

UNITED IN *Prayer*

14-MONTH PRAYER GUIDE FOR THE
NATIONS OF EURASIA, THIRD EDITION



MISSION
EURASIA



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

Dear Friend and Prayer Partner,

Thank you for your wonderful desire to pray for the countries of Eurasia and Israel! What a joy it is to share our praises, concerns, and requests with our loving Heavenly Father. We receive many prayer requests from our staff and the Next Generation Christian leaders we are training and equipping in Eurasia, who are faithfully serving God despite growing challenges. Thank you for joining with us in prayer for the needs of these countries and our fellow believers there.

The sad reality is that there is great darkness today in Eurasia and Israel. Millions of people suffer under the weight of sin and despair, and the conditions for evangelical believers are growing worse, particularly in Russia and Central Asia. The war in eastern Ukraine has displaced thousands of people, robbing them of homes, jobs, family members, and hope for the future. Moreover, in other countries of Eurasia, human trafficking, drug addiction, alcoholism, suicide, and HIV/AIDS rates are symptoms of spiritual sickness that can only be healed through the life-changing Good News of Jesus.

In the face of such suffering, our Savior is the only hope for lasting change. That is why Mission Eurasia is committed to training, equipping, and mobilizing national Christian leaders to build up local churches, create strong families, and boldly share the message of Jesus with their neighbors, coworkers, communities, and entire nations.

We created this 14-month prayer guide for you in order to raise awareness of the plight of Christians in Eurasia and

Israel, encourage regular prayer for our brothers and sisters in this part of the world, and mobilize the global church to support their efforts to transform their countries with the light of the gospel. We want to send the message that Christians under pressure in Eurasia are not alone: the global Body of Christ is praying for and supporting them!

In this prayer guide you will find background information and weekly prayer requests about the current challenges in each country where Mission Eurasia works, as well as how your support is making a difference in the lives of people who need Jesus. You'll read faith-building personal testimonies from men, women, and children whose lives have been transformed by your generosity to our ministry.

Please keep this prayer guide next to the spot where you have your daily devotions, or by the dinner table for family prayers, and commit to praying weekly or daily for our brothers and sisters in Eurasia and Israel. As we unite in prayer, we show our faith in God's power to protect His people and bring about true and lasting change in Eurasia.

Thank you for being a bold, faithful prayer warrior for Mission Eurasia and the countries where we serve!

Sergey Rakhuba
President

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And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplications for all the saints. Ephesians 6:17-18



MISSION
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PRAY FOR Armenia

Because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. Romans 10:9-10

BRINGING TRUTH TO TRADITION

While Armenia is a small country with just over three million citizens, it has experienced a great deal of turmoil. In 1915, the Ottoman Empire committed the Armenian Genocide, which resulted in the deaths of 1.5 million people. Armenia also controls Nagorno-Karabakh, a hotly contested region in Azerbaijan, where violence is still common. This ongoing conflict led Azerbaijan and Turkey to institute a trade blockade of Armenia, which severely limited its economic growth and led to high levels of poverty and unemployment.

As a result of Armenia's poor economic status, more than two million Armenians have emigrated to neighboring countries to find work, and the annual emigration rate is 4-5 percent, the highest in the world. Since Armenia is heavily dependent on Russia, both economically and politically, it joined the Russian-led Eurasian Economic Union alongside Belarus and Kazakhstan in 2015; however, it remains to be seen whether or not this membership will bring about economic growth for Armenia.

Although Armenia is the world's first officially Christian nation, the Armenian Apostolic Orthodox Church has become more of a cultural, rather than spiritual, institution. Most Armenians consider "Armenian" and "Christian" to be synonymous, but many of them have never even heard the gospel. That is why, with your support, we are preparing our School Without Walls (SWW) students to share the hope of Christ with their neighbors. In 2018 alone, you helped us train 30 SWW students in Armenia for ministry!



General population: **2,888,000**
Evangelical Christians: **8.66%**



JANUARY

PRAYER REQUESTS

WEEK ONE

Please pray for an end to the conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh, and that government leaders in Armenia and Azerbaijan would pursue peace and reconciliation.

WEEK TWO

Please pray that God would grow the evangelical church in Armenia so that even more Armenians would realize that their nationality doesn't make them real Christians, but rather, they must put their faith in Christ.

WEEK THREE

Please pray that God would use our SWW students to bring the hope of Christ to the people of Armenia, so many of whom are living in poverty.

WEEK FOUR

Please pray that our SWW program in Armenia would grow so that even more Next Generation Christian leaders can be equipped with the tools they need to transform their nation for Christ.

SAMVEL'S STORY

"Even though I'm only 26 years old, I have already been to prison for blowing up a car. While serving my sentence, I met with Aram, the pastor of a local church. We read the Bible together over the phone, and I listened to all of his sermons. Now, I attend Aram's church, where I recently got baptized! To say that my life has been transformed would be an understatement. I love my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and I want to serve Him with all my heart.

"When Aram asked me to join School Without Walls (SWW), I gladly accepted his invitation. I've made many new friends at SWW, and I also keep in touch with my friends from prison, because I want to be an example of God's love to them. My SWW classes have better shaped my knowledge of Christ and taught me how to share His love with others. I'm also learning how to effectively share the gospel with my non-Christian friends, and God has already helped me lead many of them to Christ!"



