



Great Commission Prayer Initiative

April 2021

Vol. 1 - Iss. 4

Monthly Theme: Resurrection

Pray for a passion to reach the lost and equip disciple makers. Pray that church members would not be only passive recipients of sermons and Bible studies, but be passionately sharing their faith with others and make disciples.

Weekly Themes:

Week 14 – Resurrection

Week 15 – Church Planters

Week 16 – Church
Replanters

Week 17 – GCA South Region
(Chris & Cathie Smith)

“No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father.” John 10:18



Great Commission Association
Connecting Churches for a Greater Harvest



Great Commission Prayer Initiative

Week 14: April 4-10, 2021

Focus: Resurrection UPG: Uyghur Muslims

But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay." Matt. 28:5-6

| ✓ | <u>Read thru the Bible</u> | <u>Focus Prayer Points</u> | <u>Pray for Uyghur Muslims</u> |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|--|
| Sun. <input type="checkbox"/> | Apr 4: 1Sam 21-24 | Pray to have a passion for the lost. Pray that believers will be brought into their lives, and they would show love, patience, and grace. | Pray for Christian leaders to arise from among the Uyghurs. |
| Mon. <input type="checkbox"/> | Apr 5: 1Sam 25-27 | Ask God for a passion for the hurting. Pray for the many families affected by Covid-19, racial injustice, and victims of the mass shootings. | Pray for the Chinese Church to hear and obey God's call to reach the Uyghurs. |
| Tue. <input type="checkbox"/> | Apr 6: 1Sam 28-31 | Pray for a passion for the rich. Pray that their hearts would be prepared to receive the Word. | Pray for open doors for Christ followers to be granted access to the Xinjiang region. |
| Wed. <input type="checkbox"/> | Apr 7: 2Sam 1-3 | Pray for a passion to reach the poor. Pray for children affected by malnutrition. Pray for the many families who cannot find work. | Pray for Uyghurs being detained and persecuted to meet Jesus in their isolation and suffering. |
| Thu. <input type="checkbox"/> | Apr 8: 2Sam 4-7 | Pray for a passion to make disciples. Pray for the discipleship micro groups of 3-4 people to multiply and equip disciple makers. | Pray for those in detention camps. |
| Fri. <input type="checkbox"/> | Apr 9: 2Sam 8-12 | Ask God for a passion for cross-cultural missions. Pray that God would burden your heart for an unreached people group. | Pray that Uyghur Muslims encounter Jesus when they cry out to Allah in distress. |
| Sat. <input type="checkbox"/> | Apr 10: 2Sam 13-15 | Pray for a passion to abide in Christ. Pray that you would delight in God's Word and pray without ceasing. | Pray for the detention camps to close and oppression against Uyghurs to end. |



Learn about Your Uyghur Muslim Neighbors

The core beliefs and practices of Islam are called its "**Five Pillars**:"

1. **Profession of Faith** (*shahada*). "There is no god but Allah, and Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah"
2. **Prayer** (*salat*). Muslims pray facing the city of Mecca five times a day: at dawn, noon, mid-afternoon, sunset, and after dark.
3. **Alms** (*zakat*). Islamic law requires that Muslims donate a fixed portion of their income to community members in need.
4. **Fasting** (*sawm*). During the daylight hours of Ramadan, the ninth month of the Islamic calendar, all healthy adult Muslims are required to abstain from food and drink.
5. **Pilgrimage** (*hajj*). Every Muslim whose health and finances permit it must make at least one visit to Mecca, their holy city, in present-day Saudi Arabia.



Great Commission Prayer Initiative

Week 15: April 11-17, 2021

Focus: Church Planters

UPG: Nepalese

Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage -- with great patience and careful instruction. ...keep your head in all situations, enduring hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry. 2 Timothy 4:2, 5

| ✓ | <u>Read thru the Bible</u> | <u>Focus Prayer Points</u> | <u>Pray for the Nepalese</u> |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|---|
| Sun. <input type="checkbox"/> | Apr 11: 2Sam 16-18 | Pray for church planters to have a strong marriage and family. Pray that the children of church planters would love God with all of their heart, mind, and soul. | Pray for wisdom for Nepal's leaders |
| Mon. <input type="checkbox"/> | Apr 12: 2Sam 19-21 | Pray for church planters to have opportunities to meet people and build relationships. | Pray for grace and peace for the people of Nepal. |
| Tue. <input type="checkbox"/> | Apr 13: 2Sam 22-24 | Ask God to give church planters wisdom as they develop a core team. | Pray for discernment and wisdom for believers as they live out their faith in Jesus. |
| Wed. <input type="checkbox"/> | Apr 14: 1King 1-2 | Pray for church planters to creatively reaching the lost. | Pray for conversion of the high-caste Hill Brahmin and Chhetri (Rajput). They represent 30.9% of Nepal's population and play a dominant role in shaping it. |
| Thu. <input type="checkbox"/> | Apr 15: 1King 3-5 | Pray that church planters would be Kingdom minded and partner with like-minded churches and networks. | Pray against the sex-trafficking of Nepali girls and for the Christian ministries attempting to rescue these children. |
| Fri. <input type="checkbox"/> | Apr 16: 1King 6-7 | Pray that church planters would have wisdom on how to strategically reach communities for Christ. | Pray for the effective transfer of Christian (Nepalese) leadership between the generations |
| Sat. <input type="checkbox"/> | Apr 17: 1King 8-9 | Pray that church planters would persevere when they feel discouraged. | Pray that Nepalese Christian leaders learn to function as tentmakers, and that congregations would learn to support their pastors as much as they are able. |



