

TATYANA'S STORY



"My name is Tatyana, I am 38 years old, and I live in Georgia. I came to know Jesus at 32 and was baptized at 33. I used to suffer from one sin in particular, and it tormented me. I cried a lot trying to get rid of it. It was smoking. I tried everything in my own strength to stop, and

one day, with tears, I began asking God to help me and save me from this guilt. Suddenly, I felt the touch of Jesus and His kind, loving look. From that day on, I couldn't smoke anymore.

"I met a woman who went to an evangelical church and I started going there too. That's when I gave my heart and my life to Christ. That was six years ago. I was invited to study at School Without Walls (SWW). I remember one of the first courses where we learned about the talents (gifts) God gives us to use in serving others. That session meant so much to me! I really liked the speaker's examples—of how she shared the gospel with people, and how she brought Christ into the lives of others. It touched me very much because I didn't know how to talk about salvation through Christ to

those around me. SWW changed my life because I realized how patient I need to be with non-believers and how much love I need to show them.

"I realized my purpose and how I can serve other people. I realized that I could support people and listen to them, and by doing so, people opened to me easily. I realized that I have so many people around me to talk to about Jesus. And I used to think that I didn't have anyone with whom to share the Lord! Now I can freely share God's Word with my neighbors, and now I also have the boldness to share the gospel with my sister, mother, and other family members, which, for me, was hard before. Thank you for the SWW through which God showed me my gift in evangelism."

April Prayer Requests

- 1 Please pray for those in Georgia who have been displaced and are homeless. Pray that more Christians in Georgia will be a light to those living in spiritual darkness.
- 2 Please pray that the people of Georgia will find true freedom in Christ and not in money or worldly possessions. Pray they will embrace the hope that only Christ can offer.
- 3 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.
- 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.



Pray for Israel

General Population: **9,043,387**

Evangelical Christians: **0.70%**

GROWING THE GOSPEL IN THE PROMISED LAND

With a 74 percent Jewish population, Israel remains the world's only Jewish-majority state. Established in 1948 after British Palestine was partitioned into separate Arab and Jewish states, Israel was attacked by neighboring Arab countries the next day and again in multiple wars waged against it since.

Despite Israeli victories and territory gains, Israel has returned portions of land and supported two-state solutions in exchange for peace. Regardless, two-state solutions are rejected on grounds that Israel does not have a right to exist—vocalized most notably by Iran and the Iran-backed Islamic terrorist group Hamas that violently seized control of Gaza from the Palestinian Authority in 2007. Hamas supports the annihilation of Israel, consistently launching rockets and terrorist attacks.

On October 7, 2023, Hamas invaded Israel, killing over 1,200 (mostly civilians, including infants) and kidnapping around 200—primarily women and children. Israel immediately declared war and launched a full-scale attack on Gaza to remove Hamas.

Israel's economy is strong, led by cutting-edge tech sectors and offshore gas production. Promising talks with Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) have been complicated by the war with Hamas.

Religiously, Israel is predominantly Jewish, 18 percent Muslim, and six percent “other” – with less than two percent of Israel being Christian, and less than half of them being evangelical. There are roughly 714,000 Russian Jews from the former Soviet Union, and Mission Eurasia is reaching them with the gospel in partnership with Israeli churches and local messianic ministries like Living Israel.

Our SWW students engage in various initiatives including the distribution of specially tailored Biblical literature. In 2023, you supported our SWW ministry training for 45 enrolled leaders, 16 of whom graduated from the full two-year program. The recent war has seen many SWW leaders conscripted into military service, and remaining members focusing ministry efforts on providing food and water to bomb shelters where – at the time of writing this – 30 percent of Israelis are taking refuge.

“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

LERA'S STORY

Lera is 16 years old and she recently invited Jesus into her heart. She heard many of her new Christian friends talking about School Without Walls (SWW) and realized it would be beneficial for her too. Lera decided to sign up! Christianity is very new to her, and she doesn't understand very much yet, but she is learning, and she is not shy to ask questions.

On one occasion, people were asking the pastor questions about their calling, salvation, and the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Lera asked a question

that seemed very simple to others, yet very meaningful to her. "What am I to do for Jesus to be the center of my life?" Lera received a response that was both practical and spiritually insightful: "Whatever is on your mind and heart will also manifest in your life. If you consistently contemplate Jesus and openly discuss Him with those around you, you'll gradually realize that your entire life revolves around Him."

Lera continues to make God first in her life, wants to learn more, and is eager to make Him known to others. She loves being

part of SWW and explains: "I am convinced that it was God who led me to enroll at SWW. I couldn't believe the number of young people my age who are deeply committed in their devotion to God, and I am so happy to be part of that group! I will never forget the day I tangibly felt God's love and made the decision to follow Him and serve in His Kingdom. Since that day, many of my worries have started to fade as I continue to make Jesus the center of my life."



May Prayer Requests

- 1 Please pray for peace in Israel and the surrounding region. Pray for an end to the violence and devastation, and for all terrorist activity to cease.
- 2 Please pray for our SWW leaders and students as they engage in strategic initiatives to reach Russian-speaking Jewish people for Christ.
- 3 Please pray for our ministry partner, Living Israel, as they continue to share the gospel with the unreached in their communities.
- 4 Please pray for a new church that was planted in Jerusalem. Please pray for wisdom for the church leadership and that God would draw many people to Himself.