COURAGE IN THE FACE OF PERSECUTION

Nearly 75 percent of Azerbaijan's revenue comes from its oil and gas exports; therefore, falling oil prices have taken a toll on the nation's economy. Additionally, Azerbaijan's ongoing conflict with Armenia over the Nagorno-Karabakh region saps even more of its income.

Around 96 percent of Azerbaijan's population is Muslim, and less than one percent is evangelical Christian. Following a harsh religion law passed in 2009, all religious groups must register with the government, which is a very difficult process. In 2015, this law was expanded to require religious groups to file reports on all of their activities and finances. The government can also strip citizenship from anyone participating in "extremist" religious groups, and it has complete control of Scripture publication and distribution. Recent constitutional changes extended the powers of President Ilham Aliyev, which has led to even greater religious persecution. As a result, Azerbaijan was added to the Open Doors World Watch List, at number 45, for the first time in 2018. The World Watch List is a list of 50 countries where the persecution of Christians is most severe.

Despite harsh persecution, the evangelical church in Azerbaijan is still growing. Thanks to your help, School Without Walls (SWW) has also been steadily growing, and our students are fearlessly sharing the gospel with their neighbors. In fact, about 30 million ethnic Azeri people live in neighboring Iran, and while it is impossible for Western missionaries to reach them, the doors are open for SWW students to witness to their own people in this nation.



General population: **9,904,000**
Evangelical Christians: **0.21%**



FEBRUARY

PRAYER REQUESTS

WEEK ONE

Please pray for an end to the conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh and pray that government leaders in Azerbaijan and Armenia would pursue peace and reconciliation.

WEEK TWO

Please pray for strength and courage for our brothers and sisters in Azerbaijan, who are fearlessly living out their faith, even in the face of religious persecution.

WEEK THREE

Please pray for SWW students and graduates to be bold in their witness as they proclaim the gospel and serve as leaders in their churches and communities.

WEEK FOUR

Please pray for the evangelical church in Azerbaijan to continue growing so that believers can shine the light of Christ in this predominantly Muslim nation.

NAZIM'S STORY

"I have been a Christian for quite a long time; however, I used to wonder if it was even possible to share my faith in a way that people could understand. After attending a SWW event, I started thinking about how I could serve those in need and share in their suffering, so I decided to start small by finding one person that I could serve.



"Not long after, I got a job at a construction site, and every day I rode to the site with several of my coworkers. One day, I started talking with one of the other guys, and it was clear that he had read the gospel, but wasn't pursuing his faith like he once had. He had recently crashed his car, which left his wife in the hospital, where she had to receive very expensive treatment. He was also sent to prison, and since the conditions there are so bad, the prisoners are sent to work, but most of their earnings are given to the prison. At first, I felt uncomfortable, but then I remembered the SWW event, and I realized that God was giving me an opportunity to serve this man.

"One day, I invited him to work on a project with me so he could earn some more money. Now, he has already earned enough to cover two months of his prison fee and buy some new clothes. He is also coming to my home Bible study group! He hopes to build a new life for his family, and I am very thankful that, using what I learned at the SWW event, I was able to help him grow closer to God."

PRAY FOR Belarus

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

LASTING LEGACY OF FAITH

Belarus, the birthplace of the Deyneka family (Mission Eurasia's founders), is considered the last dictatorship in Europe due to political corruption and human rights violations. Economic dependence on Russia has also left Belarus struggling to find its own identity. In 2016, Belarus's GDP growth slowed and inflation continued to weaken the economy. There are also as many as 50,000 orphans in Belarus, many of whom were abandoned by their parents. Even those living in orphanages are facing horrific conditions, including starvation, due to a lack of funding.

Although most Belarusians identify as Christians, the majority of the population identifies with the Orthodox Church. Only about one percent of Belarusians are evangelical Christians. Following a strict religion law passed in 2002, all religious activity must be registered with the government and take place within approved church buildings, which means that home Bible study groups are illegal. Establishing new churches is almost impossible, because registration is rarely given to Protestant congregations. In recent years, authorities have even raided churches accused of operating illegally.

Thankfully, Mission Eurasia was officially registered with the government before the 2002 religion law took effect, so we were grandfathered in as a recognized religious entity. Foreign missionaries are not allowed in Belarus; therefore, our School Without Walls (SWW) program, which is made possible by your faithful support, is one of the most strategic and effective methods of preserving and growing the church. In 2018 alone, 73 young people participated in SWW in Belarus!



Belarus

General population: **9,414,000**
Evangelical Christians: **1.32%**



MARCH

PRAYER REQUESTS

WEEK ONE

Please pray that God would be at work in the hearts of leaders of Belarus, and that they would be moved to end persecution against evangelical Christians.

WEEK TWO

Please pray that the many orphans and other people experiencing difficulties would find new hope in Christ.

WEEK THREE

Please pray that our SWW students and graduates would find innovative ways to impact their neighbors for Christ, even in the midst of the limitations facing Christians in their nation.

WEEK FOUR

Please pray that God would provide opportunities for Belarusian Christians to plant new churches, despite government restrictions, and that existing churches would continue boldly sharing the gospel in their communities.

