Repentance means turning from everything I know to be sin today and anything God may show me to be sinful in the future. In other words, repentance is a thorough and complete change of mind about the sin in my life. It also involves full surrender to Jesus Christ as the Lord of my decisions, thoughts, behaviors, and priorities. Repentance requires that I make a clean break with sin; that I rid my life of sinful influence and instead pursue absolute, uncompromised purity in the power of the Holy Spirit. Begin by confessing the sins He has already revealed to you.

If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land. 2 Chronicles 7:14

Monthly Theme: Repentance

Great Commission Association
Connecting Churches for a Greater Harvest
Multiple sources say that the Bay Area, especially Fremont, hosts the largest Afghan population in the US. There is a cultural and commercial district called Little Kabul in Fremont, which serves as a hub for Afghans.

The most common form of greeting among Afghan women is hugging and kissing 3 times; men are more likely to put their hand over their chest and/or shake hands. Physical contact with a person of the opposite gender is avoided, except with close family.

Hospitality is important to the culture, and visitors are treated with much respect. Meals are often served while sitting on the floor. Zabihah.com lists local halal eating establishments and the kind of ethnic food served at each, making it easy to find restaurants owned and managed by people from Afghanistan.
Learn about Your Hindi-speaking Hindu Neighbors

Hindi refers to a language and Hindu refers to a religion. Around 80% of India identifies as Hindu, and Hinduism is the third largest religion in the world. It includes a wide range of beliefs, ideas, practices, philosophies, and traditions, and signifies a way of life. Hinduism does not teach belief in one god, nor in one prophet. For most Hindus, there is a unifying belief in Dharma, which includes certain duties, laws, conduct, and virtues that become essentially a right way of living.

There are 42,000 Hindu speakers in Santa Clara County that are five years and older. Many are short term workers and students who will return to India in a few years. Those who stay have ongoing relationships with family and friends in their home country. Most are able to speak English, so English speakers of many backgrounds can reach out to them.

Focus: GCA Leadership
UPG: Hindi-speaking Hindus

“...whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” Mark 10:43-45
Learn about Your Punjabi-speaking Sikh Neighbors

About 148,000 Punjabi speakers live in California. Almost 30,000 of those reside in the Bay Area. Most have roots in the Punjab region of northern India and Pakistan, where Sikhism is practiced by the majority.

There are five Sikh religious symbols: Kesh (uncut hair), Kara (a steel bracelet), Kanga (a wooden comb), Kaccha (cotton underwear) and Kirpan (steel sword). Sikhs (especially men) who wear turbans as part of their religious heritage are sometimes mistaken for Muslims or Arabs, but they are neither. Sikhism is a completely different world religion and is not related to Islam at all. Most people you see wearing turbans in California are Sikh. They assemble and worship in gurdwaras, which means “door to the guru.” There are many gurdwaras in Bay Area cities.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Read thru the Bible</th>
<th>Focus Prayer Points</th>
<th>Pray for the Sikhs</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan 15: Gen 43-45</td>
<td>Pray for the President</td>
<td>Pray God would put believers in the paths of Sikhs, and that gospel conversations would begin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 16 Gen 46-47</td>
<td>Pray for the Vice President and Cabinet</td>
<td>Pray that God would allow you to meet a Sikh and for you to have the boldness to share the gospel with them.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 17: Gen 48-50</td>
<td>Pray for the Supreme and Federal Judges</td>
<td>Pray that Sikhs would understand that they cannot earn God’s grace; they need the forgiveness purchased through Jesus.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 18: Ex 1-3</td>
<td>Pray for Congress: Senate and House of Representatives</td>
<td>Pray that Sikh-background-believers would have a burden to reach their family and friends with the gospel.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 19: Ex 4-6</td>
<td>Pray for the Governor of California</td>
<td>Pray that Sikh-background-believers would remain firm in their faith despite all persecution and suffering.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 20: Ex 7-9</td>
<td>Pray for our county officials</td>
<td>Pray that Sikh-background-believers would maintain a good testimony before their family and friends.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 21: Ex 10-12</td>
<td>Pray for our city officials</td>
<td>Pray that illiteracy among Sikhs, especially among women, would not hinder the expansion of the gospel.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

...there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. Romans 13:1b
Learn about Your Uyghur Muslim Neighbors

Uyghurs are a Turkic Muslim people from Central Asia. Most reside in Xinjiang, a large autonomous province in the northwestern region of China. Around 100 years ago, many of the peoples who resided in the desert region’s oases chose the name. The name ‘Uyghur’ is traditionally thought to mean unity or alliance to signify that they were one people. There are over 11 million Uyghur speakers in the Xinjiang area of China, though some sources say they number more than 20 million.

Nobody knows exactly how many Uyghur live in the United States, but most estimates are around 5,000. There are indications that this number continues to grow. The largest US concentration is in Washington DC, with other area concentrations in New York, Los Angeles, Houston, and the San Francisco Bay Area.
Learn about Your Nepalese Neighbors

People from Nepal are a fairly recent immigrant group to the United States, most having emigrated after 2000. Many came as political refugees, fleeing because of the political and economic difficulties caused Nepal’s long Civil War. Others fled after an earthquake (magnitude of 8.1) shook the city of Kathmandu, killing almost 9,000 and leaving 3.5 million people homeless. An estimated 70,000 Nepalese speakers in the US are actually Nepali-speaking Bhutanese who fled Bhutan and were resettled in North America after 17 years in refugee camps in eastern Nepal. Additionally, tens of thousands of students leave Nepal each year for colleges and universities in the United States and the rest of the world.