Pray for Kazakhstan

General Population: **19,543,464**

Evangelical Christians: **1.67%**

RAISING BOLD NEXT GENERATION CHRISTIAN LEADERS

Kazakhstan—once a land of ancient nomads and empires—is the world’s largest landlocked country, and the last Soviet republic to declare its independence after the Soviet Union collapsed in 1991. Rich in natural resources, Kazakhstan possesses the strongest Central Asian economy. Kazakhstan also boasts a large surveillance state, maintaining strict control of religious groups and political opposition. Raids on religious communities, as well as book burnings, fines, and imprisonment, are at times a very common occurrence. Kazakhstan’s government has often dealt violently with opposition protests, and elections have rarely, if ever, been deemed free and fair by the broader body of international election observers.

A majority of Kazakhstan’s population is culturally Muslim—up to 70 percent, though some estimates are closer to 50 percent to account for non-adherents and the non-religious. The Christian population is an estimated 25 percent when accounting for Russian Orthodox and others, while under two percent of the total population are evangelical Christian.

While the government technically operates as a secular state, religious freedom often receives little more than lip service: religious registration requirements are prohibitive, services and gatherings are surveilled, and meeting in places other than officially registered buildings is risky. Raids, fines, and imprisonment of Christians and Muslims alike are administered under vague definitions of extremism. The World Watch List ranks Kazakhstan in the top 50 worst countries in the world for persecution of Christians.

Despite these conditions, Christians of various ethnicities and denominations are working together to reach the spiritually lost. In some cases, the government has even looked favorably on these groups, including our SWW students and their outreach to people living with HIV/AIDS. Please pray for similar public platform and upcoming youth outreach initiatives. In 2023, you supported our SWW ministry training for 115 enrolled leaders, all 115 of whom graduated from the full two-year program!

***“Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.”
Romans 12:12***

ALEXANDER'S STORY

"My name is Alexander and I am 21 years old. I am studying to be a software developer, and I attend an evangelical church in the city of Temirtau. During this year I also became a School Without Walls (SWW) student. I like the fact that our SWW team is practice-oriented. This year our team decided to take part in organizing events for children with disabilities, taking children with special needs to a recreation area located outside the city. It was our third event in six months.

"Our SWW leader, Anastasia, works a lot with disabled children and has long encouraged me to participate in this project. The Lord began to knock on my heart and urged me to take part. It was not easy for me because we didn't have anyone with disabilities in our family, and I have never in my life



crossed paths with people with disabilities. At first, I agreed to participate with great excitement, but then I had some fear. In the beginning, I helped with the equipment and sound setup.

"But the Lord expected more from me. Anastasia asked me to take over a part of the program. It was a challenge but also an opportunity for growth. I did my best. During the event I saw the smiles of children and tears in the eyes of their parents. I was very touched. I later cried several times and thanked God for the opportunity to touch these little hearts.

"With each following event I began to understand

more and more what I'm doing and who I'm trying to help. When the SWW team and I were reviewing our trip, I realized even more that such ministries are part of God's work, which, if possible, should be done consistently. Not only do they benefit children, but they also change us, the ministry leaders. Also, the fact that the parents entrusted us with their children was a great reward for me.

"This event did not last long, but I believe that the cause for which we sacrificed time, effort, and weekends will not be in vain before God. I have no regrets and am grateful for the opportunity made possible by SWW."

June Prayer Requests

1

Please pray for the people of Kazakhstan, that more of them would have an opportunity to hear the Good News of the gospel.

2

Please pray for church leaders and our brothers and sisters in Christ who continue to confront restrictions and challenges to living out their faith in their neighborhood.

3

Please continue to pray for Kazakhstan's leaders, that they would repeal harsh religion laws and end the religious persecution that Christians endure every day.

4

Please pray for our young SWW leaders as they boldly share their faith with a growing Muslim community. Pray the Lord would protect them as they faithfully serve Him.



Pray for Kyrgyzstan

General Population: **6,122,781**

Evangelical Christians: **0.3%**

SPREADING THE KNOWLEDGE OF CHRIST

Kyrgyzstan is a mountainous country with a people of old nomadic culture. Its contemporary history is marked by uprising—notably against the Russian Empire in 1916, and most notably for ousting three of its first four presidents after it gained independence when the Soviet Union collapsed. It is also plagued with poverty, corruption, and restrictive laws.

Despite gradual improvements, Kyrgyzstan remains the second-poorest country in Central Asia with 20 percent of the population living below the poverty line. Remittances comprise around 30 percent of the GDP since wages are higher abroad—nearly one-third of working-age Kyrgyz live in Russia, with many others in Kazakhstan and elsewhere. Wide-scale corruption has hindered economic progress and public trust, while border conflicts have hindered diplomacy.

Though classically considered the freest Central Asian nation due to its laws and elections, freedom of speech and religion have declined rapidly over time. Harassment and arbitrary judicial action against journalists and political opposition are commonplace. Recently, parliament granted the president power to arbitrarily overturn constitutional court rulings, citing undefined “moral values” and “social conscience of the people” as justification.