ALESYA'S STORY

"I am a SWW student in Pinsk, and I love serving those in need, especially the children and orphans with mental disabilities that live at a local boarding school. My church has been involved in this ministry for five years, and I started serving as a volunteer about three years ago, but now I oversee this ministry and coordinate our visits to the boarding school.



"Around 250 children live at the boarding school, and about 50 of them are orphans. Most of these children have mental disabilities, which can be challenging, but our team is very dedicated to serving them. We also maintain strong relationships with the teachers and administrators. We visit the school two Saturdays each month to lead Bible lessons, crafts, interactive games, and other activities. We also lead Bible camps in the summer and during the Christmas season. We spend as much time as possible with the children so we can form strong relationships with them. In the future, we also hope to start a mentoring program during our Bible camps.

"Along with these activities, we also collect goods that the children need. For example, during the Christmas season, our church collects Christmas presents for the children. We also recently hosted a Give a Book event, during which we collected about 80 books for the school's library. Additionally, we collect children's clothing and shoes on a regular basis. In the future, I would like to work with even more people who have new ministry ideas, because I believe that, as Christians, we are called to serve the poor and needy."

PRAY FOR Georgia

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

FERTILE GROUND FOR THE GOSPEL

Georgia is a land of great potential. Since 1991, democratic reform has laid the groundwork for a brighter future. However, inter-ethnic conflict is still very common among the nation's 39 people groups, and political tension with Russia over disputed land in Abkhazia and South Ossetia only adds to the unrest. In 2014, Russia signed a partnership agreement with Abkhazia, which only worsened its relationship with Georgia.

Also, during the past decade, more than a quarter million people in Georgia have been displaced by ongoing conflict, and many of them are now living in makeshift camps around the capital city of Tbilisi. Unfortunately, despite the government's recent attempts to help them, these people are still experiencing issues with the resettlement process, struggling to find work, and greatly in need of humanitarian assistance.

And yet, Georgia is still experiencing positive change, including greater openness to Christianity. Unlike many of its neighbors, Georgia is actually changing religion laws to provide more freedom for evangelical Christians and people of other non-Orthodox faiths. Christian groups of all expressions have experienced growth, and our School Without Walls (SWW) program is no exception. In 2018, you helped us train and equip 149 SWW students for effective ministry, and as their nation continues to pursue religious freedom, these young leaders are bringing the hope of Christ to their own communities.



Georgia

General population: **3,846,000**
Evangelical Christians: **1.39%**



APRIL

PRAYER REQUESTS

WEEK
ONE

Please pray for an end to Georgia's ongoing conflict with Russia over disputed land in Abkhazia and South Ossetia, and that this resolution would serve as an example for the nation's neighbors.

WEEK
TWO

Please pray that Christians in Georgia would continue faithfully caring for the great physical and spiritual needs of those who have been displaced and are struggling to survive without adequate food, water, heat, or medical care.

WEEK
THREE

Please pray that our SWW program in Georgia would continue growing so that even more young people can be prepared for future ministry.

WEEK
FOUR

Please pray that Georgian churches would actively share the gospel outside of their own walls so they can impact their communities in new and creative ways.

MARYAM'S STORY

Maryam's grandfather was a believer during the Soviet era. All eight of his children attended church with him, but after his death, they all stopped going. When she was little, Maryam's grandfather would pray and talk with her about Jesus, but after he died, she didn't have anyone to talk with about God. Years later, when she was 14, she went to one of our summer Bible camps, where two SWW students shared their faith. God touched Maryam's heart through these testimonies, and she accepted Christ!



Not long after, her mother started working abroad, so Maryam became responsible for taking care of her family's daily needs. Her father was very ill, but she could still feel God's presence, and she faithfully cared for her father for three years. During this difficult time, Maryam completely relied on Christ and she decided to commit her life to serving Him. She started attending SWW sessions and realized that what she was learning was preparing her to serve those in need around her, especially children and youth. Now Maryam works for SWW, and she is sharing all that God has given her with other young people!

PROCLAIMING THE GOSPEL IN THE HOLY LAND

Israel is the only nation in the world with a majority Jewish population, and it has faced perpetual conflict since its creation in 1948. Disputes with Palestinians and neighboring Arab nations have resulted in several small-scale conflicts and regional wars. Despite this political turmoil, Israel's economy is steadily growing, and in 2016 it was ranked the third most stable in the world.

About 75 percent of Israel's population is Jewish, ranging from ultra-Orthodox to secular. Muslims make up about 17 percent of the population, and this number is growing due to higher birth rates in Muslim communities. Messianic Jews and Christians make up less than two percent of the entire population, but this number is growing. Also, in the early 90s, about one million Russian-speaking Jews immigrated to Israel from the former Soviet Union. In order to reach this large population, we are leading a SWW program in partnership with *Living Israel*, a local messianic congregation. With your help, in 2018 we trained 60 young leaders through this program, and more than 100 have already graduated!

The need for Scripture in Israel is growing, as the number of Christians is increasing and new home churches are forming. And that is why our School Without Walls (SWW) students are bringing specially designed Scripture pieces, which you help to provide, to their neighbors, along with developing and expanding their many other ministry initiatives.