Learn about Your Nepalese Neighbors

Many Nepalese immigrate to the United States in search of educational and employment opportunities. Because of Nepal's inadequate educational system, wealthy Nepalese send their children to the West for schooling. Many Nepalese students apply for work permits and eventually become citizens of the United States. However, acclimation to life in the U.S. is often a difficult process.

Many Nepalese customs and beliefs are heavily influenced by Buddhist or Hindu values. Many Nepalese American women continue to wear the Tika, a red sandalwood dot pasted on the forehead, as an indication of marriage. The word "Namaste" is a common expression. It is used for greetings such as "hello," "good morning," and "good night."



Great Commission Prayer Initiative

Week 16: April 18-24, 2021

Focus: Church Replanters

UPG: Afghani Muslims

And I tell you that you are Peter, (rock), and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. Matthew 16:18

| ✓ | <u>Read thru the Bible</u> | <u>Focus Prayer Points</u> | <u>Pray for Afghans</u> |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|--|
| Sun. <input type="checkbox"/> | Apr 18: 1King 10-11 | Pray for church replanters and the existing congregation as changes are made. | Pray for the Afghan believers to grow in maturity in their walk with the Lord and share the gospel with others |
| Mon. <input type="checkbox"/> | Apr 19: 1King 12-14 | Pray for church replanters and the church body to have a willingness to change and reach the lost. | Pray for the over 60,000 Afghans in the Bay Area, that God would soften their hearts to the gospel of Jesus |
| Tue. <input type="checkbox"/> | Apr 20: 1King 15-17 | Pray for the church replanters to have patient endurance when things are difficult. | Pray for peace through Jesus to come to Afghanistan after 40 years of war in the country |
| Wed. <input type="checkbox"/> | Apr 21: 1King 18-20 | Pray that church replanters will have a strong marriage and family. | 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 |
| Thu. <input type="checkbox"/> | Apr 22: 1King 21-22 | Ask God for church replanters to have wisdom on what to do with church buildings. Pray for wisdom as churches open up their facilities to the community. | 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 |
| Fri. <input type="checkbox"/> | Apr 23: 2King 1-3 | Pray that church replanters would find people of peace in the church community. | Pray for the many remote ministries that are designed to reach Afghans via the internet, television, and radio. |
| Sat. <input type="checkbox"/> | Apr 24: 2King 4-5 | Pray that church replanters see transformed lives and growing disciples. | Pray for the many Afghan "secret believers" who are isolated from other believers, that they might find fellowship and not fear. |



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

Week 17: April 25 - May 1, 2021

Focus: GCA South Region UPG: Hindi-Speaking Hindus

And let us consider how we can spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another - and all the more as you see the Day approaching. Hebrew 10:24-25

| ✓ | Read thru the Bible | Focus Prayer Points | Pray for Hindus |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|---|
| Sun. <input type="checkbox"/> | Apr 25: 2King 6-8 | Pray for Chris and Cathie Smith as they encourage pastors, wives, and leaders. | Pray for Hindus worldwide to hunger and thirst for a deeper truth than what they currently believe |
| Mon. <input type="checkbox"/> | Apr 26: 2King 9-11 | Pray for Chris and Cathie Smith as they equip disciple-makers. Pray for the Smith family. Pray for their three children Caylee, Cayleb, and Caytlin. | Ask that God will supernaturally answer Hindus in their search, and many would turn to follow Christ as the one and only Truth. |
| Tue. <input type="checkbox"/> | Apr 27: 2King 12-14 | Pray for Chris and Cathie Smith as they equip disciple-makers. Pray that the GCA south churches would focus on making disciples. | Pray that in their search to know 'god', Hindus will come to understand the triune God of heaven |
| Wed. <input type="checkbox"/> | Apr 28: 2King 15-17 | Pray that the GCA south churches would encourage each other. | Pray that Hindus will come to understand that God has given them eternal life only through His Son. |
| Thu. <input type="checkbox"/> | Apr 29: 2King 18-19 | Pray that the pastors/leaders would train others in the church. Pray for the Great Commission Training Institute summer classes | Pray that Hindus will understand that Jesus Christ is the only WAY to truth and reality |
| Fri. <input type="checkbox"/> | Apr 30: 2King 20-22 | Pray for unity within all our GCA churches. | Ask that many Hindus would start exploring the Bible and that their hearts and minds would be opened to Jesus |
| Sat. <input type="checkbox"/> | May 1: 2King 23-25 | Pray for the Hispanic pastors/leaders. Pray that God would bring many Hispanics to faith and our GCA Hispanic churches would grow in number and disciples. | Pray that Hindus will become hungry and thirsty to have a personal relationship with the living God in heaven. |



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.