Kyrgyzstan is over 90 percent Muslim—not accounting for non-adherent cultural Muslims and non-religious people—with a large remainder being Christian. Evangelical Christians make up roughly 0.3 percent of the total population, but living out their faith is often a challenge. Proselytizing is illegal, church registration requirements are prohibitive, and violence against non-Muslim Kyrgyz is commonplace in rural areas. Raids on religious communities and imprisonment of individuals are consistent threats.

After a revolution and ethnic clashes in 2010, our SWW students in Kyrgyzstan engaged in peacemaking and inter-ethnic reconciliation. As religious persecution continues, you are helping continue this SWW legacy. In 2023, you supported our SWW ministry training for 120 enrolled leaders, 59 of whom graduated from the full two-year 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

DIANA'S STORY

Diana is 17 years old and lives in the city of Talas. Her parents divorced when she was 9 years old, and Diana has been living with her mother, stepfather, younger siblings, and her grandparents. Diana's mother has heart and kidney problems and is currently undergoing treatment. Despite these problems, she works cleaning the city's streets. It's not just a job for her, though: it's her ministry through which she reaches the people of her city with the gospel.

When Diana was 12 years old, she and her grandmother began attending church. Diana was actively engaged in the teenage club and now participates in a club called Young Life. This year Diana began studying at School Without Walls (SWW).

"When I joined SWW, my life began to change. Since I started coming to SWW classes, I began to learn more about God. I didn't have any relationship with God before, but now I feel close to Him. I also want to thank our church and pastor for the inspiring seminars, one of them

is called Mission in the Profession.

"Thank you for not staying indifferent to my dream: from the age of 13, I dreamed of becoming a manicurist. After learning about my passion, the church provided me with a cozy, comfortable room on its grounds, and they also helped provide me with some equipment for free. I am very grateful to God for such incredible help in fulfilling my dream. Now I also want to serve young people and share the gospel with them while doing their manicure. I believe that's my calling."



July Prayer Requests

1

Please pray for Christians in Kyrgyzstan as they lead their congregations to boldly live out their faith in a country where only 0.30 percent of the population is evangelical Christian and 92 percent is Muslim.

2

Please continue to pray that God would raise up new leaders in the country who will bring about greater political and economic stability for the people.

3

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.

4

Please lift in prayer our SWW leaders as they look for creative ways to advance the gospel in a country where religious persecution is escalating.



Pray for Moldova

General Population: **3,250,532**

Evangelical Christians: **4.64%**

BRINGING HOPE AND CHRIST TO THE POOR

Moldova is home to Mission Eurasia's ministry headquarters—it's where all our Eurasian activity is coordinated and implemented from. It is also home to our refugee assistance center that has received thousands of Ukrainian refugees since the war began.

Since gaining independence after the Soviet Union's collapse, Moldova has wavered between pro-Russian Communist and pro-European leanings, resulting in political tension that has sometimes turned violent. Russian forces maintain presence on Moldovan territory in the breakaway region of Transnistria, and Moldova remains dependent on Russia for energy. Emigration and low fertility contribute to a declining workforce available to address national problems like poverty and human trafficking. While improvements have been made, human trafficking runs deep, reflected by indictments of law enforcement and orphanage directors who have engaged directly in trafficking and abuse or accepted bribes from traffickers.

Religiously, Christianity is estimated to account for 75 percent of the population, non-religious is around 21 percent, and Islam is around four percent. Despite having a Christian majority, evangelical Christians make up under five percent of the population. Given the Orthodox Church's pro-Russian stance and strong ties with local government, it remains the dominant opposition to evangelical churches. However, while building and registering new churches can be complicated, the government generally enforces and protects the freedom of religion. Moldova therefore remains a promising mission field, and evangelical churches have grown and multiplied.

Taking full advantage of the opportunity, our Next Generation leaders in Moldova remain very active and ask for your prayers as they develop new educational resources and guides that will be utilized throughout the region. Please pray for the fruitfulness of future conferences and forums, and for our partners who will be making use of these tools. In 2023, you supported our SWW ministry training for 120 enrolled leaders, 65 of whom graduated from the full two-year program.

“Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you.” Jeremiah 29:12

ANYA'S STORY

We met Anya, an 8-year-old girl, seven years ago at summer camp. Her father brought her against her will because she didn't want to attend. She was extremely shy and fearful of interacting with anyone. With God's guidance, we managed to find the key to her heart, and after that camp, she began attending church with her father.

At the age of 13, she was baptized and became a church member.

Anya is now 15 and actively participates in various church events. When we told her about School Without Walls (SWW), she expressed her interest and joined.

"This was my first encounter with the SWW course, and honestly, it surpassed all my expectations!" she said. "Initially, I assumed it would be more of a lecture-style course, lacking engagement,



engage with the students extensively, they explain theoretical concepts but also give ideas of practical implementation. Each teacher shares their personal experiences, which helps me grasp the real-world relevance of the subject.