General population: **8,416,000**
Evangelical Christians: **0.32%**

Israel



MAY

PRAYER REQUESTS

WEEK
ONE

Please pray for peace between the Jewish and Arab people living in Israel and between Israel and its Arab neighbors.

WEEK
TWO

Please pray that the large Russian-speaking Jewish population in Israel would come to know Christ as their true Messiah.

WEEK
THREE

Please pray that God would continue growing our partnership with *Living Israel* so that even more unreached people in Israel can hear the Good News.

WEEK
FOUR

Please pray for our SWW students throughout Israel as they share the gospel with the most vulnerable people in their nation.

GLEB'S STORY

"Before we became believers in Israel, Nastya and I had very different life experiences," shares Gleb, a young man who accepted Christ at the *Living Israel* rehabilitation center. "I grew up and went to school in Russia, where I hung out with a bad crowd and started doing drugs when I was very young. On the other hand, Nastya had a stable family in Ukraine, where she studied hard, had a prestigious job, and was involved in sports.

"When I moved to Israel, I had already been a drug addict for 15 years, and I found out that I was HIV-positive. Two years later, Nastya also moved to Israel, where she started using drugs. Not long after, she lost everything: her friends, job, and even her parents. But, in the midst of this darkness, God revealed Himself to us through *Living Israel*. He saved and restored us, not only physically, but also spiritually!

"Nastya and I met in Haifa, where we got married. We also have a son, Timothy, who is completely healthy! But, most importantly, we are serving the living God. I am currently helping to lead SWW, where we train future leaders to serve the unreached in Israel."



PRAY FOR Kazakhstan

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

STRENGTHENING THE CHURCH FROM WITHIN

Under Soviet rule, Kazakhstan suffered a loss of identity, but now, the government is promoting traditional culture and the Kazakh language. A resurgence of Islam has also occurred, with more than half the population identifying as Muslim. A 2011 religion law limits church registration to groups of at least 50 people, forcing more than 500 churches to close. Christian pastors, particularly those from Baptist churches, are also suffering for their faith. As a result, Kazakhstan is currently ranked number 28 on the 2018 World Watch List.

But despite religious persecution, Christians of different ethnicities and denominations are working together to reach the lost and grow God's Kingdom. The government has also looked favorably on School Without Walls (SWW) students' outreach to people living with HIV/AIDS. With your help, these students are continuing to develop new ministry initiatives so they can share the gospel with even more unreached people, transforming Kazakhstan from within.



General population: **18,297,000**
Evangelical Christians: **0.53%**



JUNE

PRAYER REQUESTS

WEEK ONE

Please pray that the people of Kazakhstan would recognize that the relative peace and prosperity that they enjoy are gifts from God, and that this realization would lead them to put their faith in Christ.

WEEK TWO

Please pray for our brothers and sisters in Kazakhstan as they stand firm in their faith and proclaim the gospel, even in the midst of escalating religious persecution.

WEEK THREE

Please pray that God would be at work in the hearts of Kazakhstan's leaders, moving them to repeal harsh religion laws and end the religious persecution that Christians endure every day.

WEEK FOUR

Please pray for our SWW students and other Christian leaders in Kazakhstan as they boldly share the gospel with their Muslim neighbors, and that God would protect them as they faithfully serve Him.

SERGEY'S STORY

Sergey and his younger brother were born to alcoholic parents, and sadly, both of their parents died when they were young. During this painful time, Sergey and his brother went to a Christian youth camp, where they accepted Christ! "Now I am a School Without Walls (SWW) student, which is very helpful for me as a young believer," Sergey shared. "I'm growing spiritually, digging deeper into God's Word, and learning how to share the Good News with a dying world. I'm currently involved in social outreach and children's ministry. I am so grateful that Jesus saved me and that He continues to guide me every day."



PRAY FOR Kyrgyzstan

Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love. 1 Corinthians 16:13-14

SHARING THE GOSPEL OF PEACE

For many years, Kyrgyzstan bore the traces of its Soviet past. Widespread corruption led to the Tulip Revolution in 1995, and after the government failed to bring about reform, revolution broke out again in 2010. That same year, violence erupted between Kyrgyz and ethnic Uzbeks.

The majority of Kyrgyzstan's people practice Islam. In 1991, there were 39 mosques in the nation, but today, there are more than 2,300. While the church experienced significant growth after the fall of the Soviet Union, this has slowed in recent years. A strict religion law passed in 2009 requires all registered churches to have at least 200 members, and the government also heavily restricts missionary activity and Scripture distribution.

Our School Without Walls (SWW) students in Kyrgyzstan practiced peace-making and inter-ethnic reconciliation after the revolution and ethnic clashes in 2010, and now, as religious persecution is escalating, you are making it possible for these young leaders to continue shining the light of Christ into the darkness around them. In 2018, you prepared 103 SWW students for ministry and helped 89 more young leaders graduate from the program.



Kyrgyzstan

General population: **6,066,000**
Evangelical Christians: **0.7%**



JULY

PRAYER REQUESTS

WEEK
ONE

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

WEEK
TWO

Please pray for religious freedom reform that will allow evangelical Christians in Kyrgyzstan to worship and share the gospel with their Muslim neighbors.

WEEK
THREE

Please pray that the caring witness of SWW students would help the Kyrgyz government and people to see Christianity's positive impact on their society.

