“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” Acts 1:8

Great Commission Prayer Initiative
August

Monthly Theme:

Unreached People Groups (UPG’s)

"Unless there is an element of risk in our exploits for God, there is no need for faith." - Hudson Taylor

Weekly Themes:

Week 31 – UPG’s
Week 32 – Missionaries
Week 33 – Unbelievers
Week 34 – New Believers
Week 35 – Discipleship

Great Commission Association
Connecting Churches for a Greater Harvest
Learn about Your Afghan Neighbors

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.

Great Commission Prayer Initiative

Focus: UPG’s

UPG: Afghani Muslims

After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. Revelation 7:9

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Read thru the Bible</th>
<th>Focus Prayer Points</th>
<th>Pray for Afghans</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aug 1: Is 18-22</td>
<td>Pray for dreams and visions of Christ in Muslim communities</td>
<td>Pray for the Afghan believers to grow in maturity in their walk with the Lord and share the gospel with others</td>
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<td>Aug 2: Is 23-27</td>
<td>Ask that the closed policy of China will only lead to the expansion of the church.</td>
<td>Pray for the over 60,000 Afghans in the Bay Area, that God would soften their hearts to the gospel of Jesus</td>
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<td>Aug 3: Is 28-30</td>
<td>Pray that those from India who are working in the U.S. will come to receive Jesus.</td>
<td>Pray for peace through Jesus to come to Afghanistan after 40 years of war in the country</td>
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<td>Aug 4: Is 31-35</td>
<td>Pray that Campus ministries will reach students from UPGs studying abroad.</td>
<td>Pray for the over 2.5 million Afghan refugees in the world! Pray that God will mobilize his church around the world to reach out to their Afghan neighbors</td>
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<td>Aug 5: Is 36-41</td>
<td>Pray that there will be more workers being sent to UPG communities.</td>
<td>Pray for unity in Christ for the worldwide Afghan church that they might reach their own people together. Pray for a pure gospel message to be proclaimed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 6: Is 42-44</td>
<td>Pray that there will be more missionaries sent to the difficult Tribal work.</td>
<td>Pray for the many remote ministries that are designed to reach Afghans via the internet, television, and radio.</td>
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<td>Aug 7: Is 45-48</td>
<td>Pray for Revival to occur in post Christian European countries.</td>
<td>Pray for the many Afghan &quot;secret believers&quot; who are isolated from other believers, that they might find fellowship and not fear.</td>
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</tbody>
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Learn about Your Afghan Neighbors

After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. Revelation 7:9
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.
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.
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.