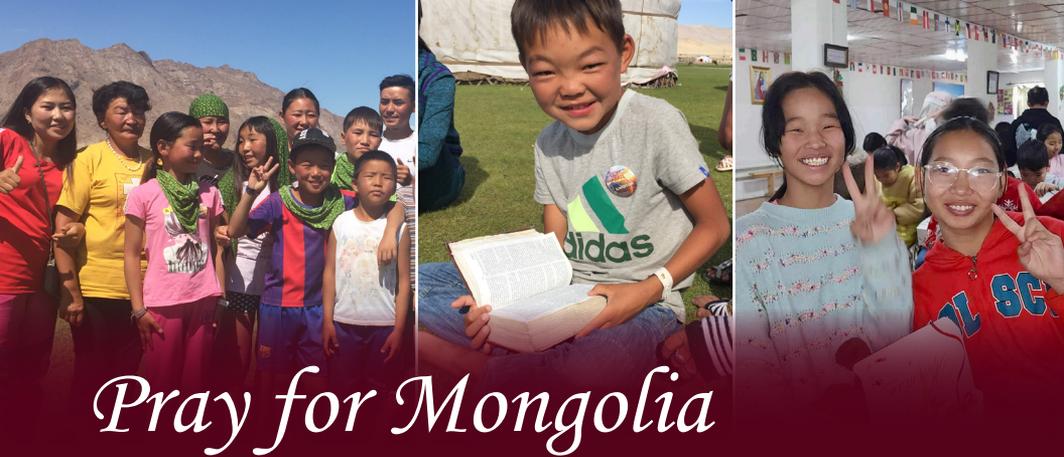
"I'm drawing closer and closer to God and gaining a deeper understanding of His character. And this is fundamentally reshaping my perspective and interactions with others.

Instead of imposing my beliefs (faith in God) on others, I aspire to lead a life that inspires them to live a life with God at their side."

and like school classes. However, during the first session, I quickly realized that it was completely the opposite. I appreciated the interactive nature of SWW. Our teachers

August Prayer Requests

- 1 Please pray for Moldova's ongoing political strife and economic uncertainties. Pray that we will find opportunities to speak truth amid confusion.
- 2 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.
- 3 Please pray for church leaders and ministry partners who need encouragement as they seek to reach communities where there are few evangelical Christians.
- 4 Please pray for those who have completed our SWW program and are seeking ministry opportunities in their communities.



Pray for Mongolia

General Population: **3,395,000**

Evangelical Christians: **0.86%**

TAKING THE GOSPEL TO DISTANT LANDS

Mongolia—called the “Land of the Blue Sky” for being cloudless more than two-thirds of the year—is the heartland of the former Mongol Empire. It is also the largest landlocked country that does not border a closed sea. Continuing the culture born of its vast and open landscape, about 30 percent of the population are still nomadic.

Compared to the former empire, present-day Mongolia represents a small remnant. The number of ethnic Mongolians living in Mongolia proper is roughly half the number of those living in the neighboring Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region of China. At one point in history, Mongolia was a socialist Soviet satellite state, experiencing intense political violence and a stagnant economy. While Mongolia eventually adopted a new constitution and shifted toward a free market economy after the Soviet Union’s collapse, the Communist Party maintains significant control and influence that includes political and military ties with Russia and close economic ties with China. Though there is an abundance of natural resources, high inflation and currency depreciation counteract these advantages.

Buddhism is Mongolia’s largest religion, comprising 42-50 percent of the total population. Some sources put the majority of the remaining population at 23-40 percent non-religious, and between 3-30 percent adhering to a folk religion. Islam claims roughly three percent, and Christianity falls under two percent. Less than half of Christians are evangelical; however, the first generation of Christians have experienced encouraging growth. While there were less than 40 Protestant Christians in Mongolia in 1990, today there are an estimated 40,000 meeting in 600 different churches!

School Without Walls (SWW) students first started organizing summer Bible camps and planting churches in Mongolia in 2012, and our dedicated young leaders remain committed to leading Mongolians to Christ, away from atheism and superstition. In 2023, you supported our SWW ministry training for 90 enrolled leaders, 50 of whom graduated from the full two-year program.

“Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law.” Romans 13:8

BOLDHUU'S STORY

"My name is Boldhuu and I'm 33 years old. I came to faith in the Lord when I was 14. So, after graduating from the 9th grade, I enrolled in a Bible school. I've been in church for 17 years now, and I am one of the church ministers. I took my team to a School Without Walls (SWW) conference last month and it was the first time I had come across SWW.

"I was excited to have an opportunity to spend time with my team, mentor them, and learn from others. I really appreciate these moments when I can be with them not just as their pastor but as their friend. During the conference, one thing stood out to me very clearly: we need to engage more with the younger generation in our churches.

We need to train them, guide them, direct them, and nurture them. We need to invest more time



in them and provide them with our support.

"And as I left the SWW conference, I was inspired to organize regular gatherings for our youth with the aim of encouraging teenagers to respond to the needs of our community and to

serve the people around us. I realized that although I serve others, I need a strong team to do it with me. I don't need to do it alone.

"I am grateful to SWW in Mongolia for their motivation and encouragement. The SWW movement is a great assistance to ministers in raising the next generation of believers, providing them guidance, and mobilizing them for ministry."