WEEK
FOUR

Please pray that the Kyrgyz church would embrace its identity in Christ so that the gospel can be shared with the nation's many different people groups.

AMIRKHAN'S STORY

"My parents were devout Muslims, but one day my father received a Bible from a local church. Through the power of God's Word, my parents accepted Christ, and then our entire family followed their example! I was born a few years later, and today I am studying at School Without Walls (SWW). This program has taught me a lot about myself, the church, society, and sharing the gospel. I always thought evangelism meant preaching a sermon, but during a SWW training forum, I learned that we can serve God simply by doing our jobs well and loving others. Now, I see every part of my life as an opportunity for ministry."





PRAY FOR Moldova

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

BRINGING RICHES IN CHRIST TO A LAND OF POVERTY

Moldova, one of the poorest nations in Europe, was the first former Soviet nation to elect a communist president, Vladimir Voronin, who was in power from 2001-2009. The nation then endured three years of turmoil until Nicolae Timofti was elected in 2012. Under Timofti, Moldova became more pro-Western, but its current leaders are once again strengthening ties with Russia. Also, due to the country's weak economy, nearly half of Moldova's workforce is working overseas, which has led to many social problems. Human trafficking is a growing threat for young people, many children are growing up without their parents, and brain drain is leaving the nation with few resources to overcome its social problems. Coupled with decreasing fertility rates, these issues are shrinking the nation's population.

Despite its economic and social troubles, Moldova remains a promising mission field, where evangelical churches are continuing to grow and multiply. The main opposition to evangelical work is the Orthodox Church, which has strong ties with local government and encourages stronger ties with Russia. Building and registering new churches can be complicated, but the government generally enforces and protects the freedom of religion.

Mission Eurasia is part of the growing evangelical momentum in Moldova, and in 2018 alone, you helped us train and equip 152 School Without Walls (SWW) students for ministry, and graduate another 28! In this nation of great material poverty, these young leaders are helping those in need find the riches in Christ offered only in the gospel.



General population: **3,966,000**
Evangelical Christians: **3.72%**



AUGUST

PRAYER REQUESTS

WEEK ONE

Please pray for wisdom for Moldova's leaders as they address the numerous social problems plaguing their nation, including human trafficking, poverty, and brain drain.

WEEK TWO

Please pray for a spiritual revival within the Orthodox Church that would allow for effective partnership with evangelical Christians.

WEEK THREE

Please pray for SWW students as they share the gospel with the unreached, particularly children who are growing up in poverty without their parents' care.

WEEK FOUR

Please pray for Moldova to remain open to the gospel and for the nation's leaders to preserve religious freedom laws that allow the church to grow.

DANU'S STORY

"As a child, I attended Sunday school every week, and in the summer of 2010, I accepted Christ at summer Bible camp. During one of the evening sessions, the speaker said, 'Even if you are from a Christian family, it doesn't make you a Christian. You need to repent and accept Christ on your own.' These words deeply convicted me, and I decided to publicly confess my sins and accept Christ that very night.

"I am currently part of a team that organizes Bible camps for about 120 children, including many orphans in our village. I also work with a church in a nearby village, where we perform various services for the community. I sometimes read poetry during our services, but my favorite thing is playing the guitar and piano in our worship band.

"I am also studying in SWW, and I have never before been part of such an effective educational program. I am learning a lot, especially about evangelism and how to help people realize and use their spiritual gifts. After I started attending SWW, my relationship with God deepened and my ministry became much more effective. In the future, I hope to become a pastor, and I am so grateful for how God is using SWW to help me grow."



PRAY FOR Mongolia

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

BRINGING GOD'S LOVE TO A DISTANT LAND

Present-day Mongolia represents only a portion of the former Mongol empire, and more ethnic Mongolians live in the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region in China than in Mongolia itself. While the nation's extensive mineral deposits have helped to increase its global presence, the economic growth it enjoyed in recent years is giving way to economic free fall as a result of poor government spending and plummeting coal and copper prices.

Lamaistic Buddhism and shamanism are Mongolia's traditional religions, and many young people consult shamans for advice. The nation also has a large non-religious population, but even though the Mongolian church is only one generation old, it has already grown exponentially. In 1990, there were less than 40 Protestant Christians in Mongolia, but today there are more than 40,000 meeting in 600 different churches! But even with this growth, 23 of Mongolia's 28 people groups are still considered unreached, which means the majority of the nation's people have never heard the gospel. Churches also experience challenges when trying to register, and those that obtain registration still have to re-register every 12 months, which presents even more difficulties.

As Mongolian Christians develop their own culturally appropriate styles of worship and evangelism, our School Without Walls (SWW) program helps to prepare young leaders for effective ministry. With your support, SWW students first started organizing summer Bible camps and planting churches in Mongolia in 2012, and now they are committed to leading their neighbors out of atheism and superstition to a hope-filled future in Christ.



Mongolia

General population: **3,104,000**
Evangelical Christians: **1.6%**



SEPTEMBER

PRAYER REQUESTS

WEEK ONE

Please pray for wisdom for Mongolia's leaders as they make decisions about how to improve government spending and strengthen their nation's economy.

WEEK TWO

Please pray that young people who are being led into demonic bondage by shamanism would find true freedom and hope in Christ.

