



"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 Association
Connecting Churches for a Greater Harvest



*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 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

✓	<u>Read thru the Bible</u>	<u>Focus Prayer Points</u>	<u>Pray for Afghans</u>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Aug 1: Is 18-22	Pray for dreams and visions of Christ in Muslim communities	Pray for the Afghan believers to grow in maturity in their walk with the Lord and share the gospel with others
<input type="checkbox"/>	Aug 2: Is 23-27	Ask that the closed policy of China will only lead to the expansion of the church.	Pray for the over 60,000 Afghans in the Bay Area, that God would soften their hearts to the gospel of Jesus
<input type="checkbox"/>	Aug 3: Is 28-30	Pray that those from India who are working in the U.S. will come to receive Jesus.	Pray for peace through Jesus to come to Afghanistan after 40 years of war in the country
<input type="checkbox"/>	Aug 4: Is 31-35	Pray that Campus ministries will reach students from UPGs studying abroad.	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
<input type="checkbox"/>	Aug 5: Is 36-41	Pray that there will be more workers being sent to UPG communities.	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
<input type="checkbox"/>	Aug 6: Is 42-44	Pray that there will be more missionaries sent to the difficult Tribal work.	Pray for the many remote ministries that are designed to reach Afghans via the internet, television, and radio.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Aug 7: Is 45-48	Pray for Revival to occur in post Christian European countries.	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

Focus: Missionaries UPG: Hindi-speaking Hindus

How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!" Rom. 10:14-15

✓	<u>Read thru the Bible</u>	<u>Focus Prayer Points</u>	<u>Pray for Hindus</u>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Aug 8: Is 49-53	Pray for protection and empowerment of Missionaries ministering in Closed Countries	Pray for Hindus worldwide to hunger and thirst for a deeper truth than what they currently believe
<input type="checkbox"/>	Aug 9: Is 54-58	Pray for comfort and strength for Missionaries that are in prison or persecution	Ask that God will supernaturally answer Hindus in their search, and many would turn to follow Christ as the one and only Truth.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Aug 10: Is 59-63	Ask that missionaries in Muslim Countries will build contacts within the Muslim communities.	Pray that in their search to know 'god', Hindus will come to understand the triune God of heaven
<input type="checkbox"/>	Aug 11: Is 64-66	Pray for encouragement and healing for Missionaries dealing with Discouragement and Depression	Pray that Hindus will come to understand that God has given them eternal life only through His Son.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Aug 12: Jer 1-3	Ask that the marriages of Missionaries would remain strong and healthy.	Pray that Hindus will understand that Jesus Christ is the only WAY to truth and reality
<input type="checkbox"/>	Aug 13: Jer 4-6	Pray for single Missionaries to resist temptation and build bonds of friendship.	Ask that many Hindus would start exploring the Bible and that their hearts and minds would be opened to Jesus
<input type="checkbox"/>	Aug 14: Jer 7-9	Pray for Missionaries facing Spiritual Warfare in Dark Countries.	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.



Great Commission Prayer Initiative

Focus: Unbelievers-Family, Friends, Neighbors
UPG: Punjabi-Speaking Sikhs

For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him. Whoever believes in Him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the Name of God's one and only Son. John 3:17-18

✓	<u>Read thru the Bible</u>	<u>Focus Prayer Points</u>	<u>Pray for the Sikhs</u>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Aug 15: Jer 10-13	Pray for Christians to gain an increased burden and boldness for personal evangelism.	Pray God would put believers in the paths of Sikhs, and that gospel conversations would begin
<input type="checkbox"/>	Aug 16: Jer 14-17	Pray for Pastors to continue to be a personal example of Evangelism to their churches	Pray that God would allow you to meet a Sikh and for you to have the boldness to share the gospel with them.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Aug 17: Jer 18-22	Ask that unbelieving family members will be open to the gospel.	Pray that Sikhs would understand that they cannot earn God's grace; they need the forgiveness purchased through Jesus.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Aug 18: Jer 23-25	Ask that Christian households will find ways to be a light for the gospel in their neighborhoods.	Pray that Sikh-background-believers would have a burden to reach their family and friends with the gospel.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Aug 19: Jer 26-29	Pray for workers to initiate evangelistic Bible studies in the workplace	Pray that Sikh-background-believers would remain firm in their faith despite all persecution and suffering.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Aug 20: Jer 30-31	Pray for households to initiate evangelistic day camps or Bible studies in their homes.	Pray that Sikh-background-believers would maintain a good testimony before their family and friends.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Aug 21: Jer 32-34	Pray that the recent events in our country will present opportunities for spiritual conversations.	Pray that illiteracy among Sikhs, especially among women, would not hinder the expansion of the gospel.



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.



Great Commission Prayer Initiative

Focus: New Believers
UPG: Uyghur Muslims

I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes Him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life. John 5:24

✓	<u>Read thru the Bible</u>	<u>Focus Prayer Points</u>	<u>Pray for Uyghur Muslims</u>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>Aug 22: Jer 35-37</u>	Pray that Churches will be equipped to build up new believers in Christ	Pray that the Uyghurs would rise up with identity restored, healed and bringing the Good News to the world.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>Aug 23: Jer 38-41</u>	Ask that new believers will be protected from false teachers and cults.	Pray for Uyghur government officials and those in positions of influence
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>Aug 24: Jer 42-45</u>	Ask that new Believers will find strong Christian community in a local Church	Pray for the families of Uyghurs in detention camps
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>Aug 25: Jer 46-48</u>	Pray that new Believers will not become discouraged in their faith.	Pray for God's plans for Xinjiang to come to pass and for the enemy's plans to be thwarted
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>Aug 26: Jer 49-50</u>	Pray that new believers will be enthusiastic in sharing their faith.	Pray that people in Xinjiang would cry out to God in their time of trouble
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>Aug 27: Jer 51-52</u>	Ask that new believers will be a light in their families and marriages.	Pray for Uyghurs in other parts of the world, such as Central Asia, Europe, and North America
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>Aug 28: Lam 1 – 3:36</u>	Ask that new believers will grow in God's Word and prayer.	Pray for the Uyghur Church, that Christian fellowships would be restored and strengthened



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.



Great Commission Prayer Initiative

Focus: Discipleship UPG: Nepalese

If anyone comes to me and does not hate his father and mother, his wife and children, his brothers and sisters - yes, even his own life - he cannot be my disciple. And anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. Luke 14:26-27

✓	<u>Read thru the Bible</u>	<u>Focus Prayer Points</u>	<u>Pray for the Nepalese</u>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Aug 29: Lam 3:37-5	Ask that Churches will have strong discipleship ministries	Pray for a window of opportunity among the Nepalese
<input type="checkbox"/>	Aug 30: Ezek 1-4	Pray that more Christians will understand their role as disciplers	Pray against the many human rights abuses in Nepal
<input type="checkbox"/>	Aug 31: Ezek 5-8	Pray that Disciples will continue to be bold in the midst of persecution.	Pray for the socio-economic needs of the Nepalese



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.