September Prayer Requests

1 Please pray for the "Land of the 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.

2 Please pray that our SWW program will grow and will train more Next Generation leaders to reach their people for Christ.

3 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.

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.



Pray for Poland

General Population: **40,931,000**

Evangelical Christians: **0.31%**

A LAND OF REFUGE WITH A NEED FOR JESUS

Poland has had a pivotal role in European and world affairs since emerging from centuries of living under foreign rulers, including the Soviet Union and Nazi Germany during World War II. After the war, Poland remained a Soviet satellite state. However, in a critical turn of events, a powerful grassroots movement eventually ended Communism in Poland and helped set the overall stage for the Soviet Union's ultimate collapse. Poland would then go on to join NATO and later the European Union, working hard to become what is now one of the most robust European economic and military powers and a critical stopgap against regional Russian aggression. Staunchly Catholic—roughly 85-90 percent of the population—Poland has also actively positioned itself against European secularism and political Islam.

Since the start of the war in Ukraine, Poland has served as both a crucial haven for millions of Ukrainian refugees and as a staging area for humanitarian aid transport into Ukraine. Naturally, Poland has become an important new frontier in Mission Eurasia's ministry efforts. In 2022, we initially expanded to Poland by establishing two refugee assistance centers to meet the urgent needs of Ukrainian refugees. One of these centers, the New Life Center in Warsaw, is working hard to help Ukrainian refugees integrate into Polish and European society by offering practical English courses. Already, 50-60 children and adults are involved each week. Evangelicals—less than half of one percent of the population—play a critical role, especially those Mission Eurasia has partnered with near the Ukrainian border. Please pray for our workers as they teach and share the gospel, and pray for the hearts of those receiving ministry. In 2023, you also supported our School Without Walls ministry to continue training 80 leaders who are preparing for important ministry and discipleship work now and into the future.



***“Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving.”
Colossians 4:2***

OLYA'S STORY



Olya and her husband lived in Melitopol, Ukraine, with their 5-year-old daughter. Their city was overtaken by the Russian military soon after the war began in Ukraine. They decided to stay because they needed to take care of their elderly parents, and they still had work and a nice home. They didn't see many options if they left.

But life became very difficult under occupation.

They started to be able to distinguish between different kinds of weapon fire by the sound. Stores ran out of supplies. They often had to stand in line, in the cold, for four to five hours just to buy bread or to get cash using a bank card. Water was not always available. They lost electricity. Tanks were often going down the road as their city was close to the frontlines. Russian soldiers walked around with machine guns.

At that point they decided it was too much for their young daughter and they needed to get her to safety. However, they learned that the corridor to Ukraine was dangerous and that people who tried to get out were shot. They traveled to Crimea, then to Georgia, and eventually to Poland, where they settled.

When Olya's family arrived in Warsaw, they became aware of Mission Eurasia's "I Care" Refugee Assistance Program. The center gives out packages of food and shares the love of Jesus. Olya's family loves the Lord and they wanted to share that love with others. "It doesn't matter how much money there is in your pocket or bank account if there is not food to buy," she said. "What matters most is your relationship with God."



October Prayer Requests

1

Please pray that the Polish government will continue supporting Ukraine in its war with Russia and will continue supporting relief organizations who are assisting refugees in the country.

2

Please pray that the evangelical church will grow in its boldness to share the gospel and will multiply in size and strength to be a great witness.

3

Please pray that the people of Poland will be open to gospel conversations and hunger for a true relationship with Jesus Christ.

4

Please pray that we will raise up a Next Generation of Christians through SWW who will reach both refugees and the Polish people for Christ.



Pray for Russia

General Population: **143,594,000** Evangelical Christians: **1.41%**

A NATION IN NEED OF JESUS

Russia is the world's largest country in terms of landmass, encompassing 11 time zones and home to more than 180 people groups—most of whom are unreached. It is also the heartland of the former Soviet Union and the original location of Mission Eurasia's ministry, which began in 1991.

Though the Soviet Union collapsed decades ago, the scourge of control and corruption remains in nearly every aspect of life. The Russian Orthodox Church—representing roughly 55 percent of the population—has come to function more as a cultural-political arm of the government rather than a spiritual institution. Thirty percent of population are non-religious, more faithfully representing the national spirit – plagued by excess and hopelessness – than any religion. Muslims represent ten percent, corresponding with the spread of Islam in Europe. Less than two percent are evangelical Christian.

Despite freedom of religion protections guaranteed in the Russian constitution, broad legal definitions of “extremist activity” allow for invasive and oppressive measures to be taken against religious communities through prohibitive registration requirements, requiring foreign-trained clergy and religious educators to undergo a centralized recertification process, and commonly carrying out raids, arrests, and prosecutions against religious. Since the start of the current war, many citizens expressing views against the war—as well as those avoiding conscription and mobilization into Ukraine—have been arrested and jailed.

Russia's war in Ukraine has created an unprecedented humanitarian crisis that has displaced more than 20 million Ukrainians internally and abroad. Russia has also systematically targeted Ukraine's houses of worship in missile attacks. Despite this challenging landscape, Mission Eurasia and our School Without Walls (SWW) program remain committed to sharing the gospel and training the Next Generation of ministry leaders. In 2023, you supported our SWW ministry training for 70 enrolled leaders, all 70 of whom graduated from the full two-year program!

“Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.” Matthew 5:11

LILIA'S STORY

"My name is Lilia and I am 18 years old. About a year ago, I came across School Without Walls (SWW). These are youth meetings that take place once a month, and they have helped me gain knowledge about the gospel, how to share it on the streets, with friends, at school, and at work. SWW cultivates young leaders, evangelists, and missionaries.

"During my year at SWW, I became closer to Jesus and my relationship with Him was strengthened. I was baptized this past fall. I've learned to forgive. I

notice more of God's many great blessings, and I've improved my relationships with my parents. Of course, it's all because of the Lord, but studying at SWW has inspired me.

"My team and I went out to the street to share the gospel many times, including the special times at Easter and Christmas. The first week of summer activity was spent in the village of Kurdzhinovo (Karachay-Cherkessia Republic, North Caucasus). We spent eight days there studying, sharing the gospel with the local people, working, praying for each other, and praising



our Lord. Each of us kept a prayer diary in which we recorded our experiences for each day. I noticed that EVERY day God changed us in some way and taught us something new.

"I am glad that School Without Walls continues its work this year and I hope that young people will want to serve Christ more through the motivation and encouragement that we receive in the process of studying."



November Prayer Requests

1

Please pray for Russia's end to its war in Ukraine.

2

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.

3

Please pray that Christians in Russia will stand up boldly for their faith amid persecution and government restrictions.

4

Pray that our SWW program, leaders, and ministry teams will train up new bold Next Generation witnesses for Christ.



Pray for Tajikistan

General Population: **10,094,000**

Evangelical Christians: **0.07%**

SPREADING THE GOSPEL DESPITE OPPOSITION

Tajikistan remains the poorest former Soviet country—plagued by corruption, persecution, and a dependence on Russia and remittances. Ongoing drug and terrorism problems with neighboring Afghanistan have produced ISIS-linked attacks and illicit drug traffic equal to nearly one third of the Tajik national GDP. The five-year Tajik civil war after the Soviet Union's collapse solidified Emomali Rahmon's position as the first president, where he has remained in power since. His son is being positioned as his successor.

The civil war also resulted in substantial emigration, which included Christians, who now make up less than half of one percent of the remaining population. Religious persecution and human rights violations remain pervasive, with Tajikistan designated as a "Country of Particular Concern" by the U.S. State Department and ranking 44th on the 2023 World Watch List of the top 50 worst countries in the world for persecution against Christians. As in other Central Asian nations, all organized religious activity is subject to governmental approval, applying even to Muslims, despite their making up more than 99% of the population. Protestant churches have been fined for producing Tajik translations of the Bible without government approval, and children's ministries are complicated by the illegality of minors practicing religion in public. Such laws have pushed the evangelical church—less than a tenth of one percent of the population—almost entirely underground.

Despite these challenges, our School Without Walls (SWW) program continues by working with underground churches in Tajikistan, sharing the gospel safely and discreetly through various ministries like sports camps, social events, and strategic teaching for spiritual growth and unity in the Tajik church. In 2023, you supported our SWW ministry training for 50 enrolled leaders, 16 of whom graduated from the full two-year program. Please pray for these believers as many face adversity even from their unbelieving relatives.

"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

MATLUBAS STORY

Matluba, 23, is one of the most active School Without Walls (SWW) students in Bokhtar, Tajikistan. She first heard about Jesus from her Christian aunt and uncle. What fascinated her most was the story of the virgin Mary conceiving and giving birth to Jesus. She spent a lot of time contemplating why God chose Mary. Soon after learning about Jesus and His miraculous birth,



she was invited to a church for a youth conference. She was 16 at the time and was captivated by songs about God, but even more intriguing to her was the way Christians treated one another. She witnessed genuine love, joy, and sincerity in their interactions—something she had never experienced anywhere else. It greatly impacted her.

During a prayer time at a SWW conference, her heart was overcome with sadness for her own sins, and she began to cry. Later, some members of the church approached her and shared more about what Jesus had done for her. She believed in Him, repented of her sins, and accepted Him into her heart. Her parents and brothers also became Christians!



Matlubais is now in her second year at SWW, and she dedicates herself to putting her knowledge and experience into practice: “I am particularly grateful to God that through sessions on Islam and the Quran, I can better understand how Muslim women think and understand, and that enables me to serve them more effectively.”

December Prayer Requests

- 1** Please pray for Tajikistan, where 99 percent of the population is Muslim and there are more than 9 million unreached people.
- 2** 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.
- 3** 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.
- 4** Please pray for our SWW ministry as it continues to train and equip new leaders for ministry in their communities.



Pray for Turkmenistan

General Population: **6,481,000** Evangelical Christians: **0.11%**

SHINING CHRIST'S LIGHT AMID SPIRITUAL POVERTY

Turkmenistan is one of our most difficult ministry fields, ranking 26th on the 2023 Open Doors World Watch List of the 50 worst countries for Christian persecution. The U.S. government classifies Turkmenistan as a “Country of Particular Concern,” and Human Rights Watch condemns it as one of the most repressive and isolated countries in the world. Our colleagues there regularly face harassment and threats of arrest and imprisonment.