WEEK THREE

Please pray for our SWW students and graduates as they continue expanding their ministry efforts throughout Mongolia, especially in unreached regions.

WEEK FOUR

Please pray that God would provide opportunities for Christians to bring the gospel to the most remote corners of Mongolia.

ARUYNBOLD'S STORY

"I want to go beyond the walls of my church to reach children who have never heard of Jesus." This is the vision of Aruynbold, one of our current School Without Walls (SWW) students from Mongolia. At just 16 years old, Aruynbold has already been captured by the vision of SWW to reach the unreached in his community, especially children in need of the Good News. He is still in high school, but he has been attending SWW conferences to prepare himself for future ministry after he graduates. "The emphasis on teamwork in SWW is crucial," shares Aruynbold. "With the Christian community and network that I have through SWW, I can go beyond the walls of the church to reach those in need of Jesus."



PRAY FOR Russia

Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord. He is like a tree planted by water, that sends out its roots by the stream, and does not fear when heat comes, for its leaves remain green, and is not anxious in the year of drought, for it does not cease to bear fruit. Jeremiah 17:7-8

STANDING FIRM IN THE FAITH

Russia is the world's largest country and home to 176 people groups, about half of which have never heard the gospel. Its wealth of oil and gas has boosted growth during the past two decades; however, sanctions placed on Russia following its annexation of Crimea in 2014 have weakened its economy. President Vladimir Putin is increasing state control over the nation's media outlets, and growing feelings of nationalism have led Russia to assert its interests in other former Soviet nations, namely Ukraine. The government also remains suspicious of Western organizations. In fact, all NGOs must register as "foreign agents," and a recent set of laws known as the "Yarovaya package" requires religious organizations to obtain government permits in order to operate.

The majority of Russians identify with the culturally and politically strong Orthodox Church; however, Islam is the nation's fastest-growing religion, primarily in the North Caucasus. There are also sizable Muslim populations in Moscow, St. Petersburg, and parts of Siberia. Russia's lingering legacy of atheistic communism attempts to fill spiritual emptiness with wealth, sex, and other material pursuits. As a result, Russia has the world's third-highest rate of new HIV infections, most of which are related to drug use. It also has high human trafficking and teen suicide rates, and recently created social media suicide games are claiming the lives of hundreds of young people.

In the midst of the darkness spreading throughout Russia, our School Without Walls (SWW) students remain committed to sharing the gospel in their own communities, even in the face of persecution. In fact, in 2018 alone, your faithful partnership helped us train and equip 262 young leaders for ministry, and graduated 110 more!



Russia

General population: **142,654,000**
Evangelical Christians: **1.21%**



OCTOBER

PRAYER REQUESTS

WEEK ONE

Please pray that the young people who are growing up in the materialism and despair sweeping across Russia would find the hope and peace offered only in Christ.

WEEK TWO

Please pray that God would be at work in the hearts of Russia's leaders, particularly President Putin, as they address the economic, political, and social challenges facing their nation.

WEEK THREE

Please pray for our SWW students and graduates as they continue expanding their ministry efforts and fearlessly sharing the gospel, even in the midst of escalating persecution.

WEEK FOUR

Please pray for courage and strength for our brothers and sisters in Russia, who are continuing to spread the Good News so that God's Kingdom may grow in their troubled nation.

YEVGHENY'S STORY

When he was younger, Yevgheny was a successful student who showed a lot of promise. After graduating from university, he worked as a physical education teacher. Yevgheny never thought about God, because everything was going so well. However, as he partied with his friends, he started drinking more and more, and he didn't even notice that he was slowly becoming an alcoholic. And when alcohol no longer satisfied him, he started using drugs, which eventually led to addiction.



"My life had become meaningless, and I tried to find a way out, but I just couldn't," Yevgheny shared. "Then I met a group of former drug addicts who had turned their lives around. I asked them how they were freed from addiction, and they told me about God and invited me to a rehabilitation center. I lived at this center for a year, and I accepted Christ in 2016. Now I'm part of a church, lead a home Bible study group, and teach physical education at a high school.

"SWW is an opportunity for me to grow spiritually and learn about God alongside my brothers and sisters. The first SWW seminar I attended met all of my expectations and strengthened my desire to continue learning about God and sharing the gospel with others. I hope and believe that God will use me to save the people I interact with at home, work, and even on the street. My goal is to continue serving in my home Bible study group while actively evangelizing so I can be a witness for Christ wherever I go."

PRAY FOR Tajikistan

FAITH UNDER FIRE

The collapse of the Soviet Union plunged Tajikistan into civil war. Today, it is the poorest of the former Soviet nations, and its economy is very unstable. Tajikistan is ranked number 22 on the World Watch List, and nearly 96 percent of the population is Muslim. Because it is very mountainous, Tajikistan's rural populations are isolated from evangelistic efforts, so more than 60 percent of the nation's people are still considered unreached. A harsh religion law passed in 2009 rendered all evangelism conducted without government approval illegal, driving the evangelical church almost entirely underground. More restrictive legislation passed in 2015 has only made things more difficult for Christians.

Despite the growing threat of religious persecution, our School Without Walls (SWW) students remain committed to partnering with Tajikistan's underground churches to reach young people with the hope of Christ. Sports camps and other social outreach events allow them to safely and discreetly share the gospel. There is a great need for spiritual growth and unity in the Tajik church, and with your help, we are encouraging and helping church leaders to pursue these goals.