After gaining independence from the Soviet Union, Turkmenistan has essentially remained an authoritarian cult of personality. The first president was “president for life” until his death in 2006, and the next president—a former official under the first president—suspiciously won his second and third elections with almost the entire vote. After ending his presidency in 2022, his son won the ensuing election. Despite possessing ten percent of the world’s natural gas reserves and tremendous oil resources, widespread corruption and Islam keep Turkmenistan’s people in both physical and spiritual poverty. These factors have caused massive emigration; however, the government has also actively prevented nationals from leaving.

Religiously, Turkmenistan is 94 percent Muslim, roughly four percent Christian—mostly Russian Orthodox—and roughly two percent non-religious. Approximately one tenth of one percent of the population are evangelical Christian. Religious registration is highly prohibitive, and all religious literature is censored. Therefore, most evangelical church activity takes place underground.

Despite these harsh conditions, you helped Mission Eurasia introduce the School Without Walls (SWW) program in Turkmenistan nearly a decade ago. Fast forward to 2023 and you are still continually supporting our SWW training: this year for 20 leaders, 17 of whom graduated from the full two-year program. Please pray for the safety and growth of these leaders and their families who are reaching their neighbors and relatives with the gospel and helping edify and grow the local church.

***“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

YUSUP'S STORY

"My name is Yusup. I am 29 and I live in Turkmenistan. When I was 16, I heard about Jesus for the first time from my friends and I started going to the underground church. I remember one day when we got together to read the Bible and worship God, police officers broke into the building, arrested us all, and took us to the police station. They beat me very badly and told me that if I continued going to the services, I would have huge problems—then they let me go. When I got home, my parents didn't allow

me to leave the house for a while after that. So, I stopped going to the underground church.

"The time went by. In 2017, I was invited to a birthday party and there I ran into my old friend who was a Christian. We used to go to the underground church together. He started telling me about the Lord, and my heart started beating faster. The fire to know about God was lit in my heart and my life again.

"After that encounter, I started going to underground Bible studies held in different

people's homes. That was when I was offered the opportunity to do a SWW course. Thanks to this course, my faith has been strengthened, and I started sharing about the Lord with others! Please pray for me, for my SWW studies, and for those with whom I am sharing the gospel so that they would come to know the Lord too. Pray the Lord would protect us and our underground SWW, as there are a lot of dangers and threats. We always take risks (by gathering), but we do it because we know that we need Christ to grow spiritually."



January Prayer Requests

1

Please pray for the people of Turkmenistan and that God would transform the hearts of Turkmenistan's leaders. Pray for an end to corruption and religious persecution in this nation.

2

Please pray that the church will flourish throughout Turkmenistan and that it will boldly share the gospel in a hurting country.

3

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.

4

Please pray that our SWW program continues to grow and see new leaders equipped and trained. Please pray that more and more young Christian leaders will spread throughout this spiritually dark nation and share the hope of Christ.



Pray for Ukraine

General Population: **36,472,000**

Evangelical Christians: **3.64%**

A GROWING GOSPEL IN THE MIDST OF WAR

Ukraine—the heart of the Slavic world and the heart of Mission Eurasia’s vision—is the birthplace of our School Without Walls (SWW) program, which remains our largest and most diverse ministry program. It is also the birthplace of Mission Eurasia’s president Sergey Rakhuba, and formerly the home to our field ministry headquarters. Sadly, the headquarters were destroyed by Russian forces in 2022.

Ukraine has a turbulent history with Russia, namely being exploited as the Soviet Union’s breadbasket and losing millions of lives to forced famine and World War II. Though independent since the fall of the Soviet Union, Ukraine has continued to deal with corruption and manifestations of Russian conquest. In February 2022, Russia launched an all-out invasion into Ukraine after nearly a decade of military occupation in and around Donetsk and Luhansk, as well as annexing Crimea in 2014. More than 21 million Ukrainians have been displaced and face serious food shortages. As of June 2023, almost 25,000 civilian casualties have been reported.

In spite of these hardships, our colleagues are serving on the front lines to meet people’s physical, mental, and spiritual needs. In addition to humanitarian aid that has included more than 350,000 iCare Food Packages, medical assistance, shelter, and trauma counseling, millions of Bibles and portions of Scripture have been distributed, and thousands of children and adults have come to Christ.

In 2023, you also continued supporting our thriving School Without Walls (SWW) ministry training for 100 enrolled leaders, who all graduated from the full two-year program. Please pray for the hearts of future students, as well as for staffing for eight new planned SWW training centers. Additionally, please pray that Ukraine persists as a religiously free nation amid pressure against the Moscow-affiliated Ukrainian Orthodox Church and promotion of the native Orthodox Church of Ukraine.



“I have set the Lord always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.” Psalm 16:8

NATALIA'S STORY

Natalia and her family visited Light of Life Church in Poltava to receive a food package. They had just moved to the city after evacuating from Rubizhne and were looking for some support. We had iCare food packages from Mission Eurasia and gladly gave them one, encouraged them, and prayed for them.