Tajikistan

General population: **9,062,000**
Evangelical Christians: **0.09%**

Yours, O Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, for all that is in the heavens and in the earth is yours. Yours is the kingdom, O Lord, and you are exalted as head above all. 1 Chronicles 29:11



NOVEMBER

PRAYER REQUESTS

WEEK ONE

Please pray that God would touch the hearts of Tajikistan's leaders, prompting them to repeal restrictive laws against Christians.

WEEK TWO

Please pray that God would protect Christians who are faithfully proclaiming the gospel in the midst of harsh religious persecution.

WEEK THREE

Please pray for a spiritual awakening among Tajik churches that would motivate them to serve more actively and share Christ's love in their communities.

WEEK FOUR

Please pray for our SWW students and church partners as they continue developing culturally appropriate strategies for sharing the gospel with their Muslim neighbors, particularly young people.

DMITRY'S STORY

"I joined School Without Walls (SWW) because I wanted to learn more about God, and now my faith is much stronger. The training is very different from Sunday school or youth group, and I really enjoy talking with my peers about what God is doing in our lives. SWW also helped me fall in love with God's Word, and I can already see how reading Scripture has changed my behavior. At school, I talk with my friends about Jesus, invite them to church, and I even gave one of my friends a Bible. I'm also teaching drum lessons to other young people at my church. In the future, I hope to study youth ministry and music."



PRAY FOR Turkmenistan

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

SHINING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST IN THE DARKNESS

Turkmenistan has a population of about 5.7 million people, but its economy is struggling due to corruption. Christians endure some of the worst persecution in the world in Turkmenistan, which is ranked number 19 on the 2018 World Watch List. The government censors all religious literature, religious groups must have at least five but fewer than 50 members in order to register, and religious organizations must have at least 50 members. Nearly 95 percent of the population is Muslim, and almost all Christian activity in Turkmenistan takes place underground.

In the midst of extreme religious persecution, you helped us introduce the SWW program in Turkmenistan in 2014. In 2018, 30 School Without Walls (SWW) students studied in three different groups. At least once a month, they all meet to study together, and they have already led some of their friends to Christ! This year, 12 SWW students graduated from the program, and now they are bringing the gospel to their own communities.



Turkmenistan

General population: **5,797,000**
Evangelical Christians: **0.1%**



DECEMBER

PRAYER REQUESTS

WEEK ONE

Please pray that God would be at work in the hearts of Turkmenistan's leaders, moving them to put an end to corruption and religious persecution.

WEEK TWO

Please pray for safety and courage for Christians, particularly church leaders, in Turkmenistan who face harsh religious persecution every day.

WEEK THREE

Please pray that SWW would continue growing in Turkmenistan so that even more young leaders can be prepared for effective ministry in their hurting nation.

WEEK FOUR

Please pray that God would grow the church throughout Turkmenistan so that He may be glorified, even in the midst of persecution.

KAMIL'S STORY

Kamil is a judo champion in Turkmenistan. His mother and he accepted Christ in 2013 after talking with School Without Walls (SWW) students. After becoming a believer, Kamil wanted to learn more about serving God, so he started studying at SWW and got involved in ministry. Now he actively shares the gospel with other young people, and he even helped a friend accept Christ during a SWW event! "I understand that now is the best time to tell my peers about Jesus so they won't suffer in hell," Kamil shared. "I used to treat people poorly, but now I see that I don't need to prove my physical strength, because my character is much more important."



PRAY FOR Ukraine

The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold and my refuge, my savior; you save me from violence. 2 Samuel 22:2-3

MINISTRY HUB FOR EURASIA

Ukraine was once the breadbasket of the Soviet Union, but after 1991, it struggled due to corruption. In 2004, the peaceful "Orange Revolution" forced new elections; however, a failure to enact change led to the protests on Maidan in late 2013 and early 2014. Sadly, fighting between Ukrainian soldiers and pro-Russian separatists rages on in eastern Ukraine, and more than three million people are in desperate need of humanitarian assistance. Corruption under former President Viktor Yanukovich also severely weakened the nation's economy, and the ongoing violence in eastern Ukraine, coupled with the global financial situation, continues to limit economic growth.

Despite these challenges, Ukraine is still one of the most religiously free nations in Eurasia, although non-Orthodox pastors in eastern Ukraine are suffering persecution at the hands of pro-Russian separatists. While the Orthodox Church is the most prominent religious institution, the evangelical church is seeing steady growth, and Ukrainian churches have sent hundreds of missionaries to Russia and Central Asia. While Western missionaries are under scrutiny in these regions, Ukrainian missionaries are still able to share the gospel.

Ukraine is the birthplace of School Without Walls (SWW), which, thanks to your partnership, remains our largest, most diverse ministry program. You are also helping our many other initiatives, including Scripture publishing and youth outreach, to thrive. It is vital that we take advantage of religious freedom in Ukraine by training and equipping as many Next Generation Christian leaders as possible. These young leaders can then bring peace, healing, and reconciliation to their nation, as well as reach out to the rest of Eurasia.



General population: **43,943,000**
Evangelical Christians: **2.74%**

Ukraine



JANUARY

PRAYER REQUESTS

WEEK ONE

Please pray for peace between Russia and Ukraine and an end to the ongoing conflict so that this hurting nation can start to rebuild.

WEEK TWO

Please pray for Russian and Ukrainian churches, which have been divided by the ongoing conflict in eastern Ukraine, to pursue reconciliation together so they can care for those in need and serve as examples for their nations' leaders.

WEEK THREE

Please pray that our SWW students and graduates would continue actively sharing the hope of Christ with those in need so that God's Kingdom may grow, even in the midst of turmoil.

WEEK FOUR

Please pray for unity within the Ukrainian church so that Christians can bring peace and reconciliation to as many of their hurting neighbors as possible.

ANDREI'S STORY

"I am currently in my 30s and leading a healthy lifestyle, but when I was younger I suffered from drug addiction. In high school, I had a bright future ahead of me, but I gave in to peer pressure and started using drugs, which led to addiction. What happened over the next 12 years nearly destroyed me. My health severely declined, I stopped talking with my family, and I was deep in debt. I felt like I had dug myself into an inescapable hole, but my heart still clung to the hope that I could be free. God saw my need, and one day I ran into an old friend who was a former drug addict. He told me that only God could help me, and it was just what I needed to hear.

"I decided to change my life, so I checked into the Your New Life Rehabilitation Center in Kremenchug, which was founded by SWW graduates. It was there that I repented and accepted Christ as my Savior. Then, a miracle happened! I was freed from my 12-year addiction, and I felt like a completely new man! God also healed my relationships with my family, and now we talk regularly, which is so encouraging.

"After being healed, I decided to thank God by using my life to serve Him. The SWW graduates who worked at the rehabilitation center told me about the SWW program at Next Generation Church, and I decided to join. During my training, I also served as a Bible study leader. Now, I can say with confidence that God has done a great miracle in my life. I am so thankful for the wonderful opportunity to be a part of the Next Generation of Christian leaders so I can transform my community and nation for Christ."



PRAY FOR Uzbekistan

Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread of them, for it is the Lord your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you. Deuteronomy 31:6

PERSEVERING UNDER PERSECUTION

Uzbekistan has enjoyed steady economic growth since 1989; however, Islamic extremism is on the rise and human rights are largely unprotected. Also, former President Islam Karimov forbade all political opposition, strictly controlled the nation's media outlets, and was accused of using torture to maintain his control. His actions even caused political and human rights activists to flee the nation. Uzbekistan also came under scrutiny for its use of child labor in cotton harvesting, but the government has made great progress in addressing this issue. On the other hand, Uzbekistan is still a highway for human trafficking into Asia, Eurasia, and the Middle East, but very little has been done to address this problem.

Uzbekistan is currently ranked number 16 on the World Watch List, and Tashkent, the nation's capital, is also considered the capital of Islamic culture in Asia. All activity conducted by government-labeled "extremist" groups is forbidden, and all unregistered Christian groups face punishment for conducting ministry. Many evangelical churches don't even try to register, because the process is so difficult. Several raids and imprisonments have taken place during the past decade, and conditions are becoming increasingly difficult for Christians. Things are particularly difficult for Christians who convert from Islam, as they experience harsh persecution from their own families in addition to the government.

Even in the midst of severe persecution, the number of evangelical Christians in Uzbekistan is still growing, and they have the potential to reach their neighbors with the gospel. We are forced to work underground in Uzbekistan, but your faithful support and our cultural flexibility allow our School Without Walls (SWW) students to continue sharing the gospel with the unreached in effective and relevant ways.



Uzbekistan

General population: 32,302,000
Evangelical Christians: 0.22%



FEBRUARY

PRAYER REQUESTS

WEEK ONE

Please pray that God would be at work in the hearts of Uzbekistan's leaders, motivating them to address religious persecution, human trafficking, and other social issues.

WEEK TWO

Please pray for strength and courage for Christians who are faithfully sharing the hope and peace of the gospel with their neighbors despite severe persecution.

WEEK THREE

Please pray that God would provide new ministry opportunities for our SWW students and graduates, who are fearlessly shining the light of Christ in their communities.

WEEK FOUR

Please pray that the underground church in Uzbekistan would continue to grow so Christians can transform their nation from within.

GULYA'S STORY

Four years ago, Gulya was happily married with two children, but after she accepted Christ as her Savior, her husband started staying out all night and speaking harshly to her and the children. Eventually, he divorced Gulya, and she later found out that he had a mistress that he had been involved with for several years.



After her husband left, Gulya was left to raise her two sons on her own, and she was very depressed. She even thought about suicide, but her love for her sons kept her going. After a group of our SWW students met Gulya, they started visiting her every day to offer their support. They also brought her food and clothing for her sons, and eventually, their church also got involved in serving Gulya's family. Because Gulya's oldest son, Hazrat, was in shock after his father left, the SWW students also befriended him and taught him about biblical values. After a while, Hazrat was able to return to school, and he even forgave his father. He is currently studying English and hopes to serve in ministry to orphans in the future.

Today, Gulya has come back to life, and she praises God for bringing the SWW students into her life right when she needed them. She is committed to growing in her faith and sharing the hope of Christ with others.



OUR MISSION

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