We explained that God loved them and was taking care of them through us.

We were so happy to see them in our church the following Sunday—and to see what God did in their

hearts after that. Natalia shares her story:

“I used to live in the city of Rubizhne,” Natalia said, “located in Luhansk Oblast, alongside my loving family—my husband and our two sons. However, our peaceful lives were shattered in 2014 when the war reached our doorstep. But with time, we got used to it. So, when we heard explosions on February 24, 2022, we thought it would pass and decided to wait. But our hope soon turned into despair. We escaped.



“Now, we find ourselves renting a modest apartment in the peaceful city of Poltava. Our beloved city remains occupied by the enemy, so we can't go back yet. Soon after we arrived in Poltava, we came across Light of Life Church. We really liked it and started attending it regularly. Our whole family came to the Lord there, and we constantly see how He takes wonderful love and care of us through His people. We are immensely grateful for your support. It's a huge blessing for us.”



February Prayer Requests

1

Please pray for the people of Ukraine who have endured two years of brutal war. Pray for the war to end, for lives to be spared, and for Ukraine to survive as a nation.

2

Please pray for the safety of Ukraine's leaders and military personnel and for each to have wisdom to persevere in the face of war.

3

Please pray for our church and ministry partners in Ukraine. Pray they will reach out to their hurting communities, serve in the name of Christ, and boldly share the gospel.

4

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



Pray for Uzbekistan

General Population: **35,105,000**

Evangelical Christians: **0.19%**

FAITHFUL HEARTS AMID SPIRITUAL DARKNESS

Unlike the nomadic roots of its Central Asian neighbors, Uzbekistan's roots are agrarian—as evidenced by its large population, old architecture, and immense agricultural diversity and output. Eventually conquered by Russia and later becoming a Soviet state, the land was exploited and left with water problems and struggling soil. However, Uzbekistan has maintained its status as a Central Asian powerhouse with an abundance of cotton, gold, produce, and energy set for export each year. By contrast, the country remains marked by corruption, authoritarianism, religious persecution, child labor, and human trafficking issues. It is a heartbreakingly dark place in need of spiritual renewal.

The Soviet Union also left a lasting mark on governance. Despite being independent and predominantly Muslim, Uzbekistan has remained under secular autocratic rule. The government actively controls and suppresses all religion by denying registration for religious communities, implementing restrictions and bans on religious literature, and jailing dissidents on a regular basis—enforced, unsurprisingly, under the usual vague definition of “religious extremism.” Life for converts from Islam to Christianity is especially difficult as they are often ostracized and persecuted by their Muslim families and communities, in addition to governmental oppression. Accordingly, Uzbekistan ranks 21st on the Open Doors World Watch List of the 50 worst countries in the world for persecuting Christians. Muslims make up more than 83 percent of the total population in Uzbekistan, while Christians comprise a maximum of 2 percent. Less than one tenth of Christians are evangelical.

Despite these challenges and needing to operate underground, our Mission Eurasia team and ministry partners continue to report promising progress as more people hear the Good News and seek Christian community and Bible training. In 2023, you supported our School Without Walls ministry training for 97 enrolled leaders, 94 of whom graduated from the full two-year program. Please pray for this movement of God to deepen and widen its reach.

“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

RUSTAMS STORY



"I'm Rustam, 27 years old, and from Uzbekistan. About three years ago, doctors found cancer in me, which led to deep depression. Many people in my village have died from cancer, so unsettling thoughts started troubling me.

"My dad suggested I go to the city where my aunt lived. I was trying to hide it, but it was clear that I was struggling with depression. The first evening, my

aunt began telling me about Jesus Christ, how He wasn't just human but was also the Lamb of God sacrificed for our sins. That evening, my aunt and I talked until around three in the morning, and she answered many of my questions. Gradually, I felt the inner turmoil going away, and I started to feel a deep growing sense of peace. That night, I accepted Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior.

"The next morning, I woke up to a hearty breakfast prepared by my aunt. She told me we needed to pray before taking tests, so we prayed. I had to wait a few days for the results. During this time, my aunt invited me to an evangelical church. The people beamed with joy. To my amazement, many people knew about me. Later, I found out that when my aunt learned

about my sickness, she asked everyone to pray for me. I was shocked when believers were asking about my health, encouraging me and telling me everything was going to be all right.

"Back in my village a pastor invited me to School Without Walls. There were a lot of young people there, and I really enjoyed the first class, which was the 'Overview of the New Testament.' I eagerly looked forward to each class, not only because I could learn something new, but because I had fellowship, I felt genuine attention, and always received answers to my questions. School Without Walls changed my perspective and I got a new outlook on life. I'm grateful that God found me and allowed me to know Him."

March Prayer Requests

- 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.
- 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.
- 3 Please pray for Christians who convert from Islam and are persecuted by their families and communities for their faith.
- 4 Please pray for our outreach efforts in Uzbekistan. Pray we will be able to grow our SWW program and raise up Next Generation leaders for ministry amid the spiritual darkness.







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OUR MISSION

To train, equip, and mobilize Christian leadership throughout Eurasia, who will be engaged 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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